



September 30, 2015

Mr. David A. Eberly
Allegany County Administrator
Allegany County Office Building
701 Kelly Road
Cumberland, Maryland 21502-2803

Community: Allegany County, Maryland
(Unincorporated Areas)
Community Number.: 240001

Dear Mr. Eberly:

On April 14, 2011, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Allegany County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas. Since that release, FEMA Region III has determined that revisions to preliminary FIRM panels and the preliminary FIS Report are required. Enclosed for your information are copies of the revised preliminary FIRM panels and revised preliminary FIS Report for Allegany County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas, dated September 30, 2015.

This revised edition of the study incorporates the following changes:

- Utilization of newly collected LiDAR-based topographic data (from 2012) into the hydraulic modeling and mapping process;
- Revised flood hazard boundaries and elevations for all flooding sources previously studied by detailed and approximate methods. For North Branch Potomac and Potomac Rivers, new/revised engineering analyses have not been performed, but previously established flood elevations have been used to redelineate the floodplain boundaries on the 2012 topographic data;
- Revised political boundaries and basemap features based on spatial data provided by Allegany County.

FEMA has implemented updated levee analysis and mapping procedures for areas that have not been demonstrated to meet the requirements in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations (related to a levee system's capacity to provide 1-percent-annual-chance flood protection as documented in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at Title 44, Chapter 1, Section 65.10 (44 CFR 65.10).

The Georges Creek levee in the Town of Barton and the North Branch Potomac River levee at the Upper Potomac Industrial Park shown on the above-referenced FIRM panels are non-accredited levee systems, meaning that the systems are currently not in compliance with the levee certification requirements described in 44 CFR 65.10. The current effective flood hazard information is being retained as an interim measure until updated levee analysis and mapping procedures in the vicinity of the non-accredited levee systems is performed as part of a future flood hazard analysis and mapping project. The flood hazard information has been reverted to the information presented on the current effective FIRM and FIS report dated September 28, 1979 (Barton) for the Georges Creek levee area, and Letter of Map Revision #06-03-B234P dated March 8, 2007 for the Upper Potomac Industrial Park levee.

We are sending the Revised Preliminary copies at this time to give your community an opportunity to review them. Additionally, in an effort to assist you in circulating the information, FEMA has posted digital copies of the FIRM and FIS report materials to the following Website: <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/>. General information related to preliminary and revised preliminary mapping process can be accessed at: <http://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata>.

We will contact you shortly to schedule a formal community coordination meeting (a “Consultation Coordination Officer [CCO]” Meeting) to discuss the revised flood hazard information, ordinance adoption, and other frequently asked questions and concerns. In the meantime, we encourage you to circulate the enclosed copies as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other individuals or organizations in the community that would have an interest in the FIRM and FIS report so that they will have the opportunity to review them thoroughly. The review period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names, and stream names on the FIRM or in the FIS report. Comments may be sent to Mr. Jason Sevanick, Amec Foster Wheeler, 14424 Albemarle Point Place, Suite 115, Chantilly, Virginia, 20151. If you prefer to call or email, Jason Sevanick may be reached at (301) 254-2160 or jason.sevanick@amecfw.com. Please submit comments (digital format such as shapefiles preferred) no later than 30 days from the CCO meeting. All comments and changes received during this review period will be incorporated, as appropriate, before the FIRM and FIS Report become effective.

Following the release of this revised preliminary, the CCO Meeting, and publication of a notice of proposed flood hazard determinations in the *Federal Register*, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Allegany County. A statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies BFEs, base flood depths, SFHAs, flood zone designations, or regulatory floodways within a community, as shown on the preliminary and revised preliminary FIRMs. If your community is identified as requiring an appeal period, we will send you a letter approximately two weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward information regarding notifications to be published in the *Federal Register* and local newspaper(s) and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date. Additional information concerning the 90-day appeal period will be provided during the CCO Meeting.

After the 30-day review and 90-day appeal periods have ended and we have addressed all comments/appeals, we will initiate final preparation of the FIRM and FIS Report. The new FIRM and FIS Report for your community will become effective approximately 7 to 10 months later. Before the effective date, you will be notified in writing of the official FIRM and FIS Report effective date and asked to adopt floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances as necessary that correspond with the new FIRM or FIS Report. If you or other community officials have any questions regarding floodplain ordinances, you may raise them with our FEMA Regional Office or you may discuss those issues with your State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator. Several months before the effective date, we will mail one set of printed copies of the finalized FIRM and FIS Report and digital copies of the map and report products.

To assist your community in maintaining the FIRM, we have enclosed a revised Summary of Map Actions (SOMA) to document previous Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment [LOMAs], Letters of Map Revision [LOMRs]) that will be superseded when the FIRM becomes effective. Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories: (1) LOMCs for which results have been included on the FIRM; (2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the FIRM because of scale limitations or because the LOMC issued had determined that the lots or structures involved were outside the SFHA as

shown on the FIRM; (3) LOMCs for which results have not been included on the FIRM because the flood hazard information on which the original determinations were based is being superseded by new flood hazard information; and (4) LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures cannot be revalidated through an administrative process like the LOMCs in Category 2 above.

LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of a previously issued LOMC; the letter will be sent to your community shortly before the effective date of the FIRM and will become effective one day after the FIRM becomes effective. For any LOMCs listed in Category 4, we will review the data previously submitted for the LOMA or LOMR request and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the FIRM becomes effective.

Your community should be aware that recently approved LOMCs, specifically LOMRs, may have been issued for your community. The LOMR process is dynamic and FEMA is reviewing LOMR applications regularly. To complete production of the Revised Preliminary FIRMs which includes incorporating the effects of “mappable” LOMRs issued since the last map effective date, a specific cutoff was established. FEMA will address any approved LOMRs issued after the cutoff date when the final SOMA is distributed. If your community has concerns regarding a specific case, please submit the LOMR case number, as well as any appropriate documentation, to our FEMA Regional office at 615 Chestnut Street, One Independence Mall, 6th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19106, before the end of the comment or appeal periods.

Your community’s comments on the enclosed materials are an important part of our review process, and we will consider them carefully before we publish the FIRM and FIS report in their final form. If you are interested in discussing the enclosed materials please contact Mr. Robert Pierson of FEMA’s Regional Office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at (215) 931-5650 or Jason Sevanick at (301)-254-2160. If you have general questions about mapping issues, please call our FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or e-mail our FMIX staff at FEMAMAPSpecialist@riskmapcfs.com.

Sincerely,



Luis Rodriguez, P.E., Chief
Engineering Management Branch
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

Enclosures:

Revised Preliminary FIRMs and FIS Report
Revised Preliminary SOMA
Flood Hazard Mapping Fact Sheet
Adoption of Flood Insurance Rate Maps by Participating Communities
Region III State Floodplain Coordinating Offices
Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98, Use of FIS Data as Available Data
DVD containing revised preliminary materials in digital format

cc: Mr. Dave Guignet, P.E., State NFIP Coordinator, Maryland Department of the Environment
Mr. James A. Squires, Land Development Services Chief, Allegany County

bcc: Region III-MT/ R. Pierson (mail complete set of letters and all enclosures)
Mapping Partner/ J. Sevanick (mail complete set of letters and all enclosures)
RSC/Lisa DeFranco (mail DVD)

Compass Case File/ Jeff Sengebusch (Email pdfs of final letters and SOMAs to
jeffrey.sengebusch@acem.com)

Digital copy of the final letters, SOMAs, and Fact Sheets to:

dguignet@mde.state.md.us and kwagner@mde.state.md.us

FEDD File/Maintained by Study Contractor