

BRASWELL ENGINEERING, INC.

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February 14, 2001

Mr. Michael K. Buckley, Dir.
Technical Services Division
Mitigation Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C. 20472

RE: Lexington County FIS Appeal

Dear Mr. Buckley:

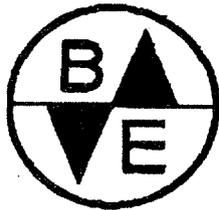
We are writing in follow up to our previous submittals concerning the Lexington County FIS appeal. As you are aware, we have been assisting a property owner in Lexington County throughout this appeal process. The property of concern is located at Cross Section 226700 in the Congaree River Model. This property was one of the few in Lexington County which was negatively impacted by the 1999 preliminary floodway line as compared to the 1995 flood maps. The difference in width between these two floodways was approximately 2000 feet at my client's property, and included the private residence and numerous other buildings on the property. We prepared and submitted an appeal to this floodway line based on the "n" value used in the 1999 HEC-2 model for the Congaree River. The "n" value was inconsistent with the entire 7500 foot reach along the right overbank area at C.S. 226700, as described in our appeal report. The "n" value we used to model this reach used a weighted average of the "n" values for the different land uses and vegetative patterns along this portion of the river and considered "summer conditions" consistent with guidelines for study contractors. In September of 2000, a revised floodway and map were presented as an Appeal Resolution. This study reduced the floodway width on the property by 200 to 300 feet from the 1999 floodway but did not incorporate any of the data submitted to our office. We subsequently submitted additional information and documentation including a revised HEC-2 model, photographs of the floodplain area and revised mapping. This information indicated that the floodway could be reduced over 1200 feet from the 1999 preliminary floodway line and still comply with FEMA floodway standards upstream and downstream of the property. The benefit of this configuration would be to remove the existing structures from the floodway and to present a reasonable and efficient floodway for the Congaree River.

In addition to the information provided prior to this time, we have also prepared and have attached a copy of a floodway model which demonstrates that the floodway could be reduced to the 1995 floodway line on this property without a major impact on other properties. In fact, the increase in the 100-year elevation due to the encroachment is much less than the allowable 1.00 foot increase which would mean that the floodway could theoretically be decreased inside the 1995 floodway line at this location.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this issue. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


BRASWELL ENGINEERING, INC.



Braswell Engineering, Inc.

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Mike Buckley / Doug Bellomo
FEMA - Mitigation Division

DATE 2/15/01

FAX NUMBER 202-646-4596

NO OF PAGES
INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET 2

COMMENTS letter without attachments.

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