

Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA) was enacted as Chapter 10 of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321-358. A major purpose of the DCIA is to enhance the government-wide collection of delinquent debts owed to the Federal Government.

Section 31001(d)(2) of the DCIA, codified at 31 U.S.C. 3716(c), generally requires Federal disbursing officials to offset an eligible Federal payment to a payee to satisfy a delinquent non-tax debt owed by the payee to the United States. A Federal disbursing official will conduct such an offset when the name and Taxpayer Identifying Number (TIN) of the payee match the name and TIN of the delinquent debtor, provided all other requirements for offset have been met. This process, known as "centralized offset," also may be used to collect delinquent debts owed to States, including past-due child support. The Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service (FMS) is responsible for implementing the DCIA, including the centralized offset authority.

Section 31001(y) of the DCIA, codified at 31 U.S.C. 3325(d), facilitates centralized offset by requiring the head of an executive agency or an agency certifying official to include the TINs of payees on certified payment vouchers which are submitted to Federal disbursing officials. FMS, as the Department of Treasury disbursing agency, disburses more than 850 million Federal payments annually. See 31 U.S.C. 3321. FMS and other executive branch disbursing agencies are responsible for examining certified payment vouchers to determine whether such vouchers are in the proper form. 31 U.S.C. 3325(a)(2)(A).

In an effort to ensure that executive branch agencies submit certified payment vouchers in a form which includes payee TINs, FMS issued a proposed rule on September 2, 1997 (62 FR 46428), 31 CFR Part 212, Taxpayer Identifying Number Requirement. The rule, as proposed, would require disbursing officials to reject payment requests without TINs, effective 6 months after publication of the final rule.

After careful review and consideration of the comments submitted by Federal agencies in response to the proposed rule, FMS has determined that a better approach to ensure compliance with the DCIA TIN requirement, in lieu of issuing a final rule, is to require each executive agency to submit an agency TIN Implementation Report to FMS. This

approach will address more effectively the underlying barriers to collecting TINs, and therefore increase compliance with the DCIA. The rejection of payment requests lacking TINs, as contemplated in the notice of proposed rulemaking, may not resolve these underlying barriers, and would unduly interfere with the timely disbursement of Federal funds.

Some of the barriers to collecting and providing TINs as identified by agencies include systems reprogramming requirements, the need for agency finance and procurement offices to coordinate on TIN collection and data sharing requirements, the need to develop a reliable TIN validation process, as well as the resolution of TIN requirements involving payments to third parties or escrow agents. Many agencies also suggested that certain classes of payments should be exempt from the DCIA TIN requirement such as payments under the witness protection program and foreign payments to entities who do not have assigned TINs.

Agency TIN Implementation Reports will address the current status of agency compliance with the requirement to furnish TINs with each certified voucher, strategies for achieving compliance, agency specific barriers to collecting and providing TINs, and strategies for resolving such barriers. The preparation and review of TIN Implementation Reports will enable payment certifying agencies and FMS to best determine how to resolve these issues. For additional information on these reports, FMS is publishing elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register** a Policy Statement concurrently with this document.

Agencies are reminded that the DCIA has required them to furnish the TINs of payment recipients on all certified vouchers submitted to disbursing officials since April 26, 1996, the effective date of the DCIA. In its interim rule creating 31 CFR Part 208, Management of Federal Agency Disbursements, FMS advised agencies of this DCIA requirement. See 61 FR 39254, July 26, 1996. Prior to the enactment of the DCIA, FMS issued Treasury Financial Management Bulletin No. 95-10 on August 18, 1995, which required that the payee's TIN be included on all certified vouchers for vendor, miscellaneous, and salary payments. Currently, FMS is working to ensure that TIN requirements for contractors and vendors are incorporated in anticipated revisions to the Prompt Payment circular issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (OMB Circular No. A-125, rev. Dec. 12, 1989), in consultation with

FMS, and in anticipated revisions to the Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 CFR).

Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, FMS withdraws the proposed rule published on September 2, 1997. Agency compliance requirements with respect to the TIN requirement are set forth in the Policy Statement referenced above.

Authority and Issuance

For the reasons set out above, 31 CFR Part 212, Taxpayer Identifying Number Requirement, Proposed Rule, 62 FR 46428, September 2, 1997, is withdrawn.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 31 U.S.C. 321, 3301, 3302, 3321, 3325, and 3528.

Dated: October 5, 1998.

Richard L. Gregg,

Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 98-27069 Filed 10-8-98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

44 CFR Part 67

[Docket No. FEMA-7258]

Proposed Flood Elevation Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: Technical information or comments are requested on the proposed base (1% annual chance) flood elevations and proposed base flood elevation modifications for the communities listed below. The base flood elevations and modified base flood elevations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that the community is required either to adopt or to show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

DATES: The comment period is ninety (90) days following the second publication of this proposed rule in a newspaper of local circulation in each community.

ADDRESSES: The proposed base flood elevations for each community are available for inspection at the office of the Chief Executive Officer of each community. The respective addresses are listed in the following table.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew B. Miller, P.E., Chief, Hazards Study Branch, Mitigation Directorate,

500 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3461.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Emergency Management Agency proposes to make determinations of base flood elevations and modified base flood elevations for each community listed below, in accordance with Section 110 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. 4104, and 44 CFR 67.4(a).

These proposed base flood and modified base flood elevations, together with the floodplain management criteria required by 44 CFR 60.3, are the minimum that are required. They should not be construed to mean that the community must change any existing ordinances that are more stringent in their floodplain management requirements. The community may at any time enact stricter requirements of its own, or pursuant to policies established by other Federal, State, or regional entities. These proposed elevations are used to meet the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP and are also used to calculate the appropriate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings built after these elevations are

made final, and for the contents in these buildings.

National Environmental Policy Act

This proposed rule is categorically excluded from the requirements of 44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Consideration. No environmental impact assessment has been prepared.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Associate Director for Mitigation certifies that this proposed rule is exempt from the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act because proposed or modified base flood elevations are required by the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. 4104, and are required to establish and maintain community eligibility in the NFIP. No regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared.

Regulatory Classification

This proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action under the criteria of Section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993, Regulatory Planning and Review, 58 FR 51735.

Executive Order 12612, Federalism

This proposed rule involves no policies that have federalism

implications under Executive Order 12612, Federalism, dated October 26, 1987.

Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform

This proposed rule meets the applicable standards of Section 2(b)(2) of Executive Order 12778.

List of Subjects in 44 CFR Part 67

Administrative practice and procedure, Flood insurance, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, 44 CFR Part 67 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 67—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 67 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4001 *et seq.*; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 329; E.O. 12127, 44 FR 19367, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 376.

§ 67.4

2. The tables published under the authority of § 67.4 are proposed to be amended as follows:

State	City/town/county	Source of flooding	Location	# Depth in feet above ground. *Elevation in feet. (NGVD)	
				Existing	Modified
California	San Diego (City), San Diego County.	Alvarado Creek	At confluence with San Diego River	None	*66
			Approximately 2,850 feet upstream of Alvarado Road.	None	*379

Maps are available for inspection at Engineering and Capital Projects, 1010 Second Avenue, Suite 1200, San Diego, California. Send comments to The Honorable Susan Golding, Mayor, City of San Diego, 202 C Street, 11th Floor, San Diego, California 92101.

Missouri	Alexandria (City), Clark County.	Mississippi River	At intersection of Tilford and Pecan	*492	*492
			At intersection of Walnut and Washington	*492	*492

Maps are available for inspection at the City of Alexandria Planning Department, 505 Jackson, Alexandria, Missouri. Send comments to The Honorable Robert Davis, Mayor, City of Alexandria, P.O. Box 194, Alexandria, Missouri 63430.

