Volume 28, Issue 2 Summer 2018

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

THE FLOOD CURRENT

State of Oklahoma OWRB WATER RESOURCES BOARD the water agency

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

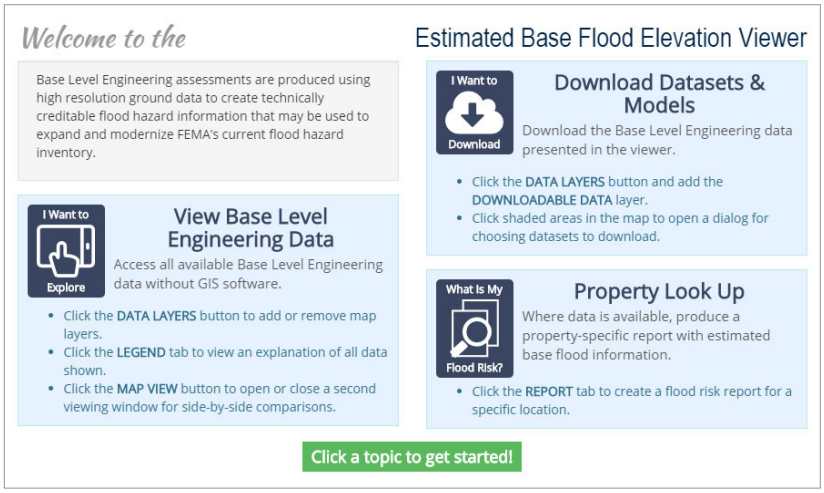
Know Your Risk

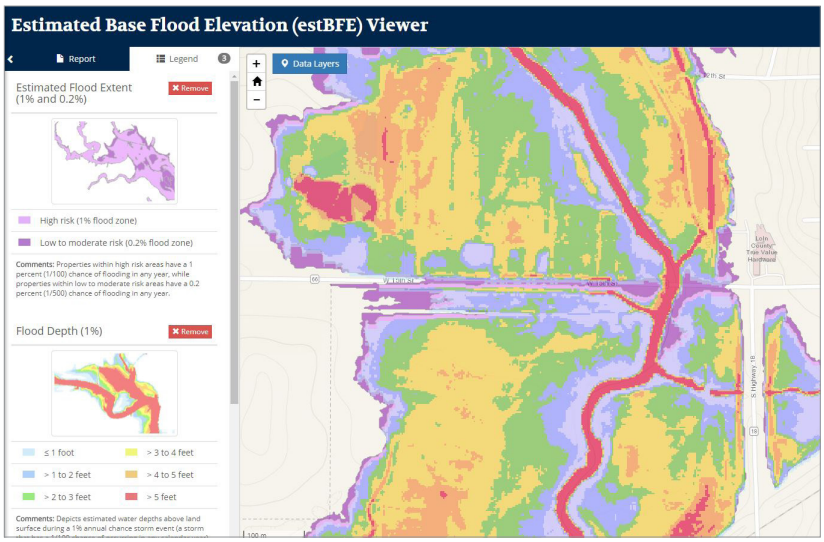
FEMA Launches New Estimated BFE Viewer

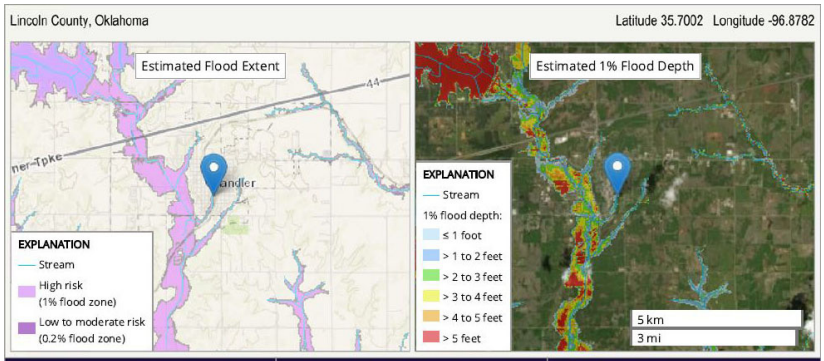
FEMA has launched a new map viewer at **http://www.infrm.us/estbfe** that shows the Estimated Base Flood Elevation (BFE) of the 1-percent annual chance flood event for several watersheds in Oklahoma. High-resolution ground elevation data were used to estimate high level flood flows and prepare hydraulic modeling for the estimated BFE. With the viewer, individuals, communities, states, and federal entities can see the estimated flood risk (high, moderate, or low), flood elevation, and flood depth for a selected location.

