

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter from **ESP Associates, PA (ESP)**. Each quarter, **ESP** produces an informational article about a particular topic that we feel may be of value to our clientele. We hope you find the material informative and we welcome the opportunity to assist you with any support that you may need. All articles presented are also available on our website www.espassociates.com.

CFS – Certified Floodplain Surveyor – How Can One Benefit You?

Background

A “flood” is defined by National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) as “a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas” from: overflow of inland or tidal waters or unusual or rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source. Floodplain is any land area susceptible to inundation by water from any source which is also defined as a “Special Flood Hazard Area” (SFHA). The SFHA identifies the area that has a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year which is also defined as a “Base Flood”. The area defined as an area which has a 1% chance of being flooded is commonly referred to as the “100-year” flood.

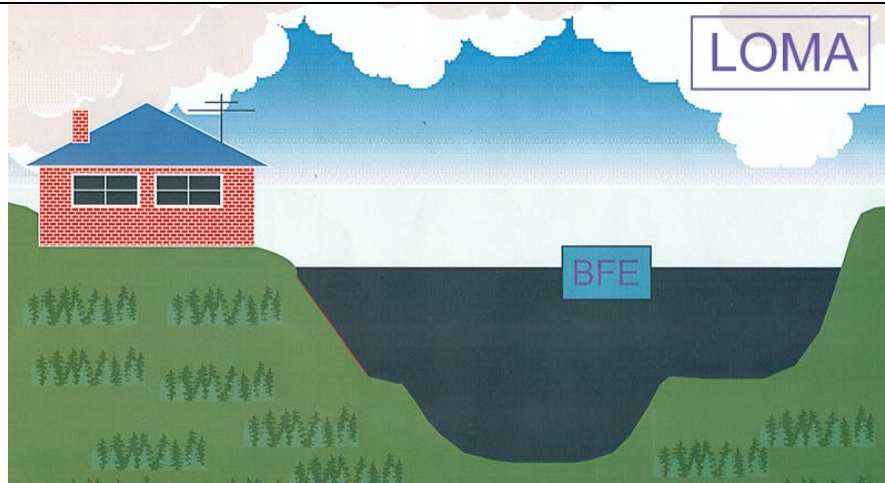
Floodplain management is a fundamental interest of the Federal Government, while regulating floodplain use lies with State and local authorities. Floodplain must be considered in context of total community, regional, and national planning and management. Floodplains can be managed to achieve acceptable levels of natural resource protection values and reduction of flood loss potential. Sound floodplain management requires setting goals and objectives, sharing decision making across governments, mitigating against flood damages, establishing incentives and disincentives, sustaining a coordination process, and continuous evaluation.

Participating communities in the NFIP must cooperate with FEMA. The community roles include issuing or denying floodplain development and/or building permits, inspecting all development to ensure compliance with local ordinances, maintaining records of floodplain development, assisting in preparation and revision of floodplain maps, and helping residents obtain information on flood hazards, floodplain map data, flood insurance, and proper construction measures.

The community participation requirements can be taxing on individual communities, which can lead to long processes and delays. In 2002, a pilot program began between FEMA and the state of North Carolina that delegated responsibility of map maintenance to facilitate local ownership of Flood Maps and the CFS program was developed as a result. Any licensed land surveyor in the state of North Carolina who successfully completes a CFS training course and passes the final exam will be qualified as a Certified Floodplain Surveyor (CFS).

How does the CFS program help?

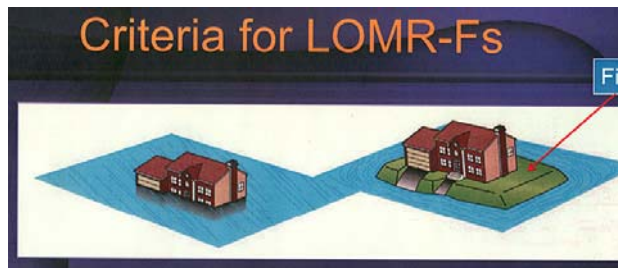
The CFS program was created to provide a fast track process for Letter of Map Amendment (LOMAs) and Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-Fs) applications to FEMA for review and issuance. This program allows for the application review and issuance to occur in as little as five business days from receipt of case, rather than the typical sixty (60) days without the CFS program.



When is the CFS program applicable?

The CFS may process cases which meet any of the following conditions:

- Lowest Adjacent Grade (LAG) elevation of structure (not elevated by fill) must be at or above 1% annual chance flood elevation.
- Existing single or multiple structure(s), property(ies), and/or metes & bounds constructed on fill or natural ground where the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) remains constant;
- Existing structure(s), property(ies), and metes & bounds that are classified as requiring flood insurance but are not located in the mapped floodprone zone/Special Flood Hazard Area.



Current State Application Fees for Requests:

Single-lot/single-structure conditional LOMA and conditional LOMR-F = \$500

Single-lot/single-structure LOMR-F = \$425

Single-lot/single-structure LOMR-F based on as-built information (conditional LOMR-F previously issued) = \$325

Multiple-lot/multiple-structure conditional LOMA = \$700

Multiple-lot/multiple-structure conditional LOMR-F and LOMR-F = \$800

Multiple-lot/multiple structure based on as-built information (conditional LOMR-F previously issued) = \$700

The CFS program is a pilot program with FEMA and is for the State of North Carolina only. All referenced data above was obtained from North Carolina certified Floodplain surveyor refresher course, sponsored by ACSM and NCSS, presented by Dewberry Engineering, November 12, 2008.

The information above is a brief overview and is not comprehensive. The evaluation of a parcel of land or structure for the CFS program can be detailed and complicated. If ESP can assist with a potential need that you may have, please feel free to contact us for assistance.

Next Issue's Articles:

The Changing Face of Land Development

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