

THE FIRST STATE WATERMARK



Delaware's Floodplain Management Newsletter

August, 2011

Volume 17, Number 2

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 Sussex County. There are two main outcomes of these studies. First, to update coastal flood risk maps for the Atlantic Ocean, Delaware Bay and Inland Bays. Also, flood studies have been performed for the first time on 70 miles of streams in central and western Sussex County which use accurate topography to map floodplains.

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 are expected soon. FEMA will then perform the second phase of the study, which will utilize 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 <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 <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 **You can also view both the preliminary**

floodplain and the effective floodplain on DNREC's mapping website: <http://maps.dnrec.delaware.gov/navmap/>

New Castle and Kent County

Flood studies are currently underway for both the Appoquinimink watershed in New Castle County and Murderkill watershed in Kent County. See the attached Maps at the end of the newsletter for details of the study areas. Preliminary maps for these areas should be complete by the end of 2011.

There was also a physical map revision done by LOMR in Kent County for the Tidbury Creek Watershed. This LOMR went effective on June 27, 2011. This LOMR revised an approximate Zone A floodplain and established base flood elevations for Tidbury Creek, Derby Pond, and Red House Branch. This revised floodplain should be used as best available data when building permits are being issued in this area. The case # is 10-03-0303P. Go to www.msc.fema.gov and look up LOMC's for panel 10001C0230H in Kent County to see details.

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 and have additional requirements that are more restrictive. 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 recently updated Version 1.6 of the Flood Damage Reduction Ordinance can be found on DNREC's website at: <http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Drainage/Pages/Flooding.aspx>

SENATE BILL 64

The Delaware Legislature passed Senate Bill 64 in June. 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.legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS146.NSF/ SB 64 does not establish state floodplain and drainage standards. Instead, it forms a committee to develop minimum floodplain management and drainage standards. The State Legislature will review the proposals from the committee and may choose to pass legislation that would require each community to adopt and enforce the standards. This entire process will take approximately 18 months. The date of the first committee meeting has not yet been sent.

eLOMA PROCESS

FEMA has developed eLOMA, a web-based application that provides Licensed Professionals to submit simple Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) requests. It reduces the determination time for basic LOMA's from up to 60 days to just minutes in most instances. To register for an eLOMA account or learn more about the application, visit <https://hazards.fema.gov> Under "Tools For Professionals" in the top left corner click on "Learn about eLOMA."

NJ ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN COORDINATORS CONFERENCE

The New Jersey Chapter of ASFPM is having it's annual conference on September 13 & 14, 2011, at The Palace at Somerset Park in Somerset, NJ. Go to their website http://njafm.wildapricot.org/annual_conference for more information on their 7th annual conference entitled: "Embracing Sustainability."

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FEMA – EMI COURSES

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

E273 - Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP - March 19-22, 2012

E278 - NFIP/Community Rating System February 27 – March 1, 2012

E 194 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts – Feb. 13-16, 2012

E282 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II - Dec. 12-15, 2011

E386 - Residential Coastal Construction
No vacancies at this time.

DNREC

The **CFM Exam** is being offered on August 31, 2011, in Dover.

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

CRS Coordinators Workshop - Wednesday September 21, 2011, at the DNERR facility in Dover. Sign up forms will be emailed this week.

There is a new CRS Coordinators manual coming out in 2012 with some significant changes. We will cover a few of the changes

and how CRS communities should be conducting business. **Registration forms will be sent shortly.**

Delaware Association of Surveyors

Conference – October 6 & 7, 2011
Dover Downs

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

How to reach the First State Watermark:

Telephone: (302) 739-9921

Fax: (302) 739-6724

E-mail:

Gregory.Williams@state.de.us

Michael.Powell@state.de.us

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