

THE FIRST STATE WATERMARK



Delaware's Floodplain Management Newsletter

September, 2012

Volume 18, 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 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 conducted 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 completing 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). DNREC have been 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 and tidally influenced areas of the state. FEMA will then map these floodplain boundaries onto new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for the coastal areas and will prepare new Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) for each of the three counties. Check out www.r3coastal.com/ for more info and also subscribe to the mailing list to get emails out updates and meeting dates.

Preliminary FIRM panels from the coastal study have been released for Kent County. Panels for New Castle and Sussex County are expected to be issued by the end of 2012.

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 to view the preliminary maps. Open the Preliminary Interactive Flood Map Index, and click on a blue highlighted panel to view the changes. 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

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. The preliminary FIRM panels can be viewed on FEMA website 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 has also been completed for the Murderkill watershed in Kent County to revise approximate Zone A floodplains to Zone AE with BFE's. The preliminary maps for this area are complete.

You can view **both** the preliminary floodplain layers and the effective floodplain layer for all three Counties on DNREC's mapping website:

<http://maps.dnrec.delaware.gov/navmap/>

These new maps are likely to go effective in early 2014. Communities must have an approved ordinance adopted prior to the maps going effective.

FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION ORDINANCE

DNREC has developed a model floodplain ordinance to assist municipalities in revising their floodplain ordinances to make sure 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 reduce property owners risk from flood damage. This reduces their insurance premiums. It also benefits the town with reduced costs in post flood mitigation. The most recent **Version 1.9** of the Flood Damage Reduction Ordinance can be found on DNREC's website at: 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

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 was the first week of May. The DNREC Secretary developed minimum standards after consultation from the committee. There was an opportunity for public comment at this time. Currently, each municipality is reviewing the standards and commenting on 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.

Please return the survey you received to our office by **September 30, 2012**. You may email them to Marcia.Cagle@state.de.us

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FEMA – EMI COURSES

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

E273 - Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP – Nov. 5-8, 2012
March 11-14, 2013.

E278 - NFIP/Community Rating System -
April 1-4, 2013; May 13-16, 2013; and
July 29 – Aug. 1, 2013.

E 194 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts – August 26-29, 2013.

E282 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II – March 25-28, 2013.

E284 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III – July 8 – 11, 2013.

NJ Association for Floodplain Management 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
Annual Conference: October 25, 2012, in Linthicum, MD.

DNREC TRAINING

Save the date. DNREC will be hosting a training workshop in November for floodplain coordinators and local officials. We will offer the workshop in two locations to accommodate as many communities as possible. The first one will be in Lewes on November 7, 2012, and the second on November 16, 2012 location TBD. Invitations will be sent shortly.

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 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

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

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

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.

CRS

The National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) manual is in the process of being updated and is projected to be released in 2013. For more info go to: www.CRS2012.org.

Wendy Carey with the University of Delaware Sea Grant Program will be working with DNREC and FEMA to host a Delaware Users Group for current CRS communities and those interested in finding our more about the program. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2012.

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