

# NOTICE TO CONGRESS: MONTHLY UPDATE ON FLOOD MAPPING

Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014

June 2019



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Flooding is a serious risk to life and property in the United States, but flood risk changes over time. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program helps communities understand and prepare for changing flood risks by updating flood maps. These updated flood maps help communities make decisions about building codes and other standards that make residents, homes, and businesses safer from flooding.

By law, FEMA must look at community flood maps every five years and decide whether to update or change them. FEMA must also tell Congress every month about any planned changes to community flood maps. This Notice to Congress includes information about:

- Communities that (in the next three months) are scheduled to receive updated draft maps from FEMA (called preliminary maps and revised preliminary maps)
- Communities that have received preliminary or revised preliminary maps from FEMA
- The period of time during which community notices will be published about the release of the maps and the appeals period
- Communities that have received Letters of Final Determination (LFDs) about their updated maps
- Communities where revised flood maps are considered final (called effective maps)

This monthly Notice to Congress will also include updates on the Risk MAP program, news on how communities are protecting themselves against flood risks, and other topics.

#### **Risk MAP Vision**

"The vision for Risk MAP is to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property."



## 2. RISK MAP NEWS

## Engaging Lackawanna County Residents to Inform and Lead Outreach around Flood Risk Awareness

Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania is updating its current flood maps. This update will result in the county's first digital, countywide maps, a significant change for the community. To help the community understand these map updates and navigate the additional efforts they can take to protect their homes, FEMA Region III worked with community members to establish **the Lackawanna County Flood Risk Coalition (LCFRC)** in April 2018.

The current flood maps for Lackawanna County were last updated more than 40 years ago, resulting in levee-accreditation issues in several communities. Ahead of the new maps, the LCFRC was created to support the community's understanding and ability to take an active approach in addressing their risks. The formation of the working group also aims to build a stronger partnership among FEMA, the Commonwealth, the local community, and residents. This partnership allows the community to not only help residents understand their risk, but also be more proactive in preparing for future flooding events.

The LCFRC is made up of more than 20 community members from 14 organizations united by a shared commitment to increase flood risk awareness and adopt measures to protect property and prosperity from flooding. The LCFRC has members from both State and local organizations, including the following:

- City of Scranton
- Greater Scranton Board of Realtors
- Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
- Lackawanna County Community Relations
- Lackawanna County Emergency
  Management Agency
- Lackawanna County Planning Commission
- Lackawanna River Conservation Association

- Mendola & Associates P.C.
- Olyphant Borough
- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
- Pennsylvania Insurance Department

Since its establishment, the LCFRC has hosted monthly meetings and worked with FEMA to co-create an outreach strategy to reach residents and decision makers. The LCFRC also created a <u>web page</u> within Lackawanna County's website that provides helpful information for community members to learn more about the county's flood risks and take steps on mitigation action. The LCFRC exhibited at the largest community event in Scranton, La Festa Italiana, engaging more than 80 local residents, and hosted a county-wide insurance training session for more than 100 insurance agents and residents.

## 3. NOTIFICATION

The following table shows preliminary and revised preliminary flood mapping studies that are expected to be released in the current month and the next two months. An additional table shows the studies where FEMA took action by issuing preliminary or revised maps; starting an appeal period; releasing an LFD or effective maps. All tables show the FEMA Region, State, and county where the action will take or has taken place. The tables also provide details on the flood mapping study status and estimated or actual dates.

## 3.1. ESTIMATED RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY MAPS

Some communities within the counties listed below have been studied to measure their flood risk. This flood hazard is shown in the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS). The table identifies the month that FEMA plans to deliver the preliminary FIRM and FIS report to the designated community officials.

The column called "Estimated Schedule of Community Meeting" shows which quarter of the calendar year a community meeting to discuss the FIS and preliminary FIRM might be scheduled. In some cases, several meetings are needed to cover all communities that were studied.

Finally, the column named "Estimated Public Notice and Starting Appeal Period" shows which quarter of the calendar year an appeal period starts in a study area. The appeals period starts after the second notice is placed in the local newspaper. In study areas that cover a number of communities, notices will have to be put in several local papers, which means each community in a study could have a different publication date.

