



FEMA

March 23, 2021

Community Coordination and Outreach (CCO) Meeting Kanawha County, West Virginia

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Where We Are - Preliminary Maps
3. Impacts
4. Floodplain Management
5. What You Should Do
6. Questions and Discussion

Why are we here today?

A preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) were sent on February 25, 2021 to Kanawha County, West Virginia and affected Incorporated Areas. A CCO meeting is an opportunity for FEMA, the community, and other state and federal partners to examine the preliminary maps, discuss the impacts of the proposed changes, and review the process for adopting the new maps.

This CCO meeting is organized by the three interrelated branches of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is a voluntary program with the goal of reducing future flood losses by guiding development away from hazardous areas, and by encouraging communities to:

- **Know Your Risk:** Flood hazard identification through mapping;
- **Insure Your Risk:** The provision of insurance and outreach measures; and
- **Reduce Your Risk:** Floodplain management through ordinances, mitigation practice, and resiliency efforts.



Community To-Do List



Review the preliminary FIRM. Make corrections, share comments, and submit appeals to FEMA through the community CEO, when appropriate.



Reach out to notify residents, businesses, and property owners affected by the changes on the FIRM.

Know Your Risk: Community Review of Maps

The preliminary FIRM illustrates the extent of flood hazards in a community by depicting flood risk zones, including the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The SFHA is defined as the area that would be inundated by a flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The 1-percent-annual-chance flood is also referred to as the base flood or 100-year flood.

The FEMA Map Service Center (MSC) is the official public source for flood hazard information:

<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>. Select 'Search All Products' to download information.

Visit <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-hazard-layer-nfhl> for multiple options to view and download the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) data. Changes from the current flood map may be viewed on the FEMA Region III Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF) Viewer at: <https://arcg.is/145SyT>.

Comments and Appeals

Comments

In order for these products to be as accurate as possible, it is important to review the preliminary FIRM and provide comments on non-technical changes or inaccuracies. **Comments are due 30 days from the date of the CCO Meeting.** Non-technical comments are defined as objections to a base map feature change or any non-appealable change such as municipal boundary changes, incorrect or misspelled road or stream names, and other base map measures or errors of omission. Comments may be sent to Robert Pierson, FEMA Project Officer at Robert.Pierson@fema.dhs.gov and Jason Sevanick, Study Manager, at Jason.Sevanick@woodplc.com.

Appeals

An appeal is a formal objection to the addition/modification of:

- Preliminary Base Flood Elevations (BFEs)/flood depths;
- SFHA boundaries and/or zone designations (newer delineations are often based on more detailed or recent topography); or
- Regulatory floodway boundaries.

Appeals must be supported by scientific and technical data that show that better methodologies, assumptions or data exists, and provide alternative analyses that incorporate those methodologies, assumptions, or data if appropriate.

Appeals must be submitted by the community CEO during the 90-day regulatory appeal period. The 90-day period commences with the second notice of the proposed determination published in the local newspapers. Anyone who owns or leases property may submit an appeal, but they must first be sent to the community CEO, who shall review and consolidate all appeals and issue a written opinion stating whether the evidence presented is sufficient to justify an appeal on behalf of those persons by the community. The CEO will then forward all appeals to FEMA for information and evaluation.

Insure your Risk

Adopting a new FIRM may change the NFIP policy rating for both present and future NFIP policyholders. Insurance agents doing business in the community, as well as property owners, are strongly encouraged to obtain more information before the new map becomes effective. Insurance may be purchased from most licensed property insurance agents or brokers. Anyone who may be affected should visit the NFIP website at www.FloodSmart.gov, which offers a variety of resources, including a listing of local insurance agents and brokers. For those who prefer, there is the **National Flood Insurance Call Center** at **1-800-427-4661**, or a local Region III contact:

Walt McGuckin
iService Region III Manager
NFIP Bureau and Statistical Agent
(267) 560-5057
wmcguckin@nfip-iservice.com

Spread the Word: The FIRM is Changing!

It is the responsibility of the community to notify property owners and other stakeholders that they will be impacted by the map changes. Individual letters may be sent, and the community is encouraged to spread the word through other communications channels, such as at scheduled community meetings or social media.

