



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP
89 Kings Highway
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

PHONE: (302) 739-9921
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September 6, 2012

Dear Community Official:

Re: Senate Bill 64 Floodplain and Drainage Standards and Recommendations

As Chairman of the Floodplain and Drainage Advisory Committee established by Senate Bill 64 (SB 64) and signed by the Governor in August of 2011, I am pleased to provide to you an update related to the progress of that Committee, and to enlist your help. In mid-August, workshops were held in each county to provide information about the Floodplain and Drainage Standards and Recommendations adopted by Secretary O'Mara after considerable deliberation and support by the Committee. SB 64 calls for local ordinance and capacity review to be undertaken by county and local governments. We received valuable input and community participation in those workshops, and for those of you who were able to attend we thank you for the feedback you provided.

The next step of SB 64 requires an assessment of each community's floodplain and drainage requirements and enforcement capabilities. Specifically, we need to know whether your current codes and ordinances already contain the recommended standards, are equivalent, or are less stringent. We also need to know whether your community has the capacity to enforce these recommended standards if you are not already. It is also important to gain an understanding of whether your local government generally supports the standards and recommendations adopted by the Secretary and supported by the Committee. To assist you in this assessment, we have enclosed an ordinance review survey which we request that you complete, and return to our office by September 30. We realize some local governments may want assistance with the assessment process. If you would like help or just have general questions, the Department has resources both with in-house staff and through the University of Delaware, as well as our consultant team. You may request assistance by contacting Mike Powell or Brooks Cahall at (302) 739-9921. You may also e-mail Marcia Cagle at Marcia.Cagle@state.de.us for assistance. Information regarding SB 64, and the Floodplain and Drainage Advisory Committee is available online. The legislation, Final Recommendations and

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Standards, and a number of educational presentations are available at:
<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Pages/FloodplainandDrainageCodeWorkGroupCommittee.aspx>

It is our goal that all communities in Delaware complete this self-assessment of local floodplain and drainage codes. The input of county and local government in this process is critical. We stand ready to assist you in this process, and look forward to providing any level of assistance that you might need. Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you have any questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

Frank Piorko, Chair
Floodplain and Drainage Advisory
Committee