Region	State	County Name	Estimated Preliminary Issuance	Estimated Schedule of Community Meetings	Estimated Public Notice and Starting Appeal Period
1	MA	Essex County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
1	MA	Middlesex County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
1	MA	Norfolk County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
1	MA	Plymouth County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
1	MA	Suffolk County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
1	MA	Worcester County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
3	VA	Amelia County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
3	VA	Lancaster County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
3	VA	Nottoway County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
3	VA	Pulaski County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
3	VA	Richmond County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
3	VA	Westmoreland County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
4	FL	Bay County	July 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
4	FL	DeSoto County	July 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
4	FL	Franklin County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
4	FL	Gadsden County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019

Region	State	County Name	Estimated Preliminary Issuance	Estimated Schedule of Community Meetings	Estimated Public Notice and Starting Appeal Period
4	FL	Hendry County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
4	FL Jackson County		June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
4	FL	Lee County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
4	MS	Forrest County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
4	MS	Greene County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
4	MS	Jones County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
4	MS	Perry County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
4	TN	Dyer County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
5	IL	Cook County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	IL	Lake County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	IN	Lake County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	IN	LaPorte County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	IN	Porter County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	Allegan County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	Arenac County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	Emmet County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	Iosco County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	Manistee County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	Mason County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	Oceana County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	Sanilac County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	St. Clair County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MI	Van Buren County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MN	Cottonwood County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MN	Itasca County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MN	Koochiching County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MN	Lake of the Woods County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MN	Rice County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	MN	Stevens County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	OH	Allen County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	ОН	Clinton County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	ОН	Defiance County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	ОН	Greene County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	ОН	Highland County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	WI	Walworth County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
5	WI	Washington County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
6	AR	Pulaski	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	IA	Buena Vista County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	IA	Clay County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	IA	Crawford County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	IA	Dickinson County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 3, 2019
7	IA	Emmet County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 3, 2019
7	IA	Iowa County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 3, 2019
7	IA	Lyon County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	IA	O'Brien County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	IA	Osceola County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 3, 2019

Region	State	County Name	Estimated Preliminary Issuance	Estimated Schedule of Community Meetings	Estimated Public Notice and Starting Appeal Period
7	IA	Palo Alto County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 3, 2019
7	IA	Sac County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	IA	Sioux County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	KS	Chase County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 3, 2019
7	KS	Coffey County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	KS	Dickinson County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 3, 2019
7	KS	Lyon County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	KS	Morris County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	KS	Morris County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	KS	Rice County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 3, 2019
7	MO	Christian County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	MO	Pettis County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	MO	Stone County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	NE	Cheyenne County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	NE	Deuel County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
7	NE	Nemaha County	July 2019		
7	NE	Richardson County	ty July 2019 Quarter 3, 2019 Quarte		Quarter 4, 2019
7	NE	Scotts Bluff County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
8	CO	Gunnison County	August 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
8	UT	Salt Lake County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
9	AZ	Maricopa County	June 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
9	AZ	Mohave County	June 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
9	AZ	Yavapai County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
9	CA	Inyo County	June 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
9	CA	Ventura County	August 2019	Quarter 4, 2019	Quarter 1, 2020
10	OR	Harney County	June 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019
10	WA	Clallam County	July 2019	Quarter 3, 2019	Quarter 4, 2019

## 3.2. ESTIMATED RELEASE OF REVISED PRELIMINARY MAPS

In some cases, FEMA may decide to issue a revised preliminary map to address changes to preliminary flood hazard determinations, or to address changes to a non-technical issue. The table below shows the studies for which FEMA plans to release revised preliminary maps. The actual release dates are scheduled in coordination with the State and/or local governments.

The table below shows an estimate for the month the revised maps will be released. Community meetings, notices in local papers, and dates of appeal periods are not shown because these are often not needed for revised preliminary maps.

