



Navajo County Public Works Department

No Rise Certification Overview and Requirements

Any project in a floodway must be reviewed to determine if the project will increase flood heights. Section 60.3(d)(3) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations "Prohibit encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge..." The Navajo County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance supports this law by requiring a No Rise Certification.

The regulatory floodway is defined as "the channel of a river or other watercourse and adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface area more than 1 foot".

An engineering analysis must be conducted before a permit can be issued to build in the floodway. The community's permit file must have a record of the results of this analysis, which is in the form of a No-Rise Certification. This No-Rise Certification must be supported by technical data and signed by a registered professional engineer. The supporting technical data should be based on the standard step-backwater computer model used to develop the 100-year floodway shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) or Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM). An acceptable step-back water computer model is the HEC-RAS model provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC). The technical data will be reviewed by the Flood Control Staff and submitted to FEMA for their approval. The objective is to ensure that the floodway is reserved to do its natural job: carrying floodwaters. The preferred approach is to avoid development in the floodway. The only alternative to the preferred method is to provide a No Rise Certification.

A condition of "no rise" to the flood elevations is not easily demonstrated. And even if "no rise" can be demonstrated it does not provide an assurance of preventing future flooding. In fact, building in a floodway invites risk of flooding and should be avoided. And where a No Rise Certification is provided all other requirements for construction in the floodplain will also be required:

Floodplain Use Permit

Comply with Elevation Requirements - Elevation Certificate

Comply with flood proofing requirements below the regulatory flood elevation

Comply with flood venting

No Rise Certification

This is to certify that I am a duly qualified registered professional engineer licensed to practice in the state of Arizona.

It is further to certify that the attached technical data supports the fact that proposed development on parcel number _____ will not impact the 100 year flood elevation, floodway elevation, or floodway widths on the watercourse identified as _____ at published sections in the Flood Insurance Study for Navajo County dated November 19, 2003 and will not impact the 100-year flood elevations, floodway elevations, or floodway widths at unpublished sections in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Attached are the documents that support my findings:

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

(Seal)