	Newton County, (Unincorporated Areas).	Culpepper Creek	Approximately 1,150 feet downstream of Webert Road.	*1,037	*1,037
			Approximately 100 feet downstream of Old County Highway East.	*1,051	*1,050
			Approximately 2,800 feet upstream of Main Street.	*1,075	*1,075
		Wolf Creek	At confluence with Culpepper Creek	None	*1,044
			Approximately 3,050 feet upstream of confluence with Culpepper Creek.	None	*1,059

Maps are available for inspection at Wood and Main Streets, Neosho, Missouri. Send comments to The Honorable Edmon L. Powell, Presiding Commissioner, Wood and Main Streets, Neosho, Missouri 64850.

Nevada	West Wendover (City), Elko County.	Shallow Flooding	Along Wendover Boulevard, approximately 5,500 feet northwest of the intersection of Wendover Boulevard and State Highway 93A.	None	#1
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State	City/town/county	Source of flooding	Location	# Depth in feet above ground. *Elevation in feet. (NGVD)	
				Existing	Modified
			Along Wendover Boulevard, approximately 2,000 feet northwest of the intersection of Wendover Boulevard and State Highway 93A.	None	#1
			Approximately 500 feet east of the intersection of Wendover Boulevard and State Highway 93A.	None	*4,327
			Approximately 2,500 feet north of Interstate Highway 80, along the Nevada/Utah State line.	None	#2
			Approximately 500 feet southeast of the intersection of State Highway 93A and the Union Pacific Railroad.	None	#1
			Just north of State Highway 93A, approximately 5,000 feet southwest of the intersection of State Highway 93A and the Union Pacific Railroad.	None	#3

Maps are available for inspection at 801 Alpine Street, West Wendover, Nevada.

Send comments to The Honorable Walt Sonders, Mayor, City of West Wendover, P.O. Box 2825, West Wendover, Nevada 89883.

Oregon	Clatsop County (Unincorporated Areas).	Neacoxie Creek	Approximately 70 feet downstream of Golf Course Road.	None	*14
			870 feet upstream of Surf Pines Road	None	*20

Maps are available for inspection at the Clatsop County Planning Department, 800 Exchange, Suite 100, Astoria, Oregon.

Send comments to The Honorable Helen Westbrook, Chairperson, Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, County Courthouse, 749 Commercial Street, Astoria, Oregon 97103.

	Gearhart (City) Clatsop County.	Neacoxie Creek	Approximately 70 feet downstream of G Street.	*11	*11
			Approximately 50 feet upstream of Golf Course Road.	*11	*17

Maps are available for inspection at the City of Gearhart City Hall, 698 Pacific Way, Gearhart, Oregon.

Send comments to The Honorable Kent Smith, Mayor, City of Gearhart, P.O. Box 2510, Gearhart, Oregon 97138.

Texas	Austin County and Incorporated Areas.	Allens Creek	Approximately 2,825 feet downstream of Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad bridge.	*157	*157
			Approximately 1,870 feet downstream of Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad bridge.	*158	*159
			Approximately 1,300 feet upstream of U.S. Route 90.	*180	*179
			Approximately 1,690 feet downstream of Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad bridge.	*158	*160
			Approximately 530 feet downstream of Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad bridge.	*159	*161
			Approximately 1,300 feet upstream of U.S. Route 90.	*180	*179
			Approximately 3,000 feet downstream of Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad.	*158	*158
			Just upstream of U.S. Route 10	*172	*172
			Approximately 1,300 feet upstream of U.S. Route 90.	*180	*179

Maps are available for inspection at the City of Sealy Public Works Department, 415 Main Street, Sealy, Texas.

Send comments to The Honorable Betty Reinbeck, Mayor, City of Sealy, P.O. Box 517, Sealy, Texas 77474.

Maps are available for inspection at the Austin County Courthouse, 1 East Main Street, Bellville, Texas.

Send comments to The Honorable Carolyn Bilski, Austin County Judge, 1 East Main Street, Bellville, Texas 77418.