Region	State	County Name	Estimated Revised Preliminary Issuance
1	ME	Cumberland County	July 2019
3	PA	Lackawanna County	June 2019
4	FL	Gulf County	August 2019
4	FL	Santa Rosa County	July 2019
5	MN	Polk County	August 2019
5	ОН	Erie County	July 2019
5	ОН	Logan County	June 2019
5	ОН	Lorain County	June 2019
5	ОН	Ottawa County	July 2019
6	TX	Hays County	August 2019
7	IA	Jackson County	August 2019
7	MO	Howell County	June 2019
8	СО	City and County of Denver	July 2019
8	UT	Davis County	June 2019
8	UT	Summit County	August 2019
9	AZ	Maricopa County	August 2019
10	WA	Snohomish County	June 2019

## 3.3. ACTIONS TAKEN BY FEMA

The table below shows the counties where FEMA released a preliminary FIRM and FIS report, began a 90-day appeal period, released a revised preliminary FIRM and FIS report, or sent LFDs in the previous month. It also identifies counties where FIRMs and FIS reports became effective during the previous month.

Region	State	County Name	Action Taken	Date
3	PA	Columbia County	Preliminary	5/31/2019
3	PA	Cumberland County	Preliminary	5/14/2019
3	VA	Frederick County	Revised Preliminary	5/14/2019
3	VA	Louisa County	Appeal Start	5/16/2019
3	VA	Orange County	Preliminary	5/30/2019
3	VA	Radford City	Appeal Start	5/11/2019
4	AL	Jefferson County	Preliminary	5/8/2019
4	AL	Tuscaloosa County	Preliminary	5/8/2019
4	AL	Walker County	Preliminary	5/8/2019
4	FL	Hamilton County	Appeal Start	5/16/2019
4	FL	Madison County	Appeal Start	5/15/2019
4	FL	Pasco County	Appeal Start	5/2/2019
4	FL	Pinellas County	Appeal Start	5/2/2019
4	GA	Fulton County	Appeal Start	5/1/2019
4	GA	Richmond County	LFD Issued	5/1/5/19
4	KY	Bell County	Preliminary	5/23/2019
4	KY	Boyd County	Preliminary	5/23/2019
4	KY	Crittenden County	Appeal Start	5/30/2019

Region	State	County Name	Action Taken	Date
4	KY	Livingston County	Appeal Start	5/30/2019
4	KY	Mason County	Preliminary	5/23/2019
4	NC	Pitt County	Preliminary	5/30/2019
4	4 TN Cheatham County		Appeal Start	5/18/2019
4	TN	Cheatham County	Appeal Start	5/18/2019
4	TN	Coffee County	Appeal Start	5/15/2019
4	TN	Dickson County	Appeal Start	5/15/2019
4	TN	Houston County	Appeal Start	5/14/2019
4	TN	Montgomery County	Appeal Start	5/16/2019
4	TN	Robertson County	Appeal Start	5/28/2019
4	TN	Stewart County	Appeal Start	5/14/2019
4	TN	Sumner County	Appeal Start	5/19/2019
4	TN	Williamson County	Appeal Start	5/16/2019
5	IL	Cass County	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
5	IL	Cook County	LFD Issued	5/1/2019
5	MI	Benzie County	Preliminary	5/10/2019
5	MI	Charlevoix County	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
5	MN	Wright County	Appeal Start	5/24/2019
5	5 OH Miami Co		Appeal Start	5/3/2019
6	6 AR Johnson Count		Maps Effective	5/16/2019
6	LA	Calcasieu Parish	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
6	LA	Jackson Parish	Appeal Start	5/23/2019
6	LA	Winn Parish	Appeal Start	5/22/2019
6	OK	Canadian County	Revised Preliminary	5/30/2019
6	OK	Hughes County	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
6	OK	Lincoln County	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
6	OK	McIntosh County	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
6	OK	Pottawatomie County	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
6	OK	Roger Mills County	Preliminary	5/29/2019
6	OK	Seminole County	Preliminary	5/23/2019
6	OK	Tulsa County	Maps Effective	5/2/2019
6	TX	Burnet County	LFD Issued	5/1/2019
6	TX	Harris County	LFD Issued	5/15/2019
6	TX	Harris County	Maps Effective	5/2/2019
6	TX	Waller County	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
6	TX	Washington County	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
7	IA	Clayton County	Appeal Start	5/22/2019
7	IA	Clinton County	Appeal Start	5/1/2019
7	IA	Des Moines County	Appeal Start	5/2/2019
7	IA	Dubuque County	Appeal Start	5/15/2019
7	IA	Floyd County	Appeal Start	5/16/2019
7	IA	Jefferson County	Appeal Start	5/8/2019

