

March 2x, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Engineers, Developers, Owners and Permitting Agencies

THRU: Steven E. Darcey, CPESC
Executive Director

FROM: John B. Tarr, P.E.
District Engineer

RE: Rainfall Distributions for Design Based on NOAA Atlas 14 Rainfall Depths

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently adopted the new NOAA Atlas 14 Rainfall data and the accompanying rainfall distributions based thereupon. Most of central and eastern Maryland are covered by the NOAA_C distribution.

This replaces the legacy Type I, Type II, and Type III rainfall distributions developed from rainfall-frequency data contained in the United States (US) Department of Commerce publications US Weather Bureau Technical Paper 40 (1961) and National Weather Service (NWS) Hydro-35 (1977).

The District has adopted the new NOAA Atlas 14 Rainfall data and NOAA_C distribution for use during the design and or analysis of all proposed projects for erosion and sediment control, and dam safety pursuant to the USDA NRCS MD – 378 standard, and in certain retrofit situations. Where a proposed retrofit will not result in a change in the classification of the initial facility, or necessitate the need for a major construction effort, the legacy rainfall data and distribution may be used subject to approval by the District.

The current versions of WinTR-55 (Version 1.00.10) and WinTR-20 (Version 3.10) include the new distributions and rainfall data. Training presentations and other materials can also be obtained from the NRCS website.

Please contact the District at 301.574.5162 EXT. 3 should you require additional information.