

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT VERTICAL DATUMS IN WEST VIRGINIA?

(1) Base Flood Elevations for AE Zones or Updated AE Zones. The vertical datum of Base Flood Elevations recorded on official FIRMs is referenced to the to the NGVD 29 Datum for the following counties: Hampshire, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Ohio, and Putnam. The town of Alderson (Greenbrier/Monroe counties) is also NGVD 29, although a FEMA Restudy will update the Alderson community's FIRMs to NAVD 88 in the near future. For all other communities in West Virginia, the Base Flood Elevations of effective FIRMS are referenced to the vertical datum NAVD 88.

(2) Advisory Base Flood Elevations (also known as Advisory Flood Heights) for Approximate A Zones or Advisory A Zones. The vertical datum of all Advisory Flood Height values in West Virginia is NAVD 88, except for McDowell County which is NGVD 29.

(3) Ground elevation values displayed in the WV Flood Tool's Query Results Panel are referenced to NAVD 88.

RESOURCES:

- Understanding Vertical Datums (FEMA Region II, 2015)
<http://www.region2coastal.com/view-flood-maps-data/understanding-vertical-datums/>
- Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Vertical Datum Conversion (FEMA 2014)
https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1406747117296-744b6bd203c18ada4806ad4e90c18b81/Vertical_Datum_Conversion_Guidance_May_2014.pdf
- Vertical Datum: New Mapping Studies Convert to Updated Vertical Datum (FEMA 2013)
https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1615-20490-4828/vertical_datum_letter.pdf