Region	State	County Name	Action Taken	Date
7	IA	Jones County	Appeal Start	5/9/2019
7	IA	Lee County	Appeal Start	5/15/2019
7	7 IA Winnebago County		Appeal Start	5/1/2019
7	MO	Franklin County	Appeal Start	5/8/2019
7	MO	Knox County	LFD Issued	5/1/2019
7	MO	Mercer County	LFD Issued	5/15/2019
7	MO	Putnam County	LFD Issued	5/15/2019
7	MO	Ripley County	LFD Issued	5/1/2019
7	MO	Sullivan County	LFD Issued	5/15/2019
7	MO	Washington County	Appeal Start	5/22/2019
8	CO	Morgan County	Preliminary	5/29/2019
8	CO	Sedgwick County	Preliminary	5/29/2019
8	CO	Washington County	Preliminary	5/29/2019
8	MT	Musselshell County	LFD Issued	5/15/2019
8	MT	Petroleum County	LFD Issued	5/15/2019
8	MT	Rosebud County	LFD Issued	5/15/2019
9	AZ	Pinal County	Maps Effective	5/16/2019
9	AZ	Yavapai County	Preliminary	5/31/2019
9	CA	San Francisco County	Revised Preliminary	5/31/2019
9	HI	Kauai County	Preliminary	5/24/2019
10	ID	Bannock County	Appeal Start	5/29/2019
10	OR	Douglas County	Appeal Start	5/22/2019
10	OR	Grant County	Preliminary	5/31/2019
10	WA	King County	Revised Preliminary	5/15/2019
10	WA	Thurston County	Appeal Start	5/2/2019
10	10 WA Yakima County		Appeal Start	5/29/2019

### Information on "Preliminary and Revised Preliminary" Actions

For the flood risk studies shown above, FEMA gave copies of either the initial or the revised FIRM and FIS report to all communities involved. Copies are also online at <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search">https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search</a> and <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv">https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv</a>.

FEMA encourages local officials to widely share their copies with residents, business owners, elected officials, and others in the community. This helps in adding to or correcting non-technical information such as layout and labeling of roads, bridges, and streams, and other features. Requests to change such information can be made during the community review period, at a community meeting, and during the 90-day appeal period. Approved changes will be shown on the final FIRM and in the final FIS report.

### Information on "Appeal Start" Actions

Under the National Flood Insurance Act, there are limited rights to appeal findings in the preliminary FIRM and FIS reports. Appeals can be made by owners or renters of real property within a community who believe that their property rights are adversely affected, and/or by an affected community.



Important information on the process can be found in the document called "Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping: Appeal and Comment Processing," which can be found at *fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34953*.

### Information on "LFD Issued" Actions

A statutory 90-day appeal period was held, and FEMA resolved any appeals or comments received during that period. FEMA has sent the LFD to the Chief Executive Officer of all affected communities, all individual appellants, and the State Coordinating Agency and will publish the final flood hazard information in the *Federal Register*. The updated FIRM panels will become effective six months from the date of the LFD. Final FIRM and FIS reports will officially be archived on the Flood Map Service Center (MSC) website at <a href="https://msc.fema.gov">https://msc.fema.gov</a>.

Property owners' flood insurance rates may be affected once a FIRM becomes effective. Resources are available to help homeowners understand the importance of flood insurance and the steps they can take to reduce their rates. For additional information about flood insurance, visit <a href="https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program">https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program</a>.

To view upcoming map changes, please visit the Flood Map Changes Viewer at <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv">https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv</a>.

## Information on "Maps Effective" Actions

The updated FIRM and FIS report issued by FEMA have become effective. Effective FIRMs are used by communities to administer floodplain management regulations and mitigate flood damage. Local citizens use them to determine the flood zone for their property or structure. Lending institutions use them to determine whether flood insurance is required. Insurance rates may be affected for property owners once a FIRM becomes effective. To view the effective FIRMs, please visit the Map Service Center at <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search">https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search</a>.

Additional flood mapping information and resources can be found on the FEMA website at fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-flood-hazard-mapping. In addition, the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) is available to answer questions by telephone, toll free, at 1-877-336-2627 (FEMA MAP) or by email at FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com. A list of additional resources for information can be found in Appendix B of this Notice to Congress. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information in this document, please contact the appropriate FEMA Regional External Affairs staff listed below.

