



# Flood Protection Structure Accreditation Task Force

November 2013 Report to Congress

Presenter:

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# FEMA-USACE Task Force (MAP-21)

H. R. 4348

One Hundred Twelfth Congress  
of the  
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Began and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,  
the third day of January, two thousand and twelve

An Act

To authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act” or the “MAP-21”.

(b) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into 8 divisions as follows:

(1) Division A—Federal-aid Highways and Highway Safety Construction Programs.

(2) Division B—Public Transportation.

(3) Division C—Transportation Safety and Surface Transportation Policy.

(4) Division D—Finance.

(5) Division E—Research and Education.

(6) Division F—Miscellaneous.

(7) Division G—Surface Transportation Extension.

(8) Division H—Budgetary Effects.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Effective date.

DIVISION A—FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS AND HIGHWAY SAFETY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

TITLE I—FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS

Subtitle A—Authorizations and Programs

Sec. 1101. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 1102. Obligation ceiling.

Sec. 1103. Definitions.

Sec. 1104. National Highway System.

Sec. 1105. Apportionment.

Sec. 1106. National highway performance program.

Sec. 1107. Emergency relief.

Sec. 1108. Surface transportation program.

Sec. 1109. Intermodal development.

Sec. 1110. Highway use tax exemption projects.

Sec. 1111. National bridge and tunnel inventory and inspection standards.

Sec. 1112. Highway safety improvement program.

Sec. 1113. Competition reduction and air quality improvement program.

Sec. 1114. Territorial and Puerto Rico highway program.

Sec. 1115. National freight policy.

Sec. 1116. Prioritization of projects to improve freight movement.

Sec. 1117. State freight advisory committees.

Through Section 100226, FEMA and USACE are: ...directed to convene a joint task force .....to “better align information and data collected” under Inspection of Completed Works (ICW) with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) levee accreditation so that:

1. Data can be used interchangeably.
2. Information collected for ICW is sufficient to satisfy NFIP accreditation requirements.

Stakeholder involvement was also an important requirement.

# Can Routine ICW Activities Meet the Charge?

- Inspections and screenings cannot fully address accreditation requirements.
  - ▶ Inspections - visual only, lack detailed engineering analysis
  - ▶ Screenings - qualitative, relative risk assessment that lack necessary rigor
- Specific data from these activities can fulfill specific, but not all, 44 CFR 65.10 requirements.
- Revisions will better evaluate and communicate specific data for use in accreditation packages.

# USACE Risk Assessments can Meet the Charge.

- Risk assessments will provide adequate information for NFIP accreditation purposes,
  - ▶ Assessment of various loadings including 1% ACE
  - ▶ Interior Drainage will usually not be addressed
- meet the requirement for detailed engineering analysis in 44 CFR 65.10 (with the exception of Interior Drainage),
- and provide information to help communities target investments and risk reduction activities where they are most needed.

## NFIP REQUIREMENTS AND RELATION TO USACE ACTIVITIES

NFIP REQUIREMENTS (44 CFR 65.10)		CAN COMPLIANCE BE DETERMINED THROUGH:		
CFR CRITERIA CATEGORY	CFR CRITERIA SUBCATEGORY	USACE INSPECTION	USACE SCREENING	USACE RISK ASSESSMENT
Design Criteria	Freeboard (levee height)	NO	RARELY	YES
	Closure devices for all openings	NO	RARELY	YES
	Embankment protection	NO	RARELY	YES
	Embankment and foundation stability	NO	RARELY	YES
	Settlement	NO	RARELY	YES
	Interior drainage	NO	NO	RARELY
Operation Plans	Closures	YES	YES	YES
	Interior Drainage Systems	YES	YES	YES
Maintenance Plan		YES	YES	YES

FEMA and USACE Memorandum of Understanding under development that will define how recommendations of the Task Force will be implemented.

# The Task Force Proposal to FEMA

- To better communicate risk and improve alignment:
  - ▶ Adopt a risk based framework for levee accreditation
  - ▶ Require flood warning, preparedness, and evacuation plans as accreditation criteria.
  - ▶ Require the overtopping scenario be considered in the accreditation package
  - ▶ Strengthen floodplain management measures for leveed areas

AND /OR

- ▶ Eliminate the concept of levee system accreditation and implement a risk-informed suite of NFIP actions.

An aerial photograph showing a wide river with high water levels. A long, straight bridge spans across the river, with several cars visible on it. The surrounding land is heavily flooded, with trees and vegetation partially submerged. The sky is clear and blue. The word "Questions ?" is overlaid in large white text in the center of the image.

Questions ?