



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Production and
Conservation

Risk
Management
Agency

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INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers Writing in the State of Iowa

FROM: Scott Tincher /s/ *Scott Tincher*
Acting Director, St. Paul Regional Office

SUBJECT: Actuarial Rates Resulting from Breached Levees in Iowa

I. BACKGROUND

Due to the 2019 flood event, levees along the Missouri River in Iowa were breached. The following is a 2021 crop year policy provision (“Breached Levee Statement”) in the Special Provisions for spring planted crops with a 11/30 filing date:

"Land flooded due to a breach in a levee resulting from prior year(s) flooding is insurable. The applicable rate will be assigned based on conditions of the levee and soils on the latter of the sales closing date or earliest planting date. If, by that date, the levee has not been repaired to prior specifications, or if damaged soil (if any) has not been restored to at least the same crop yield potential as prior to the flood event, the land will be classified as high-risk and will have the highest rate classification in the county. However, if the levee is repaired to prior design specifications, and the soil has at least the same crop yield potential as before the flood, the land will be restored to the classification designated prior to the breach. If the levee has been temporarily or permanently repaired, but not to prior design specifications, by the latter of the sales closing date or earliest planting date, and the soil has at least the same crop yield potential as before the flood, then RMA may adjust the rate to an amount consistent with the level of flood risk by written agreement, if applicable. For RMA to consider any levee repair, RMA must be provided a certification from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or signed and sealed certification from a professional engineer who is currently licensed and registered in the state where the levee is located. For soils to be considered restored to the same crop yield potential as before the flood, you must sign a statement that damaged soil (if any) has been restored to at least the same crop yield potential as prior to the flood event"

II. COUNTIES AFFECTED

The breached levee statement was placed in the Special Provisions in the following Iowa counties: Fremont, Mills, and Pottawattamie.

III. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The breached levee statement requires breached levee system repairs to be certified. For levee systems within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction, the St. Paul Regional Office (SPRO) should be able to obtain the necessary certification of repairs from USACE. For all other breached levee system, the SPRO must be provided a signed and sealed certification from a professional engineer who is currently licensed and registered in the state where the levee is located. Failure to provide the SPRO with the necessary certification will mean the breached levee statement will be applicable to the acreage flooded by a breach in that levee system.

The certification of levee system repair is only to address the breaches of the levee system. “Levee system repairs” means all the breaches in the levee system have been repaired. The certification should include the following information:

- i. The levee system name and location
- ii. The levee system has been repaired to prior specification (Y/N)
- iii. The levee system has been repaired to a temporary/permanent level of protection, but not to prior specifications (Y/N)
- iv. The date the levee system was repaired
- v. If temporary/permanent level of protection, but not to prior specifications, please provide the minimum overtopping height (in feet based on river gage station) of the repaired levee system. Please provide Gage Height (in feet) of minimum overtopping height and Gage Name

IV. STATUS OF BREACHED LEVEES AS OF January 22, 2021

The levees listed in subsection A, B and C are not a comprehensive listing of all breached levees. The breached levee statement applies to all breached levees within the affected counties. There may be additional levees in the affected counties identified in Section II that may have breached. You may contact the SPRO at RSOMN@usda.gov, or (651) 290-3304, to report a breached levee not identified in Section IV A, B or C.

A. Certified Repaired to Prior Specifications

Repaired As of	Levee Name	County	
1/22/21	L-601 Levee District	Fremont	Mills

B. Not Repaired or Not Certified as Repaired

Levee Name	County	
None		

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C. Certified Temporarily or Permanently Repaired, but not to Prior Specifications

As of	Levee Name	Gage Hght (ft)	Gage Name	County	
3/4/20	L-575 Levee District	Pre-flood LOP*	Nebraska City	Fremont	
3/4/20	L-594 Levee District	Pre-flood LOP*	Plattsmouth	Fremont	
3/4/20	L-611-614 Levee District	Pre-flood LOP*	Plattsmouth Omaha	Mills	Pottawattamie
3/16/20	Vanman Levee District	Pre-flood LOP*	Blair	Pottawattamie	
3/16/20	Harrison and Pottawattamie Drainage District	Pre-flood LOP*	Blair	Pottawattamie	
3/31/20	Honey Creek Drainage and Levee Districts	Pre-flood LOP*	Omaha	Pottawattamie	
3/31/20	Pigeon Creek #2	Pre-flood LOP*	Omaha	Pottawattamie	

* Based on the certification from the USACE, the levee was temporarily repaired to the Level of Protection (LOP) it was prior to the levee breach. Therefore, for the 2021 crop year, the acreage behind the levee will carry the same map classification and subcounty rate it had prior to the levee breach. Please see the 2021 Actuarial Information Browser (AIB) for the applicable map classification and subcounty rate.

V. **ACTION**

For cropland affected by a breached levee, the Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) is responsible for ensuring the stipulations in the breached levee statement are followed accordingly.

As noted, SPRO should be able to obtain the necessary certification of repairs from USACE. For all other breached levee system, the SPRO must be provided a signed and sealed certification from a professional engineer who is currently licensed and registered in the state where the levee is located. Insureds, agents or AIPS can provide this information directly by contacting SPRO. *Note: SPRO only needs to receive one certification that a levee system is repaired to be able to consider that levee system as repaired.*

For more information on the breached levee statement, including “prior specifications,” “damaged soil,” and requesting written agreements, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions document at www.rma.usda.gov/News-Room/Frequently-Asked-Questions/Breached-Levee-Statement.

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The AIB, webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser/, was updated on January 22, 2021, to reflect the appropriate map classifications and subcounty areas of the land flooded by the breached levee(s). The information in the AIB update reflects the status of certifications received on breached levee repairs as of January 22, 2021.

To assist AIPs, and provide the most up-to-date information, the SPRO will continue to issue maps of land flooded by the breached levees with Informational Memorandum's. As of the date of this Informational Memorandum, no more updates will be provided by the SPRO through the FTP File Access pertaining to the 2019 flood event. All breached levee maps have been removed and prior subcounty line designations apply. These lines can be viewed on the AIB at webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser/.

Disposal: Effective until otherwise superseded or the Special Provisions statement is removed from the counties' actuarial documents.