

Effingham County, Georgia Summary of Revisions



FEMA's Mitigation Division manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the cornerstone of the Nation's strategy for preparing communities for flood disasters. The NFIP was created to reduce flood damages by identifying flood risks, encouraging sound floodplain management practices, and providing a mechanism through which people can insure their investments. FEMA and its partners provide flood hazard data and maps to support flood insurance and floodplain management activities. Multi-Hazard Flood Map Modernization (Map Modernization) uses state-of-the-art technology, and engineering and digital mapping standards, to deliver reliable digital flood hazard data and maps in GIS format.

As part of a Cooperating Technical Partner agreement, the State of Georgia is working with FEMA to provide updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for Effingham County and Incorporated Areas. DFIRMs show the location and extent of the Special Flood Hazard Area – the area with the highest risk of flooding. The new DFIRM has also been produced as a digital GIS product that is geo-referenced to be spatially correct. Base map information shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was derived from aerial photography dated 2008 or later, obtained from Burke County.

For this countywide revision, all effective Zone A streams were restudied by approximate methods and revised. Approximately 150 stream miles of new or revised Approximate Zone A Study was completed.

Also for this countywide revision, all effective streams studied by detailed methods, approximately 60 miles, were either redelineated based on more recent topography or confirmed that the current flood boundaries already match the most recent topography.

Flooding from most sources has been transferred directly from the currently effective FIRM for each area. There are other changes on the revised DFIRM due to adjustments needed for retrofitting the effective information onto the spatially correct base maps, tie-ins at city/county boundaries, and the incorporation of Letters of Map Revision (LOMR). LOMRs incorporated for this county are as follows: Exley Tract case number 04-14-6193 dated 12/27/2007 and Restudy of Ogeechee River 95-04-301P dated 08/15/1995.

The Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) on the new DFIRM may vary slightly from the currently effective maps. As a standard procedure, the vertical datum used for all new DFIRMs is North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88). Therefore, the existing elevations, referenced to National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29), were converted to the new datum. In this case, the conversion factor of -0.873 ft was used. This will have no impact on any existing Letters of Map Change (LOMCs). Since there was no actual elevation change, all previously issued LOMCs will be revalidated to remain effective.

FEMA, the State of Georgia, and the Effingham County fully agreed to the scope and methods of study utilized in the production of the DFIRM.