
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

February 15, 2001

Mr. Doug Bellamo, P.E.
FEMA
500 C. Street SW, Room 423
Washington, DC 20472

Re: Appeal Resolution For Congaree River
In Richland County South Carolina

Dear Mr. Bellamo:

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and other FEMA officials in Atlanta on January 29. We at Heathwood Hall have followed the floodway designation issue carefully over the last several years because of its importance to the future of the school and we are looking forward now to a final resolution.

The primary issue under discussion at the January 29 meeting was whether FEMA should accept the requests of Lexington County Council and Cayce City Council that the appeal resolution use the Lexington County Base Flood Elevation figures for establishing the floodway on the Lexington county side of the river. Accepting those requests would of course make it easier for the Richland county levees to be upgraded which would protect Heathwood School as well as the Columbia wastewater plant, both of which were constructed at a time when the floodway line was drawn along the edge of the river.

Given the endorsement by the Lexington County officials of this approach, I do not understand why your agency is resisting it so strongly. Some of the comments at the meeting suggested that FEMA employees were concerned that Lexington County officials did not understand the implications of their resolutions. I do not share that view. My clear impression is that the Lexington County and the City of Cayce representatives have worked hard to understand the issues and to represent the best interests of their constituents. I believe that FEMA should defer to their judgment to the extent possible under the applicable regulations.

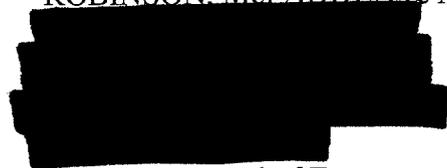
I urge you to strongly consider accepting the resolutions of Lexington County and Cayce. While I understand that your agency may have taken a different approach in other situations, accepting these resolutions will partly rectify the serious hardship being inflicted on Heathwood and the City of Columbia.

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Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Yours truly,

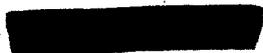
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c:



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