

Public Invited to Review Flood Maps in Columbia County

Release Date: April 20, 2021

FEMA is proposing updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Columbia County, Pennsylvania. Community partners are invited to participate in a 90-day appeal and comment period.

The updated maps were produced in coordination with local, state and FEMA officials. Significant community review of the maps has already taken place, but before the maps become final, community partners can identify any corrections or questions about the information provided and submit appeals or comments.

The 90-day appeal period will begin on or around April 21, 2021. Residents, business owners and other community partners are encouraged to review the updated maps to learn about local flood risks and potential future flood insurance requirements. They may submit an appeal if they perceive that modeling or data used to create the map is technically or scientifically incorrect.

- An appeal must include technical information, such as hydraulic or hydrologic data, to support the claim.
- Appeals cannot be based on the effects of proposed projects or projects started after the study is in progress.
- If property owners see incorrect information that does not change the flood hazard information—such as a missing or misspelled road name in the Special Flood Hazard Area or an incorrect corporate boundary—they can submit a written comment.

The next step in the mapping process is the resolution of all comments and appeals. Once they are resolved, FEMA will notify communities of the effective date of the final maps.

Submit appeals and comments by contacting your municipality's floodplain administrator (FPA). Email Eric C. Stahley, Resilience Officer at Columbia County, if you need assistance finding your local FPA: estahley@columbiapa.org. The



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preliminary maps may be viewed online at the FEMA Flood Map Changes Viewer: <http://msc.fema.gov/fmcv>. Changes from the current maps may be viewed online at the Region 3 Changes Since Last FIRM Viewer: <https://arcg.is/0Pq0ib>.

Note that the preliminary maps do not reflect the map changes associated with the accreditation of the Autoneum/Windsor Levee System in the Town of Bloomsburg. These revisions may be viewed in the Letter of Map Revision Determination Document available at <https://map1.msc.fema.gov/mipdata/20-03-1776P-420339.pdf?LOC=bc71f40647190c1cb75ba82e6b340095>. The revisions will become effective after the appeal period is complete and FEMA has resolved any appeals.

For more information about the flood maps:

- Use a live chat service about flood maps at <http://go.usa.gov/r6C> (just click on the “Live Chat” icon).
- Contact a FEMA Map Specialist by telephone; toll free, at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2627) or by email at FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

Most homeowner’s insurance policies do not cover flood. There are cost-saving options available for those newly mapped into a high-risk flood zone. Learn more about your flood insurance options by talking with your insurance agent and visiting <https://www.floodsmart.gov>.

Columbia County Flood Mapping Milestones

- July 10, 2019 — Community Coordination and Outreach Meeting to review Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map and discuss updates to local floodplain management ordinance and flood insurance.
- Aug. 28, 2021 – Revised Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate map released.
- On or Around April 21, 2021 –Appeal Period starts.
- June 2022* — New Flood Insurance Rate Map becomes effective and flood insurance requirements take effect. (*Timeline subject to change pending completion of the appeal review process.)

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Region 3 Office of External Affairs at (215) 931-5597 or at femar3newsdesk@fema.dhs.gov.



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