

Flood ^{news} article, 1972 August 2

1, PA., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1972

Flood Victims Rebuilding on Same Sites May Lose U.S. Aid

Harrisburg (AP)—Lt. Gov. Ernest P. Kline and a federal official Tuesday cautioned flooded-out property owners that state and federal aid might be withheld if they elect to rebuild on old sites considered "flood sensitive."

But both Kline and Theodore R. Rebb, chairman of the Federal Regional Council, hedged on one basic question involving people in the so-called flood plain areas — namely, what's a person to do when the cost of locating elsewhere is more than that of staying put and repairing what's left?

"Specific projects must be considered under the provisions of state and federal law on a case by case basis," they said in a joint statement.

Key to the state-federal agreement is a concept known as the "100-year flood plain." Areas subject to flooding at least once every 100 years are considered within the plain.

Agreement specifies that reconstruction outside the 100-year flood plain will receive all possible state and federal assistance.

It also allows "interim assistance on a humanitarian basis to individuals and businesses within the 100-year flood plain," on the conditions that local, state and federal governments will either "utilize available authority and programs to assist these individuals and businesses to move to areas beyond the 100-year plain" or "provide adequate safeguards."

Neither Kline nor Rebb were more specific about what they mean by "interim assistance" or "adequate safeguards."

New construction, under the agreement, would be ineligible for local, state or federal aid if it is built within the flood plain, "unless such facilities are so constructed or flood-proofed to provide adequate safeguards."

According to Kline, State Department of Environmental Resources, Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies are now at work trying to decide with precision how far the flood plain extends in particular areas.

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