

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
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Circular  
No. 1165-2-215

15 July 2013

EXPIRES 30 JUNE 2015  
Water Resource Policies and Authorities  
USE AND DISSEMINATION OF DAM AND LEVEE INUNDATION MAP DATA

1. Purpose. This circular provides guidance on the use and release of dam and levee inundation maps and all appurtenant data such as the models and assumptions used to develop the maps. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recognizes its responsibility to protect public safety and welfare by effectively communicating information to the public related to risks associated with USACE dams and levees, while also protecting the security of those dams and levees by safeguarding sensitive information. Effective communications will empower the public to make informed decisions about their personal welfare and safety. For studies which include dams and/or levees within the project area, all inundation mapping will be subject to the provisions of this circular. An inundation map shows either the actual or predicted extent of flood water within a study area for future pre-determined flood events, ongoing flood events, or past flood events. For dams and levees, an inundation map shows the predicted extent of inundation from breach or non-breach releases. Releases may be a result of normal reservoir operation, emergency operation, structural failure, or other operational events. An example of a non-breach inundation is discharge through a dam spillway or levee overtopping with the levee intact. An example of a breach release is structural failure of a dam or levee.

2. Applicability. This circular is applicable to all USACE commands having Civil Works responsibilities.

3. Distribution Statement. Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

4. References.

a. Public Law 107-56, USA Patriot Act.

b. Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 5200.01, DoD Information Security Program, Volume 4, Controlled Unclassified Information.

c. Army Regulation (AR) 380-5, Department of the Army Information Security Program.

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This circular supersedes Engineering Construction Bulletin 2008-10, dated 24 March 2008.

EC 1165-2-215  
15 Jul 13

d. Policy Memorandum, Chief of Engineers, subject: Interim USACE Policy on Release of Inundation Maps, 10 May 2007.

5. Overview. This document guides sharing of inundation map information with various stakeholders and release to the public. Inundation information is to be provided to different entities and individuals based on the sensitivity of that information balanced with need to know and risk, as discussed below. Specifically: Section 6 below addresses document marking requirements for protecting sensitive information; Section 7 discusses the different data types associated with inundation maps; Section 8 covers release of information to other federal, state, or local agencies and describes HSIP Gold data. Section 9 covers steps needed to make inundation map data releasable to the public; and Section 10 addresses disclaimers for any data that is shared or released.

6. Protective Markings. Inundation maps that show sensitive data shall be marked “For Official Use Only” in accordance with AR 380-5 and DoDM 5200.01.

7. Data Associated with Inundation Maps. There are four categories of data as follows:

a. Non-editable (static) data - includes both hardcopy, Adobe portable document format (PDF), or other digital image format.

b. Editable (dynamic) data – includes inundation boundaries as geospatial vector data for geographic information system software.

c. Supporting (model) data - includes generic geospatial information files that support model development and used to develop data for the inundation maps.

d. Data owned by others - includes census blocks, Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) critical infrastructure data, or similar data that are developed and maintained by others. Data owned by others cannot be released by USACE. Requests for data owned by others should be referred to the agency that is the proponent for the data.

8. Dissemination of Inundation Map Data to Other Federal and State Agencies and Local Government. Commands will normally provide information as follows:

a. Non-editable (static), editable (dynamic), and supporting (model) data may be provided to federal agencies, including but not limited to National Weather Service (NWS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); adjacent and potentially impacted dam and levee owners and sponsors; and state and local authorities who provide emergency services. Sharing that information with these entities advances Federal Government interests by assisting local authorities in protecting public health, safety and

welfare, while limiting the extent to which information could be used to threaten the project's security. Supporting data will only be provided upon request and should be closely coordinated to assure appropriate use within model constraints.

b. State information release laws should not be a factor in determining whether information will be shared with others.

c. The editable (dynamic) data for existing dam and levee inundation modeling scenarios produced by the USACE Modeling, Mapping and Consequence Center Mandatory Center of Expertise (MMC-MCX) are provided to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) for distribution to federal, state and local partners through the HSIP Gold data set. The HSIP Gold data set is a Geographic Information System (GIS) data set comprised of 475 data layers assembled from federal, state, local government and private sector DHS partners and is FOUO. The data set is assembled by the NGA in partnership with the DHS to identify sensitive critical infrastructure that is important to homeland security and is not available to the general public. Inundation maps that show HSIP Gold data shall be marked "For Official Use Only".

9. Release of Inundation Map Data to the Public. Commands may release non-editable (static) inundation map data to the public as provided below, for public safety and welfare purposes.

a. HSIP Gold data is FOUO and cannot be released to the public. All maps and data sets need to have HSIP Gold data removed prior to public release. Requests for such data will be referred to DHS.

b. Upon request, non-editable (static) inundation information may be furnished on an individual piece of property. The request should identify the property location and the current owner. The information provided to the requestor will be based on identified property and include time and depth of inundation. The information should be requested in writing and the reply provided in writing.

c. During a declared emergency such as a flood or potential flood event, dam and levee inundation modeling is prepared in partnership with NWS by USACE district offices or the MMC-MCX to support real time flood fighting efforts. USACE divisions have the authority to release static and dynamic GIS data developed to support real time flood inundation mapping to the public in support of flood fighting activities as well as making the public aware of potential consequences. Divisions may delegate the authority to their district offices. When the division/district releases data during flood events, they shall inform the USACE Operations Center (UOC). If the flooding event is of national significance, UOC may choose to host the flood inundation data as a web service to communicate the situation to the public.

EC 1165-2-215  
15 Jul 13

10. Disclaimer for Release. Depending on the quality and accuracy of the source data, inundation model results vary greatly in quality and accuracy. Sharing those results with the state and local emergency response authorities, community and public, even when preliminary, promotes preparedness, emergency response, and recovery efforts. Before sharing, products shall have appropriate caveats, such as: "This data/map was created on dd/mm/yyyy by USACE using the best available data at the time. It may or may not accurately reflect existing conditions."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. L. Stockton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

STEVEN L. STOCKTON, P.E.  
Director of Civil Works