Washington	Ferry County (Unincorporated Areas).	Kettle River	Approximately 475 feet downstream of confluence with Cottonwood Creek.	None	*1,789
			Approximately 600 feet upstream of confluence with unnamed tributary.	None	*1,7940

State	City/town/county	Source of flooding	Location	# Depth in feet above ground. *Elevation in feet. (NGVD)	
				Existing	Modified
			Approximately 1,100 feet downstream of confluence with Emanuel Creek.	None	*1,798

Maps are available for inspection at the Ferry County Planning Department, 146 North Clark, Suite 7, Republic, Washington.
 Send comments to The Honorable Dennis A. Stock, Chairperson, Ferry County Commissioners, County Courthouse, 350 East Delaware, Republic, Washington 99166.

Thurston County (Unincorporated Areas).	Yelm Creek	4,300 feet upstream from the interesection of Crystal Spring and Canal Roads.	None	*302
		2,500 feet west of Clark Road	None	*302
Thurston County (Unincorporated Areas).	Yelm Creek	At the junction of State Highway 507	None	*344
		1,003 feet upstream of Bald Hill Road	None	*348
		4,300 feet upstream from the intersection of Crystal Spring and Canal Roads.	None	*302
		2,500 feet west of Clark Road	None	*302
		At the junction of State Highway 507	None	*344
		1,003 feet upstream of Bald Hill Road	None	*348

Maps are available for inspection at Thurston County Development Services, 2000 Lakeridge Drive, Southwest, Building 1, Olympia, Washington.
 Send comments to The Honorable Richard Q. Nichols, Thurston County Commissioner, 2000 Lakeridge Drive, Southwest, Building 1, Room 269, Olympia, Washington 98502.

Yelm (City), Thurston County.	Yelm Creek	Approximately 4,125 feet downstream of Crystal Springs Road.	None	*302
		Approximately 175 feet downstream of the Burlington Northern Railroad.	None	*331
		Approximately 2,400 feet upstream of 103rd Avenue.	None	*343

Maps are available for inspection at the City of Yelm Planning Department, 105 Yelm Avenue West, Yelm, Washington.
 Send comments to The Honorable Kathryn Wolf, Mayor, City of Yelm, P.O. Box 479, Yelm, Washington 98597.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.100, "Flood Insurance")

Dated: September 29, 1998.

Michael J. Armstrong,

Associate Director for Mitigation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 61 and 69

[CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, and 97-250, RM-9210; FCC 98-256]

Access Charge Reform, Pricing Flexibility

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Petitions for rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This public notice invites parties to update the record on petitions for reconsideration, and to comment on several petitions for rulemaking. All these petitions raise issues related to access charge reform or access charge pricing flexibility for incumbent local exchange carriers.

DATES: Comments are due on or before October 26, 1998. Reply comments are due on or before November 9, 1998. All comments should reference CC Docket No. 96-262, CC Docket No. 94-1, and RM-9210.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222, Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tamara Preiss, 418-1505, or Harold Watson, 202-418-1520. TTY: (202) 418-0484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Public Notice released October 5, 1998. The full text of this Public Notice is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Public Reference Room (Room 230), 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. The complete text of this Public Notice may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

The *Access Charge Reform* and *Price Cap* proceedings will continue to be

permit-but-disclose proceedings for purposes of the Commission's *ex parte* rules, 47 CFR 1.1200 *et seq.* Parties must file an original and four copies of their comments with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222, Washington, D.C. 20554, in accordance with 47 CFR 1.51(c). Parties also must send one copy of their comments to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, and one copy to Chief, Competitive Pricing Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Summary of Public Notice

In the *Access Charge Reform Order*, 62 FR 31040 (June 6, 1997), and the *Price Cap Fourth Report and Order*, 62 FR 31939 (June 11, 1997), the Commission adopted a presumptively market-based approach to access reform and a permanent price cap plan with an X-factor of 6.5 percent. Since then, several parties have filed petitions