

NEW PROPOSED FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP REFLECTS CHANGES TO LOCAL FLOOD RISK

90-Day Appeal Period for Filing Appeals and Comments Begins Soon

Florence County, WI 05/05/2021 — Updates to Florence County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are nearly complete. The new maps will provide Florence County with up-to-date flood risk information and tools that can enhance local mitigation plans and help local officials and residents make informed decisions about reducing flood risks and purchasing flood insurance. The county's mapping project is part of a nationwide effort led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to increase local knowledge of flood risks and support actions to address and reduce those risks. This flood mapping project is part of the FEMA's RiskMAP program, which is updating all floodplains in Florence County to match best available terrain data and/or modeling techniques. The work in Florence County has been led by Wisconsin DNR, in partnership with local officials and FEMA. Before the new FIRMs are finalized, there will be a 90-day appeal period during which property owners and renters can provide additional data for consideration before the maps are finalized.

During the past couple of years, officials with the county have worked closely with Wisconsin DNR to make sure we have the most accurate picture possible of flood risk. This information will ensure that homes and businesses are insured appropriately against flooding, while also helping make more informed decisions about how to protect Florence County from what might otherwise be devastating flood events.

The new maps are still a preliminary version. They can be viewed on the FEMA's Flood Map Service Center (MSC) at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>. Florence County officials encourage property owners and renters to review the proposed FIRM to learn about local flood risks and potential future flood insurance requirements, and to identify any concerns or questions about the information provided. County review took place during the Flood Risk Review meeting hosted by Wisconsin DNR and FEMA in February 2020.

If members of the community see incorrect information that does not involve changing the flood hazard-related information—such as a missing or misspelled road name or an incorrect corporate boundary—you can submit a written correction or “comment.” If members of the community have concerns about certain areas of the map and have technical and scientific information—such as detailed hydraulic or hydrologic data—that can be used to improve the maps, they may file an appeal during the 90-day appeal period. All comments and appeals must be submitted through local officials. Because submitting an appeal requires some time and effort, we encourage property owners and renters to review the updated flood maps now. If you are interested in submitting an appeal, we highly recommend that you first discuss it with your local official so they can provide guidance on the process. For more details about this process, visit www.fema.gov.

KEY MAPPING MILESTONES

November 16, 2020 — Preliminary FIRM released

February 17, 2021 — Open House with public review of the Preliminary FIRM

Mid 2021 — Start of FEMA's 90-day appeal period
NOTE: Contact your local floodplain administrator about the deadline for submitting an appeal or comment for their review.

2022/2023* — New FIRM becomes effective; new flood insurance requirements are applied

For general information, contact a Map Specialist with any questions at 1-877-336-2627 (toll free) between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Date subject to change pending completion of the appeal review process*