

To: Gardner C Bent <gbent@usgs.gov>
Date: 09/30/2011 11:12 AM
Subject: size of the x-year storm

Hi Gardner,

I work for the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT). We are working on having all stream crossing replacement projects comply with the Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards, and we are pushing for municipalities to infiltrate as much stormwater on site as possible for any given project.

We are frustrated by planners' and engineers' use of the x-year storm as a design standard, when the x-year storm is now occurring much more frequently. We would like to see a new set of values used to determine the size of each of the x-year storms based on either the most recent historical records, or perhaps even better, based on predicted rainfall for the next 100 years.

Right now highway engineers will not design to accommodate larger flows of water. They have told me they are waiting until USGS changes the calculations of the x-year storm.

I would like to know your thoughts on this. Is there a move to change these calculations, and if so, when if that apt to happen? If not, what is the leverage point to make it happen - to whom should we be addressing our concerns?

Jane

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