



FEMA

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Eddie Gochenour  
President, Berkeley County Commission  
400 W Stephen Street, Suite 201  
Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

Prelim-EAP  
Community Name: Berkeley County,  
West Virginia,  
(Unincorporated Areas)  
Community No.: 540282

Dear Commissioner Gochenour:

We are pleased to present your community with Preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Berkeley County, West Virginia and Incorporated Areas for your review and comment. This preliminary version of the FIRM and FIS report incorporates updated flood hazard information for all streams in Berkeley County, with the exception of the Potomac River.

We are sending the Preliminary copies at this time to give your community an opportunity to review them. Additionally, in an effort to assist you in circulating the information, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has posted digital copies of the revised FIRM, FIS report, and supporting database on the following page of the Map Service Center: <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/>.

We will contact you shortly to schedule a formal community coordination meeting (a "Consultation Coordination Officer [CCO]" Meeting) to discuss the revised flood hazard information, ordinance adoption, and other frequently asked questions and concerns. In the meantime, we encourage you to circulate the enclosed copies as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other individuals or organizations in the community that would have an interest in the FIRM and FIS report so that they will have the opportunity to review them thoroughly before the formal community coordination meeting. The review period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names, and stream names on the FIRM or in the FIS report.

Comments may be sent via mail and/or email to:

Amanuel Ghebreegzabher, FEMA Region 3  
One Independence Mall  
615 Chestnut Street, Sixth Floor  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106  
[amanuel.ghebreegzabher@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:amanuel.ghebreegzabher@fema.dhs.gov)

Additional copy to:

Brandon Cramer, WSP  
4795 Meadows Wood Lane, Suite 310E  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
brandon.cramer@wsp.com

Please submit comments (digital format such as shapefiles preferred) no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. All comments and changes received during this review period will be incorporated, as appropriate, before the FIRM and FIS report become effective.

To assist your community in maintaining the FIRM, we have enclosed a Summary of Map Actions (SOMA) to document previous Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment [LOMAs], Letters of Map Revision [LOMRs]) that will be superseded when the FIRM becomes effective. Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories: (1) LOMCs for which results have been included on the FIRM; (2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the FIRM because of scale limitations or because the LOMC issued had determined that the lots or structures involved were outside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the FIRM; (3) LOMCs for which results have not been included on the FIRM because the flood hazard information on which the original determinations were based is being superseded by new flood hazard information; and (4) LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures cannot be revalidated through an administrative process like the LOMCs in Category 2 above.

LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of a previously issued LOMC; the letter will be sent to your community shortly before the effective date of the FIRM and will become effective one day after the FIRM becomes effective.

For the LOMCs listed in Category 4, we will review the data previously submitted for the LOMA or LOMR request and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the FIRM becomes effective upon request.

Your community should be aware that recently approved LOMCs, specifically LOMRs, may have been issued for your community. The LOMR process is dynamic and FEMA is reviewing LOMR applications regularly. To complete production of the Preliminary FIRMs which includes incorporating the effects of “mappable” LOMRs issued since the last map effective date, a specific cutoff was established. FEMA will address any approved LOMRs issued after the cutoff date when the final SOMA is distributed. If your community has concerns regarding a specific case, please submit the LOMR case number, as well as any appropriate documentation, to our FEMA Regional Office at One Independence Mall, 615 Chestnut Street, Sixth Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106, before the end of the comment or appeal periods discussed below to assist us in keeping the map up to date.

After the CCO Meeting, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Berkeley County. A statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies Base (1-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs), base flood depths, SFHAs, flood zone designations, or regulatory floodways within a community, as shown on the Preliminary FIRM. If your community is identified as requiring an appeal period, we will send you a letter approximately 2 weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward information regarding notifications to be published in the *Federal Register* and local newspaper(s) and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date. Additional information concerning the 90-day appeal period will be provided during the CCO Meeting.

After the 30-day review and appeal periods have ended and we have addressed all comments/appeals, we will initiate final preparation of the FIRM and FIS report. The new FIRM and FIS report for your

community will become effective approximately 7 to 10 months later. Before the effective date, you will be notified in writing of the official FIRM and FIS report effective date and asked to adopt floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances as necessary that correspond with the new FIRM or FIS report. If you or other community officials have any questions regarding floodplain ordinances, you may raise them with our FEMA Regional Office or you may discuss those issues with your State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator. Several months before the effective date, we will mail one set of printed copies of the finalized FIRM and FIS report and digital copies of the map and report products.

Your community's comments on the Preliminary FIRM panels and FIS report are an important part of our review process, and we will consider them carefully before we publish the FIRM and FIS report in their final form. If you have any questions regarding the Preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS report, please contact Amanuel Ghebreegziabher of FEMA's Regional Office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at (202) 718-2759, or Brandon Cramer of WSP at (715) 864-9656. If you have general questions about mapping issues, please call our FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX), toll free, at (877) 336-2627 (877-FEMA MAP) or e-mail our FMIX staff at FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



David N. Baseom, Acting Director  
Engineering and Modeling Division  
Risk Analysis, Planning and Information Directorate

Enclosures:

Preliminary FIRM and FIS report  
(Preliminary SOMA)

Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98, *Use of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data  
as Available Data*

*Adoption of Flood Insurance Rate Maps by Participating Communities*

*Flood Hazard Mapping Fact Sheet*

Region 3 State Floodplain Coordinating Offices

cc: Randy Lilly, Director, Office of Emergency Management, Berkeley County  
Julia Sears, State NFIP Coordinator, West Virginia Emergency Management Division