## STATE NFIP COORDINATOR NOTIFICATION

## TO COUNTY ASSESSORS

##  ABOUT USE OF DIGITAL PARCELS FOR WV FLOOD TOOL

January 3, 2018

Assessor
XXXXXXX

XXXXXX

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

As a professional courtesy to you, we would like you to know that the digital parcels for your county will be published on the WV Flood Tool ([www.mapWV.gov/flood](http://www.mapWV.gov/flood)).

The WV Flood Tool is recognized by FEMA and the WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management as the principal online tool to make flood determinations in the State. To date, we have 36 counties that have their parcel data in the WV Flood Tool and six counties are currently being added. The parcels are for “viewing only” in the WV Flood Tool and cannot be downloaded or edited.

* + Parcels are shown in the WV Flood Tool for the following 36 counties: **Barbour, Berkeley, Brooke, Cabell, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Hampshire, Hancock, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mineral, Monongalia, Morgan, Ohio, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Roane, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel and Wood.**
* Parcels are in the process of being added for the following six counties: **Calhoun, Lewis, Mason, Tyler, Webster, and Wirt.**

The West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Section, has teamed up with FEMA and the West Virginia Geographic Information Systems Technical Center (WVGISTC) at West Virginia University to create a free, public program called the WV Flood Tool. This program, created in 2007, is used by state officials, floodplain managers, citizens and others to assess local flood zones and potential flood risks. The WV Flood Tool is ever growing and adapting to improve the functionality for its users. We invite you to explore the WV Flood Tool and its features.

The tax parcels are an important reference layer in the WV Flood Tool that allow home owners, floodplain managers, insurance agents, developers, real estate agents, and local planners to make informed decisions about the degree of flood risk for specific properties. In addition to determining flood risks to properties, other benefits of having parcel data within the Flood Tool include addressing flood insurance requirements, assisting citizens in receiving better insurance rates, and reviewing and determining building sites Having parcel data built into the Flood Tool has proven to be an invaluable resource in communities where it is available.

Here is an example on how parcels are important for flood risk determinations. For instance, someone in your community wants to build a house on their property. The building site is directly in the floodplain and will require extensive work to comply with NFIP regulations. When reviewing the permit, the Floodplain Administrator pulls up the Flood Tool with parcel data and identifies that a portion of the land is out of the floodplain. They advise the landowner that by moving the house to a different section of the property that unnecessary work and expense can be avoided. The landowner sees the benefit and agrees to change the building site. This not only improves public services for the community, but also reduces the community’s impact on the floodplain, making it safer for current structures in the floodplain and allowing for more development to occur in the future.

Our hope is that by working together and sharing information, we can update the Flood Tool to better equip decision makers at all levels, and improve the services provided to your citizens. Parcel data which is incorporated into the WV Flood Tool is an excellent resource for floodplain management decisions made around the state. Help us to help your community develop more wisely.

If you have any questions or concerns about the digital parcels being displayed on the WV Flood Tool, then please contact us at 304-957-2571. Attached you will find the answers to many of the frequently asked questions about displaying your county’s parcel data on the WV Flood Tool. In addition, more information regarding the importance of local GIS data layers can be found at this link: <https://data.wvgis.wvu.edu/pub/temp/FEMA/FRA/FT/Importance_Local_GIS_Data_20180103.pdf>.

Lastly, as other assessors have done, if your county office has a website then we encourage you to post a web link to the WV Flood Tool ([www.mapWV.gov/Flood](http://www.mapWV.gov/Flood)) so that citizens can make quick and easy determinations on whether their property resides in a flood zone. We thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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