

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator and the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, in cooperation with the National Committee on Levee Safety, shall jointly establish a Flood Protection Structure Accreditation Task Force.

“(2) DUTIES.—

“(A) DEVELOPING PROCESS.—The task force shall develop a process to better align the information and data collected by or for the Corps of Engineers under the Inspection of Completed Works Program with the flood protection structure accreditation requirements so that—

“(i) information and data collected for either purpose can be used interchangeably; and

“(ii) information and data collected by or for the Corps of Engineers under the Inspection of Completed Works Program is sufficient to satisfy the flood protection structure accreditation requirements.

“(B) GATHERING RECOMMENDATIONS.—The task force shall gather, and consider in the process developed under subparagraph (A), recommendations from interested persons in each region relating to the information, data, and accreditation requirements described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the process under paragraph (2), the task force shall consider changes to—

“(A) the information and data collected by or for the Corps of Engineers under the Inspection of Completed Works Program; and

“(B) the flood protection structure accreditation requirements.

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a reduction in the level of public safety and flood control provided by accredited levees, as determined by the Administrator for purposes of this section.

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator and the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall implement the process developed by the task force under subsection (b) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act [July 6, 2012] and shall complete the process under subsection (b) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

“(d) REPORTS.—The Administrator and the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, in cooperation with the National Committee on Levee Safety, shall jointly submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives reports concerning the activities of the task force and the implementation of the process developed by the task force under subsection (b), including—

“(1) an interim report, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [July 6, 2012]; and

“(2) a final report, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

“(e) TERMINATION.—The task force shall terminate on the date of submission of the report under subsection (d)(2).”

[For definitions of terms used in section 100226 of Pub. L. 112–141, set out above, see section 4004 of this title.]

GEOSPATIAL DIGITAL FLOOD HAZARD DATA

Pub. L. 108–264, title I, §107, June 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 724, provided that: “For the purposes of flood insurance and floodplain management activities conducted pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Program under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), geospatial digital flood hazard data distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or its designee, or the printed products derived from that data, are interchangeable and legally equivalent for the

determination of the location of 1 in 100 year and 1 in 500 year flood planes [sic], provided that all other geospatial data shown on the printed product meets or exceeds any accuracy standard promulgated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.”

REITERATION OF FEMA RESPONSIBILITY TO MAP MUDSLIDES

Pub. L. 108–264, title I, §109, June 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 725, as amended by Pub. L. 109–295, title VI, §612(c), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1410, provided that: “As directed in section 1360(b) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4101(b)), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency is again directed to accelerate the identification of risk zones within flood-prone and mudslide-prone areas, as provided by subsection (a)(2) of such section 1360, in order to make known the degree of hazard within each such zone at the earliest possible date.”

TECHNICAL MAPPING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Pub. L. 103–325, title V, §576, Sept. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 2280, established the Technical Mapping Advisory Council to help improve flood insurance rate maps and provided for its termination 5 years after the appointment of all its members.

§ 4101a. Technical Mapping Advisory Council

(a) Establishment

There is established a council to be known as the Technical Mapping Advisory Council (in this section referred to as the “Council”).

(b) Membership

(1) In general

The Council shall consist of—

(A) the Administrator (or the designee thereof);

(B) the Secretary of the Interior (or the designee thereof);

(C) the Secretary of Agriculture (or the designee thereof);

(D) the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (or the designee thereof); and

(E) 16 additional members appointed by the Administrator or the designee of the Administrator, who shall be—

(i) a member of a recognized professional surveying association or organization;

(ii) a member of a recognized professional mapping association or organization;

(iii) a member of a recognized professional engineering association or organization;

(iv) a member of a recognized professional association or organization representing flood hazard determination firms;

(v) a representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(vi) a representative of a recognized professional association or organization representing State geographic information;

(vii) a representative of State national flood insurance coordination offices;

(viii) a representative of the Corps of Engineers;

(ix) a member of a recognized regional flood and storm water management organization;

(x) 2 representatives of different State government agencies that have entered

into cooperating technical partnerships with the Administrator and have demonstrated the capability to produce flood insurance rate maps;

(xi) 2 representatives of different local government agencies that have entered into cooperating technical partnerships with the Administrator and have demonstrated the capability to produce flood insurance maps;

(xii) a member of a recognized floodplain management association or organization;

(xiii) a member of a recognized risk management association or organization; and

(xiv) a State mitigation officer.

(2) Qualifications

Members of the Council shall be appointed based on their demonstrated knowledge and competence regarding surveying, cartography, remote sensing, geographic information systems, or the technical aspects of preparing and using flood insurance rate maps. In appointing members under paragraph (1)(E), the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the membership of the Council has a balance of Federal, State, local, tribal, and private members, and includes geographic diversity, including representation from areas with coastline on the Gulf of Mexico and other States containing areas identified by the Administrator as at high risk for flooding or as areas having special flood hazards.

(c) Duties

The Council shall—

(1) recommend to the Administrator how to improve in a cost-effective manner the—

(A) accuracy, general quality, ease of use, and distribution and dissemination of flood insurance rate maps and risk data; and

(B) performance metrics and milestones required to effectively and efficiently map flood risk areas in the United States;

(2) recommend to the Administrator mapping standards and guidelines for—

(A) flood insurance rate maps; and

(B) data accuracy, data quality, data currency, and data eligibility;

(3) recommend to the Administrator how to maintain, on an ongoing basis, flood insurance rate maps and flood risk identification;

(4) recommend procedures for delegating mapping activities to State and local mapping partners;

(5) recommend to the Administrator and other Federal agencies participating in the Council—

(A) methods for improving interagency and intergovernmental coordination on flood mapping and flood risk determination; and

(B) a funding strategy to leverage and coordinate budgets and expenditures across Federal agencies; and

(6) submit an annual report to the Administrator that contains—

(A) a description of the activities of the Council;

(B) an evaluation of the status and performance of flood insurance rate maps and

mapping activities to revise and update flood insurance rate maps, as required under section 4101b of this title; and

(C) a summary of recommendations made by the Council to the Administrator.

