

§ 650.101

Subpart H—Navigational Clearances for Bridges

- 650.801 Purpose.
650.803 Policy.
650.805 Bridges not requiring a USCG permit.
650.807 Bridges requiring a USCG permit.
650.809 Movable span bridges.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 109 (a) and (h), 144, 151, 315, and 319; 23 CFR 1.32; 49 CFR 1.48(b), E.O. 11988 (3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 117); Department of Transportation Order 5650.2 dated April 23, 1979 (44 FR 24678); §161 of Public Law 97-424, 96 Stat. 2097, 3135; §4(b) of Public Law 97-134, 95 Stat. 1699; 33 U.S.C. 401, 491 *et seq.*, 511 *et seq.*; and §1057 of Public Law 102-240, 105 Stat. 2002.

Subpart A—Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments on Flood Plains

SOURCE: 44 FR 67580, Nov. 26, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 650.101 Purpose.

To prescribe Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) policies and procedures for the location and hydraulic design of highway encroachments on flood plains, including direct Federal highway projects administered by the FHWA.

§ 650.103 Policy.

It is the policy of the FHWA:

- (a) To encourage a broad and unified effort to prevent uneconomic, hazardous or incompatible use and development of the Nation's flood plains,
- (b) To avoid longitudinal encroachments, where practicable,
- (c) To avoid significant encroachments, where practicable,
- (d) To minimize impacts of highway agency actions which adversely affect base flood plains,
- (e) To restore and preserve the natural and beneficial flood-plain values that are adversely impacted by highway agency actions,
- (f) To avoid support of incompatible flood-plain development,
- (g) To be consistent with the intent of the Standards and Criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program, where appropriate, and
- (h) To incorporate "A Unified National Program for Floodplain Manage-

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ment" of the Water Resources Council into FHWA procedures.

§ 650.105 Definitions.

(a) *Action* shall mean any highway construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, or improvement undertaken with Federal or Federal-aid highway funds or FHWA approval.

(b) *Base flood* shall mean the flood or tide having a 1-percent chance of being exceeded in any given year.

(c) *Base flood plain* shall mean the area subject to flooding by the base flood.

(d) *Design Flood* shall mean the peak discharge, volume if appropriate, stage or wave crest elevation of the flood associated with the probability of exceedance selected for the design of a highway encroachment. By definition, the highway will not be inundated from the stage of the design flood.

(e) *Encroachment* shall mean an action within the limits of the base flood plain.

(f) *Floodproof* shall mean to design and construct individual buildings, facilities, and their sites to protect against structural failure, to keep water out or to reduce the effects of water entry.

(g) *Freeboard* shall mean the vertical clearance of the lowest structural member of the bridge superstructure above the water surface elevation of the overtopping flood.

(h) *Minimize* shall mean to reduce to the smallest practicable amount or degree.

(i) *Natural and beneficial flood-plain values* shall include but are not limited to fish, wildlife, plants, open space, natural beauty, scientific study, outdoor recreation, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, natural moderation of floods, water quality maintenance, and groundwater recharge.

(j) *Overtopping flood* shall mean the flood described by the probability of exceedance and water surface elevation at which flow occurs over the highway, over the watershed divide, or through structure(s) provided for emergency relief.

(k) *Practicable* shall mean capable of being done within reasonable natural, social, or economic constraints.