

# THE FIRST STATE WATERMARK



## *Delaware's Floodplain Management Newsletter*

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### **FLOOD STUDIES UNDERWAY**

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to produce new flood risk maps for Delaware's coastline and many streams in all three Counties. There are two main outcomes of these studies. First, to update the coastal flood risk maps in Delaware along the Atlantic Ocean, Delaware Bay and Inland Bays. Also, these studies will create new flood risk maps on a few streams with approximate A Zones, where a detailed study has never been done.

#### **Delaware Coastal Study**

The FEMA Region III office in Philadelphia is the lead agency on the coastal study, which includes the Atlantic Ocean, the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, the Inland Bays, and their tributaries. The coastal study is being performed in two phases. The first phase of the study is a storm surge analysis under development by the United States Army Corp of Engineer's (USACE) Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). The storm surge analysis, which will determine new stillwater elevations for the 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year return periods, utilizes the Advanced Circulation Model of Oceanic, Coastal, and Estuarine Waters (ADCIRC). The storm surge stillwater elevations have been calculated. FEMA is now performing the second phase of the study, which utilizes the storm surge stillwater elevation results to conduct the coastal hazard analyses using Wave Height Analysis for Flood Insurance

Studies (WHAFIS). Preliminary FIRM panels are expected to be issued by the end of 2012.

DNREC will be engaged with FEMA and its contractors on the data and methodology used in both phases of the coastal study. The results of the storm surge and wave height analyses will be used to generate floodplain boundaries, and coastal high hazard areas (V-Zones) for the coastal influenced areas of the state. FEMA will then map these floodplain boundaries onto new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for the coastal influenced areas and will prepare new Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) for each of the three counties. Check out [www.r3coastal.com/](http://www.r3coastal.com/) for more info and also subscribe to the mailing list to get emails out updates and meeting dates.

#### **Inland Sussex County**

The flood study for central and western Sussex County is complete and preliminary maps are available for the public to review. Go to [www.rampp-team.com/de.htm](http://www.rampp-team.com/de.htm) to view the preliminary maps. Open the Preliminary Interactive Flood Map Index, and click on a blue highlighted panel to view the changes. The maps must be added the Federal Register before the 90-day appeal period begins. Then there will be a six month period to allow communities to adopt the map before they become effective. If you have any questions about this study, please contact Mike Powell at (302)739-9921 or email him at [michael.powell@state.de.us](mailto:michael.powell@state.de.us)

You can view both the preliminary floodplain layer and the effective floodplain layer for Sussex County on DNREC's mapping website: <http://maps.dnrec.delaware.gov/navmap/>

## New Castle and Kent County

A flood study has been completed for the Appoquinimink watershed in New Castle County. The Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map went preliminary on 11/7/2011. This data can be viewed on FEMA's website [www.rampp-team.com/de.htm](http://www.rampp-team.com/de.htm)

There are also flood studies underway for the Red Clay, White Clay, Mill Creek, and Belltown Run in New Castle County. These studies will revise detailed floodplains in these areas. A flood study is currently underway for the Murderkill watershed in Kent County to revise approximate Zone A floodplains to Zone AE with BFE's. We will keep you posted on when the Preliminary maps for these areas are complete.

## FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION ORDINANCE

DNREC has developed a Model Floodplain Ordinance to assist municipalities in revising their floodplain ordinances so that they meet the NFIP minimum requirements. The purpose of the Model is to make a municipality's ordinance language clearer and stronger. The Model also includes more stringent requirements to help protect property owners from flood damage. This reduces their insurance premiums and reduces the risk from damage. It benefits the town with reduced costs in post flood mitigation. The most recent **Version 1.8** of the Flood Damage Reduction Ordinance can be found on DNREC's website at:

[www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Drainage/Pages/Flooding.aspx](http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Drainage/Pages/Flooding.aspx)

## SENATE BILL 64

The Delaware Legislature passed Senate Bill 64 in June 2011. This is an Act to amend Title 7 of the Delaware code relating to floodplain and drainage standards, wetlands, and subaqueous lands. A copy of the legislation is available here under Senate Bill 64: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Pages/FloodplainandDrainageCodeWorkGroupCommittee.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Pages/FloodplainandDrainageCodeWorkGroupCommittee.aspx)

SB 64 does not establish state floodplain and drainage standards. Instead, it forms a committee to develop minimum floodplain management and drainage standards. The last of the initial committee meetings will be the first week of May. The DNREC Secretary shall develop minimum standards after consultation from the committee. There will be an opportunity for public comment at this time. Each municipality will then review the standards and comment whether their individual ordinances are consistent with the standards. The Committee will then draft a final report to the General Assembly no later than March 15, 2013. The General Assembly has the final say as to whether these standards become legislation that would require each municipality to incorporate these standards into their local ordinances.

## UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### FEMA – EMI COURSES

<http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>

E273 - Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP – June 11 to 14 and Sept. 24 to 27, 2012.

E278 - NFIP/Community Rating System August 6 to 9, 2012 and September 17 to 20, 2012

E 194 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts – August 27-30, 2012

E282 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II – no vacancy

## ASFPM

Annual National Conference will be in San Antonio, Texas this year. Mission Mitigation is the theme, dates are May 20 to 25, 2012. Early registration ends April 13, 2012. Go to [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org) for more details.

NJ Association for Floodplain Management  
[www.njafm.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=1200513](http://www.njafm.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=1200513)  
Annual Conference: Oct. 2 & 3, 2012 in Somerset, NJ

MD Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers  
[www.mafsm.org/index.php](http://www.mafsm.org/index.php)  
Annual Conference: October 2012 in Linthicum, MD

## DNREC

If you are interested in taking the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam, please contact Greg Williams at [Gregory.Williams@state.de.us](mailto:Gregory.Williams@state.de.us). We will schedule a time to proctor exam again once we have several people interested.

## FEMA LIBRARY REFERENCES

Here is a link to FEMA's guidance document "Zone A Manual: Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas."  
[www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl\\_zonea.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl_zonea.shtm)

Here is a link to FEMA's guidance document FEMA 348 entitled: "Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage".  
[www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1750](http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1750)

## DNREC WEBSITE:

Please check out the Division of Watershed Stewardship's website to learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program, FEMA, and other important reference material:  
[www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Drainage/Pages/Flooding.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Drainage/Pages/Flooding.aspx)

## ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

FEMA has issued a memo concerning the fact that both the Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate expired on March 31, 2012. A newly revised edition of the Elevation Certificate (Form 81-13) and the Floodproofing Certificate (Form 81-65) are currently being approved by OMB. FEMA has issued a voluntary "phase-in" period for the new forms. Once the new forms are introduced, FEMA will accept either the new or old form for a 12-month period. There have only been minor changes proposed to the Elevation Certificate.

**If you wish to receive this newsletter or wish to be removed from the mailing list, please see below:**

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