

# 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 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 extends from Fenwick Island to Delaware City and includes inland bays and 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, was completed at the end of 2010. FEMA will perform the second phase of the study, which involves overland wave height analysis and hazard mapping. The wave height analysis for Delaware is expected to be completed in the summer of 2011.

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 county. Check out <http://www.r3coastal.com/> for more info.

#### **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. FEMA has been coordinating with DNREC to schedule outreach meetings for Sussex County, to discuss the draft floodplain maps for central and western Sussex County. **The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2011, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the Sussex County Council Chambers in Georgetown.** If you have any questions about this study, please contact Mike Powell at (302) 739-9921 or [michael.powell@state.de.us](mailto:michael.powell@state.de.us)

## **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 is also a physical map revision being done by LOMR in Kent County for the Tidbury Creek Watershed. This LOMR is currently in the public comment period and will go 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.

### **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>

## **FEMA TECHNICAL BULLETINS**

FEMA released a newly revised Technical Bulletin #4 in July 2010, regarding "Elevator Installation for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program."

### **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."

### **STATUS OF MAP CHANGES ON FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING**

Did you know that you can view the status of map change requests? The information is updated daily from the Mapping Information Platform (MIP) and includes Letters of Map Change (LOMCs), Flood Insurance Studies, and proposed modified Base Flood Elevations. To view information for a particular community, select the state and then the community you are interested in from the drop-down list. You can also search using a specific case number. The Status of Map Change Requests can be found at [http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/st\\_main.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/st_main.shtm).

## UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### FEMA – EMI COURSES

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

E273 - Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP.

May 16-19, 2011

August 29-September 1, 2011

E278 - NFIP/Community Rating System

September 26-29, 2011

E386 - Residential Coastal Construction

August 15 – 18, 2011

E282 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts

May 9-12, 2011

### DNREC

Community Official NFIP Training  
TBD

Surveyor/Engineer training for the Elevation Certificate - TBD

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 once we have enough people interested.

### ASFPM

The annual Association of State Floodplain Mangers national conference will be May 15 to 20, 2011, in Louisville, Kentucky. This is an excellent opportunity to interact with other state and local officials that deal with floodplain management and flood damage reduction. Go to <http://www.floods.org/> and click on "Conferences & Events" to learn more about the details.

### DNREC WEBSITE:

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

### COASTAL RESILIENCY WEBSITE:

To learn more about Coastal Hazards and Community Resiliency in Delaware visit: [www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Shoreline/Documents/Coastal%20Resiliency/coastal\\_hazards\\_community\\_resiliency.pdf](http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Shoreline/Documents/Coastal%20Resiliency/coastal_hazards_community_resiliency.pdf)

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**please see below:**



