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News Release

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FEMA to visit Branson Landing August 14

Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Kansas City will conduct a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) to Branson on August 14. The visit is in response to a letter sent by city officials in early April asking for resolution of a flood plain controversy at Branson Landing. The city asked for a quick review of all the documentation sent to FEMA and for a FEMA visit to Branson Landing.

According to Dean Ownby, senior program specialist at FEMA offices in Kansas City, FEMA representatives will tour the floodplain, inspect any new construction in the floodplain, examine the floodplain permits for the new construction, look at any variances that have been issued and look at the city's procedures and ordinances.

No time was set for FEMA's arrival in Branson.

In March a former city employee alleged that city officials intentionally hid the flood risks of two Landing building basements to help the Landing's developer obtain a new map that put these buildings outside the flood plain. The employee claimed the buildings, which house Waxy O'Shea's and the Hilton Promenade Hotel, are not flood proofed as required by FEMA.

The city's position is that the buildings were constructed on land that has never been in a flood plain before, during or after the Branson Landing development. The city has FEMA flood plain maps dating back to the mid 1990s that show this land outside any floodplain.

Ownby said that no ruling would be issued on August 14, but rather all information gathered that day would be reviewed by FEMA and a report released at a later date.