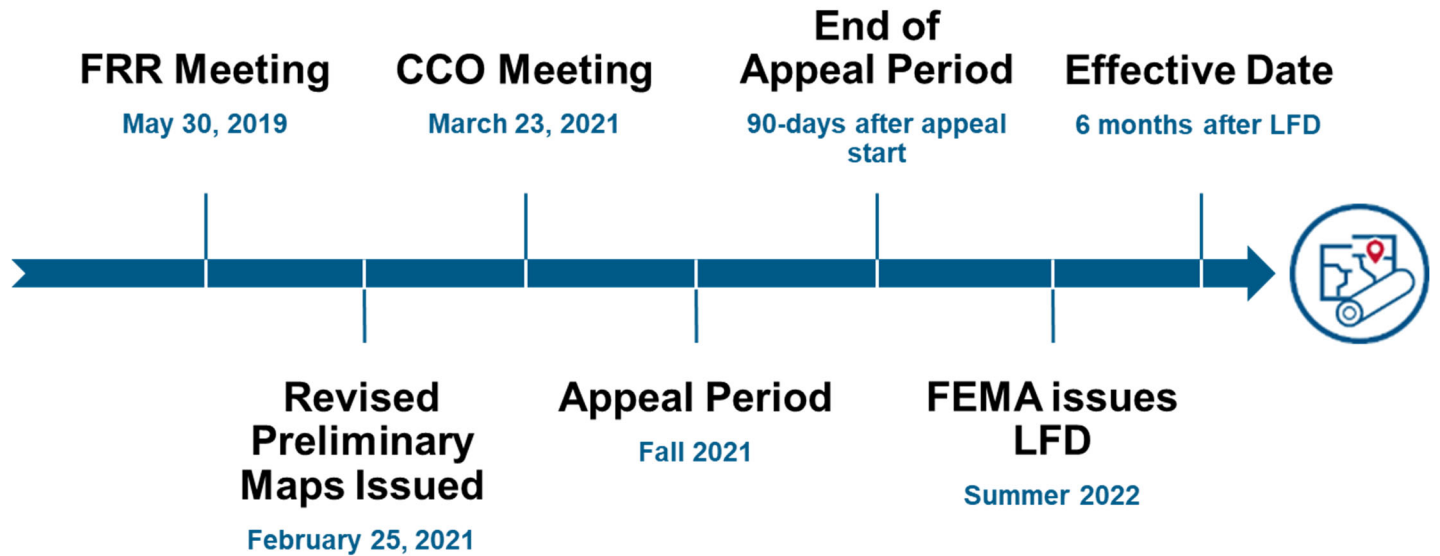
Reduce Your Risk

Through an effective floodplain ordinance, permitting, planning, and addressing hazards, communities can plan to protect what's important and build resiliency over time. For more information on how to reduce risk in your community, please contact your Mitigation Planning Specialist, Betsy Ranson, at Elizabeth.Ranson@fema.dhs.gov.

What does floodplain management mean to your community?

- Each community that participates in the NFIP must **enforce** its **FEMA-approved** floodplain ordinance.
- Permits are required for all development in the floodplain, and no increase in BFE is allowed for any development proposed in the floodway.
- It is **recommended** to use the preliminary FIRM and FIS data for permitting and to use whichever information is more restrictive to minimize legal liability. However, if the community disagrees with the data and intends to appeal, the effective data can be presumed to be valid and may still be used until the appeal is resolved.
- Visit www.floodsmart.gov/flood-map-zone/find-yours or definitions and more information.

Post-Disaster Study Timeline



Where can I get more information?

A wealth of resources is available at www.fema.gov, as well as at the following:

- The FEMA Map Service Center (MSC), <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>, is the official public source for flood hazard information produced in support of the NFIP. Use the MSC to find your official flood map, access a range of flood hazard products, and take advantage of additional tools.
- Information related to the NFIP and flood insurance is available at www.floodsmart.gov.
- Map specialists are available at [the FEMA Map Information eXchange \(FMIX\)](#) to assist customers with locating and reading flood maps, applying for Letters of Map Change (LOMC), and obtaining and understanding Elevation Certificates. FMIX also serves to connect stakeholders with a wide range of technical subject matter experts.

Call: **1-877-FEMA MAP** (1-877-336-2627)

Email: FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com

Website and Live Chat: www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx_main.html

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8:00am - 6:30pm ET
(After hours self-service and voicemail support provided.)

FEMA Region III	
Betsy Ranson Mitigation Planning Specialist (215) 347-0686 Elizabeth.Ranson@fema.dhs.gov	Robert Pierson, PMP Project Officer (215) 931-5650 Robert.Pierson@fema.dhs.gov
Mapping Partner	State NFIP Coordinator
Jason Sevanick, CFM, GISP Study Manager (301) 254-2160 jason.sevanick@woodplc.com	Chuck Grishaber (304) 414-8462 Charles.C.Grishaber@wv.gov