The viewer allows the user to access flood hazard data within a web browser, download datasets and models for use in GIS software, and produce property-specific reports with estimated base flood information. This data may be helpful for purchasing personal flood insurance and choosing the appropriate coverage levels, making decisions about zoning and construction, supporting Letters of Map Amendment, and preparing local risk assessments, hazard mitigation plans, and land use plans.

FEMA performs these watershed-level flood risk analyses every five years as a part of the Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) process and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) update. New flood hazard data will be added to the Estimated BFE Viewer as flood risk analyses are completed.







Flood Event	Estimated Flood Depth*	Estimated Base Flood Elevation*
1 Percent (100 Year)	6.0 feet above land surface	870.2 feet NAVD 1988
0.2 Percent (500 Year)	5.6 feet above land surface	870.8 feet NAVD 1988

* The information included in this report is based on the location marker shown in the map. Results are not considered an official determination.

Information made available from the Estimated BFE Viewer needs to be accepted by local community officials to be used for insurance rating purposes.

Top: The Estimated Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Viewer landing page. Users will access flood hazard data via one of the three options on this screen. Middle: A detailed view showing the 1% and 0.2% estimated flood extent (shown in purple) overlaid by the estimated 1% flood depth (shown in multicolor). Bottom: A split screen view showing the estimated flood extent next to the estimated flood depth for the same area.

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OWRB Welcomes New Staff

The OWRB would like to welcome Jessica Schons, the newest member of the floodplain management team. Jessica will be performing Community Assistance Visits and Community Assistance Contacts, maintaining the Floodplain Administrator accreditation database, and hosting floodplain workshops. Additionally, a portion of Jessica's time will be spent in the dam safety program performing low hazard-potential dam inspections. Jessica holds a bachelor's degree in conservation biology from Arizona State University. Prior to joining the OWRB, she worked as a liability claims adjuster and a horticulturist. She is excited to be a part of the OWRB team.

Jessica Schons

2018-2019 OWRB Workshop Calendar

2018-2019 workshop calendar dates will be posted on our website soon. We are pleased to be visiting more communities than ever this year, including Ardmore, Bartlesville, Chickasha, Clinton, Ponca City, McAlester, Oklahoma City, and Woodward.

SAVE THE DATE

39th Annual Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference and Research Symposium

December 5-6, 2018

"Virtual Brown Bag" Webinars from FEMA Region 6

Remember to sign up to participate in the "Virtual Brown Bag" webinars from FEMA Region 6. This new online series helps communities create useful GIS products with the flood risk products delivered during a Risk MAP study. Visit **https://r6virtualbrownbag.eventbrite.com** for details.

OWRB and FEMA Hold Discovery Meetings in Washita/Cache Watersheds

In April, the OWRB and FEMA hosted three Discovery meetings for approximately 60 local community officials in Pauls Valley, Clinton, and Lawton to discuss a Risk MAP study for the Washita, Cache, Beaver, and Lower North Fork of the Red River watersheds.

The Discovery process is the first step in a Risk MAP study and is intended to provide increased awareness and understanding of local flood risk. Discovery meetings bring together federal, state, and local entities to form a working partnership to address gaps in floodplain management and flood hazard information and mitigation. Community input is crucial to the success of the Discovery process. The exchange of information between the OWRB and communities in the study area is necessary for developing a complete picture of local flood risks and providing a plan for future Risk MAP projects and funding.

Follow-up Discovery Findings meetings will be held and a Discovery Summary report will be completed by the end of the calendar year. This report will aid the OWRB in the selection of future flood mapping projects which may result in the production or update of Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Local officials and citizens meet with floodplain staff and contractors to address area mapping issues as part of the FEMA Discovery process.

Julie Cunningham, Executive Director
Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Kent Wilkins, Chief
Planning & Management Division

Yohanes Sugeng, NFIP Coordinator
Floodplain Management Program

As the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) State Coordinator, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board partners with other state and federal agencies and local governments to prevent and mitigate the catastrophic effects of flooding disasters in Oklahoma. For more information, go to www.owrb.ok.gov/floodplain or call (405) 530-8800.