

Columbus, New Mexico

(Section 205):

The village of Columbus is in southern New Mexico on the border with Mexico. In June 2000, approximately 5.2 inches of rain fell in a 48-hour period in two separate rainfall events. The land is flat and drainage occurs generally from the northwest to the southeast direction in small channels. Present flood control facilities are not adequate. Ditch and arroyo banks were overtopped, and there were severe damages at several locations in Columbus.

Incidental to the flooding that occurred in Columbus, high water from the U.S. crossed the border into Palomas, Chihuahua, Mexico, in the June 2000 flood event. The floodwater inundated Palomas to a depth of three to four feet in residential and business areas, bypassing the drainage facilities in Palomas. The residents of Palomas are aware of the shortfalls in the flood control facilities on the U.S. side of the border. The mayor of Palomas has expressed concern that until the flooding problems are resolved in Columbus, the flood threat in Mexico will be exacerbated.

