



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240



ER 05/886

NOV 10 2005

Mr. Thomas W. Waters  
Chief, Policy and Policy Compliance Division  
Directorate of Civil Works  
Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
CECW-P (SA)  
7701 Telegraph Road  
Alexandria, VA 22315-3860

Dear Mr. Waters:

As requested, the U.S. Department of the Interior has reviewed the Chief of Engineers' Proposed Report on the Flood Damage Reduction Project, Town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

The Department does not object to the proposed project and has no comments to offer. The point of contact is Ms. Loretta Sutton, 202-208-7565. We appreciate the opportunity to review the Chief's Proposed Report and supporting documents.

Sincerely,

*for*  
Willie R. Taylor  
Director, Office of Environmental  
Policy and Compliance



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

November 14, 2005

Secretary

717-787-2814

Mr. Cliff Fitzsimmons  
Headquarters  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
CECW-P (SA)  
7701 Telegraph Road  
Alexandria, VA 22315-3860

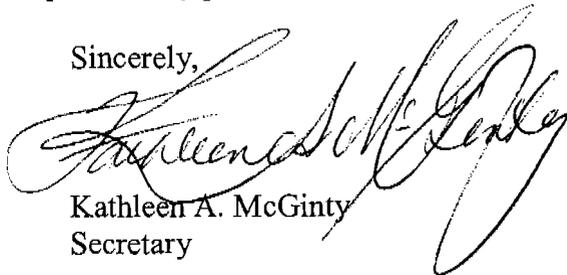
Dear Mr. Fitzsimmons:

Thank you for the copies of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) report entitled "Final Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Impact Statement" for the Town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been actively involved with the formulation of this report and has partnered with the non-federal sponsor (Town of Bloomsburg) to help fund various components of the feasibility study.

DEP has reviewed the report and fully agrees with its content and supports a flood damage reduction project for the Town of Bloomsburg. Bloomsburg has experienced severe flooding on numerous occasions resulting in extensive damages and severe hardship to its residents. DEP will continue to work with the USACE to move this project through to construction and has made a financial commitment with Bloomsburg toward the non-federal costs of project construction. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been forwarded to our Northcentral Regional Office in Williamsport, Pennsylvania for further review. Any comments related to its EIS review will be forwarded to your office under separate cover.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John Hines of Deputy Secretary Cathy Curran Myers' staff by e-mail at [johines@state.pa.us](mailto:johines@state.pa.us), or by phone at 717-783-4693.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty  
Secretary

cc: Thomas W. Waters, USACE





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

November 21, 2005

Jeff Trulick  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
P.O. Box 1715  
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

RE: The Town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania Flood Damage Reduction Project Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, August 2005, CEQ # 20050430

Dear Mr. Trulick:

EPA has reviewed the subject document and your response to our June 27, 2004 letter on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project. Based on this review, we have no objection to the proposed project and have no additional comments.

Please continue to work with the appropriate agencies during the design phase and mitigation for this project. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved with this process. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Okorn at (215)814-3330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Arguto".

William Arguto  
NEPA Team Leader





FIM

# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region III  
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor  
615 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

December 1, 2005

Thomas W. Waters  
Chief, Policy and Policy Compliance Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Mr. Waters:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) received your Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Flood Damage Reduction Project in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. The notice describes the proposed creation of a series of flood controls, including levees, floodwalls, and drainage structures. Portions of the project site are located in an area designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), an area subject to flooding during the 1% annual chance (100-year) flood.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is administered by FEMA and is designed to reduce flood losses through local floodplain management and the provision of flood insurance to property owners. The NFIP requires participating communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances with stipulations about modifications made to areas within SFHA. As such, each community has an ordinance requiring permits for all proposed construction within SFHA and also requiring that the flood-carrying capacity of an altered stream be maintained.

To prove that the flood-carrying capacity of an impacted stream will be maintained may require an engineering study and completion of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision Application. This application and related information can be found on FEMA's website at: [www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/dl\\_mt-2.htm](http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/dl_mt-2.htm). Please coordinate with the Floodplain Management Officer of Bloomsburg to ensure that the project meets the requirements their floodplain management ordinance.

As this proposal involves Federal expenditure, it is subject to Executive Order 11988, which directs Federal agencies to "avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative." Each Federal agency has issued regulations to comply with the Executive Order. These are administered by the involved Federal agency.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or the NFIP in general, please call me at 215-931-5669.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Gruber", is written over a horizontal line.

Eugene K. Gruber, P.E., Director  
Federal Insurance & Mitigation Division

cc: Amy M. Guise, Acting Chief, Civil Project Development Branch, USACE- Baltimore District  
Science Kilner, Regional Environmental Officer  
Kerry Wilson, State NFIP Coordinator



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

29 DEC 2005

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

North Atlantic Division  
Regional Integration Team

Mr. Eugene K. Gruber, P.E.  
Director, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division  
Federal Emergency Management Agency - Region 3  
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor  
615 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4404

Dear Mr. Gruber:

This is in response to your comment letter on the final integrated feasibility report and environmental impact statement for the flood damage reduction project in the town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

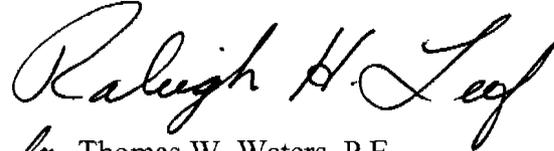
In your letter, you identify two key issues: the first, coordination with the Town's Floodplain Management Officer; and the second, the preparation of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) application.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District project delivery team has worked with several entities in Bloomsburg during the feasibility study, including the Community Rating System Coordinator, Ms. Carol Mas. As such, all local issues related to the Town's floodplain ordinances and management were reviewed by the team and addressed as the study progressed.

Regarding the CLOMR application, the Corps plans to prepare this application during our next project phase, the pre-construction engineering and design (PED) phase, which will begin no earlier than October of 2006. An official Letter of Map Revision will be submitted during our construction phase, which falls after the PED phase and which is still several years away.

Again, thank you for your concern and comments. Should you have any further questions related to this matter, please contact the Baltimore District project manager for the Bloomsburg flood damage reduction project, Ms. Mary Dan at (410) 962-3377.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raleigh H. Leaf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "L" at the end.

*for* Thomas W. Waters, P.E.  
Chief, Policy and Policy Compliance Division  
Directorate of Civil Works