Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

November 22, 2000

The Honorable Wyman M. Rish
Mayor of the City of West Columbia
1053 Center Street
P.O. Box 4044
West Columbia, South Carolina 29171

Community: City of West Columbia, South Carolina

Community No.: 450140

Dear Mayor Rish:

This letter is to inform you of ongoing developments in the resolution of appeals of the Congaree River flood hazard study, which affects your community. As you know, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released revised preliminary Flood Insurance Studies (FISs), Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and an appeal resolution report on September 26, 2000. A 30-day comment period was then provided to all interested parties. FEMA received comments from many parties during that 30-day period, including a letter from [redacted], of Columbia Venture (CV), LLC.

[redacted] asked that CV be considered an appellant in the ongoing remapping process and that CV be given additional time in which to submit new data to FEMA in the course of our efforts to update the designated special flood hazard areas along the Congaree River. Under the circumstances of this complex remapping effort, we agree to consider CV an appellant at this time.

In addition, [redacted] also requested additional time to submit new data or technical information in support of their appeal of the September 26, 2000, revised preliminary FISs and FIRMs for Richland and Lexington Counties. Because of the complexities involved in resolving this matter, we have decided to permit all appellants and interested parties, including CV, to provide any additional data and technical information which they may wish to submit during the period that ends on January 2, 2001.

At the conclusion of this additional time period, we will post on our Web site all the data and technical information received from all parties during the period beginning September 26, 2000, and ending January 2, 2001. Once this occurs, all parties will have a final opportunity to comment on the data and technical information provided to FEMA. These comments will be accepted up to February 15, 2001, after which no new additional data or technical information will be accepted. FEMA will then consider all data and technical information received during the period beginning on September 26, 2000, and ending on February 15, 2001, in issuing a Letter of Final Determination.

FEMA recognizes the importance of this process, and I would like to reiterate FEMA's objective in this matter is to provide the communities with flood hazard data that is based on the best data available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Director, Mitigation Division of FEMA in Atlanta, Georgia, at (770) 220-5400, or Doug Bellomo, P.E., of our Headquarters staff in Washington, D.C., at (202) 646-2903, or by facsimile at (202) 646-4596.

Sincerely,

Michael Buckley

Michael K. Buckley, P.E., Director
Technical Services Division
Mitigation Directorate