



May 23, 2007

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2007.09

Subject: Guidance—Availability of updated guidance for development of Water Science Center Water-Quality Flood Plans

The Office of Water Quality (OWQ) has updated the guidance to Water Science Centers for developing a water-quality component to Water Science Center Flood Plans. The guidance document is available online on the OWQ web page at <http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/FloodPlan.pdf>. This document replaces the attachment to OWQ Technical memo 96.01.

The purpose of this guidance document is to provide information on the scope of water-quality data appropriate for collection during a flood event. The document also provides planning tools that can be used to aggregate relevant site information and suggestions for sample analyses most appropriate for collection during flood events. The purpose of a Water Science Center water-quality flood plan is to ensure that information needed to plan a flood response is available when an event occurs and can be used to design a timely and relevant action plan that may include field observations, collection of water-quality samples, dissemination of data to guide disaster response and recovery efforts, and documentation of the event.

Typically, storm response decisions are made at the USGS Water Science Center level. USGS Water Science Centers have responsibility for responding to flood events as described in WRD Memo 2000.12. For extreme events, a coordinated, bureau-wide approach may be appropriate and may involve the USGS Coastal Storm Response Team. Such events are defined as “any predicted meteorological event that is likely to result in fluvial or coastal flooding, severe wind damage, or threats to life, property, and ecosystems over a wide area and will require USGS resources in excess of those readily available at the Science Centers involved with the event. Typically, these types of meteorological events extend over more than one State and involve either hurricanes or large frontal storms with wet antecedent conditions” (2006 USGS Coastal Storm Response Team Plan).

Limited reserve funds are available for extreme hazard events, including floods. Other funding sources should be considered and include WSC budgets, supplemental appropriations from Congress, and requests for reimbursable funds from other agencies.

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