



Levee System Evaluation for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Summary:

- Engineer Circular (EC) 1110-2-6067 provides consolidated policy for levee system evaluations performed by USACE for accreditation under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administered by FEMA.
- The EC is consistent with and founded on the principles of 44 CFR 65.10 (FEMA's requirements for mapping areas behind levees) while updating methods and references to current USACE practices and criteria.
- A NFIP levee system evaluation focuses only on the 1% annual chance exceedance flood also referred to as the 100-year or base flood. The FEMA 100-year flood is a flood insurance standard, not a public safety standard.



Highlights:

- USACE use of the phrase 'NFIP Levee System Evaluation' rather than the phrase 'Levee Certification' emphasizes the true purpose of evaluating the complete levee system's status with regard to requirements of both 44 CFR 65.10 and USACE guidelines. This choice better supports FEMA's definition of "certification" defined in 44 CFR 65.2(b), which focuses on certification of analysis and data.
- NFIP levee system evaluation determination by USACE is a technical finding which, for the floodplain in question, there is a reasonable assurance that the levee system will exclude the 1% annual chance exceedance flood (or base flood) from the leveed area based on the condition of the system at the time the determination is made.
- USACE and FEMA agree the local community is responsible for providing the documentation to fulfill 44 CFR 65.10. There may be a few cases in which USACE may perform a NFIP Levee System Evaluation for the local community, for example if the levee system is operated and maintained by USACE or is part of an ongoing USACE project. For these cases, USACE will follow the procedures outlined in EC 1110-2-6067.
- In some cases, USACE Levee Safety Program activities may help inform and support the evaluation process. USACE districts will work with local sponsors to provide them with available levee system information and technical data.
- Maximum period of validity for a positive USACE NFIP Levee System Evaluation finding will be 10 years at which time the evaluation will need to be reviewed for continued validity. Levee system evaluation determinations may be reviewed any time before the period of validity ends.
- As part of its NFIP Levee System Evaluation process, USACE will examine and report on elements of residual flood risk and public safety.
- The contents of EC 1110-2-6067 have been coordinated with and are supported by FEMA. This guidance does not change FEMA's process for mapping or other requirements for the NFIP.
- An accredited levee system is a levee system that FEMA has shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map as excluding the 1% annual chance exceedance flood (or base flood) from the leveed area.
- USACE will revisit situations in which FEMA used documentation provided by USACE to accredit a levee system to ensure the documentation meets requirements of EC 1110-2-6067.

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