(d) Future conditions risk assessment and modeling report

(1) In general

The Council shall consult with scientists and technical experts, other Federal agencies, States, and local communities to—

(A) develop recommendations on how to—

(i) ensure that flood insurance rate maps incorporate the best available climate science to assess flood risks; and

(ii) ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency uses the best available methodology to consider the impact of—

(I) the rise in the sea level; and

(II) future development on flood risk; and

(B) not later than 1 year after July 6, 2012, prepare written recommendations in a future conditions risk assessment and modeling report and to submit such recommendations to the Administrator.

(2) Responsibility of the Administrator

The Administrator, as part of the ongoing program to review and update National Flood Insurance Program rate maps under section 4101b of this title, shall incorporate any future risk assessment submitted under paragraph (1)(B) in any such revision or update.

(e) Chairperson

The members of the Council shall elect 1 member to serve as the chairperson of the Council (in this section referred to as the “Chairperson”).

(f) Coordination

To ensure that the Council’s recommendations are consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with national digital spatial data collection and management standards, the Chairperson shall consult with the Chairperson of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (established pursuant to Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16).

(g) Compensation

Members of the Council shall receive no additional compensation by reason of their service on the Council.

(h) Meetings and actions

(1) In general

The Council shall meet not less frequently than twice each year at the request of the Chairperson or a majority of its members, and may take action by a vote of the majority of the members.

(2) Initial meeting

The Administrator, or a person designated by the Administrator, shall request and coordinate the initial meeting of the Council.

(i) Officers

The Chairperson may appoint officers to assist in carrying out the duties of the Council under subsection (c).

(j) Staff**(1) Staff of FEMA**

Upon the request of the Chairperson, the Administrator may detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, personnel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist the Council in carrying out its duties.

(2) Staff of other Federal agencies

Upon request of the Chairperson, any other Federal agency that is a member of the Council may detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, personnel to assist the Council in carrying out its duties.

(k) Powers

In carrying out this section, the Council may hold hearings, receive evidence and assistance, provide information, and conduct research, as it considers appropriate.

(l) Report to Congress

The Administrator, on an annual basis, shall report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Office of Management and Budget on the—

- (1) recommendations made by the Council;
- (2) actions taken by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address such recommendations to improve flood insurance rate maps and flood risk data; and
- (3) any recommendations made by the Council that have been deferred or not acted upon, together with an explanatory statement.

(Pub. L. 112-141, div. F, title II, §100215, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 924.)

Editorial Notes**CODIFICATION**

Section was enacted as part of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and also as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, also known as the MAP-21, and not as part of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 which comprises this chapter.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**DEFINITIONS**

For definitions of terms used in this section, see section 4004 of this title.

§ 4101b. National Flood Mapping Program**(a) Reviewing, updating, and maintaining maps**

The Administrator, in coordination with the Technical Mapping Advisory Council established under section 4101a of this title, shall establish an ongoing program under which the Administrator shall review, update, and maintain National Flood Insurance Program rate maps in accordance with this section.

(b) Mapping**(1) In general**

In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

- (A) identify, review, update, maintain, and publish National Flood Insurance Program rate maps with respect to—

- (i) all populated areas and areas of possible population growth located within the 100-year floodplain;

- (ii) all populated areas and areas of possible population growth located within the 500-year floodplain;

- (iii) areas of residual risk, including areas that are protected by levees, dams, and other flood control structures;

- (iv) areas that could be inundated as a result of the failure of a levee, dam, or other flood control structure;

- (v) areas that are protected by non-structural flood mitigation features; and

- (vi) the level of protection provided by flood control structures and by non-structural flood mitigation features;

(B) establish or update flood-risk zone data in all such areas, and make estimates with respect to the rates of probable flood caused loss for the various flood risk zones for each such area; and

(C) use, in identifying, reviewing, updating, maintaining, or publishing any National Flood Insurance Program rate map required under this section or under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4011 et seq.), the most accurate topography and elevation data available.

(2) Mapping elements

Each map updated under this section shall—

(A) assess the accuracy of current ground elevation data used for hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of flooding sources and mapping of the flood hazard and wherever necessary acquire new ground elevation data utilizing the most up-to-date geospatial technologies in accordance with guidelines and specifications of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(B) develop National Flood Insurance Program flood data on a watershed basis—

- (i) to provide the most technically effective and efficient studies and hydrologic and hydraulic modeling; and

- (ii) to eliminate, to the maximum extent possible, discrepancies in base flood elevations between adjacent political subdivisions.

(3) Other inclusions

In updating maps under this section, the Administrator shall include—

(A) any relevant information on coastal inundation from—

- (i) an applicable inundation map of the Corps of Engineers; and

- (ii) data of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration relating to storm surge modeling;

(B) any relevant information of the United States Geological Survey on stream flows, watershed characteristics, and topography that is useful in the identification of flood hazard areas, as determined by the Administrator;

(C) any relevant information on land subsidence, coastal erosion areas, changing lake levels, and other flood-related hazards;

(D) any relevant information or data of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-