## **FEMA Regional External Affairs Contact List**

FEMA Region	Name	Telephone Number	Email Address
1	Dennis Pinkham	617-956-7547	Dennis.Pinkham@fema.dhs.gov
2	Kevin Sullivan	202-480-1053	Kevin.Sullivan@fema.dhs.gov
3	Nicholas Morici	267-546-6419	Nicholas.Morici@fema.dhs.gov
4	Danon Lucas	770-220-5292	Danon.Lucas@fema.dhs.gov
5	Dan Shulman	312-408-4427	Dan.Shulman@fema.dhs.gov
6	Juan Ayala Wilenda Henderson	940-898-5105	Juan.Ayala@fema.dhs.gov Wilenda.Henderson@fema.dhs.gov
7	Michael Cappannari	816-283-7080	Michael.Cappannari@fema.dhs.gov
8	Megan Floyd	303-235-4638	Megan.Floyd@fema.dhs.gov
9	Frank Mansell	510-627-7068	Frank.Mansell@fema.dhs.gov
10	Cam Rossie	425-487-4651	Camilla.Rossie@fema.dhs.gov

## 4. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Biggert-Waters), as amended by the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, directs FEMA to notify Members of Congress when constituents in their districts will be affected by a flood mapping update. Public Law 112-141, div. F, title II, §100216, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 927; Pub. L. 113-89, §§27, 30, Mar. 21, 2014, 128 Stat. 1033, 1034; 42 U.S.C. §4101b (d) (1)(G)(i) and (H) (2014). Under Biggert-Waters:

- The Administrator shall, not less than 30 days before issuance of any preliminary map, notify the Senators for each State affected and each Member of the House of Representatives for each congressional district affected by the preliminary map in writing of the estimated schedule for:
  - Community meetings regarding the preliminary map
  - Publication of notices regarding the preliminary map in local newspapers
  - The commencement of the appeals process regarding the map

See Biggert-Waters, as amended, at 42 U.S.C. §4101b (d)(1)(G)(i).1

Biggert-Waters also states:

• The Administrator shall, upon the issuance of any proposed map and any notice of an opportunity to make an appeal relating to the proposed map, notify the Senators for each State affected and each Member of the House of Representatives for each congressional district affected by the proposed map of any action taken by the Administrator, with respect to the proposed map or an appeal relating to the proposed map.

See Biggert-Waters, as amended, at 42 U.S.C. §4101b (d)(1)(H).

In accordance with these requirements, this document serves as notification to Congress and provides details on studies with an estimated issuance of preliminary or revised preliminary flood maps in the current month and the next two months, and studies for which preliminary or revised preliminary flood maps and/or LFDs were issued last month.<sup>2</sup> LFDs are the actions taken by FEMA to finalize the flood hazard data shown on a preliminary FIRM. This document also provides details on statutory administrative appeal periods<sup>3</sup> that were initiated and maps that went effective last month.



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<sup>1</sup> FEMA is working to develop the additional administrative process required to implement 42 U.S.C. §4101b (d)(1)(G)(ii) and will update this Notice as appropriate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For definitions of flood map, LFD, and other terms, please refer to Appendix B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For more details, see "Information on 'Appeal Start' Actions" in Section 4.3.

## **APPENDIX A: RISK MAP PROCESS GRAPHIC**

The information graphic below shows the process for flood map creation and updates.

## **FEMA Risk MAP Process**



#### DISCOVERY

FEMA gathers information about local flood hazards and their risk in close coordination with the community to prioritize future mapping, risk assessment, or mitigation planning assistance.











Determination to move forward with Risk MAP study.







#### **ENGINEERING & MODELING**

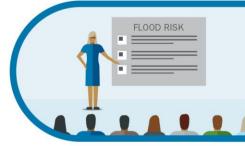
FEMA analyzes the information gathered during Discovery and develops the first draft of the maps, called "work maps"



#### FLOOD RISK REVIEW (if needed)

Community officials review and provide initial feedback on the work maps and engineering decisions. FEMA uses the feedback to modify the maps and develop the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Using this information, officials begin to identify and advance mitigation action in their community.





#### PRELIMINARY MAP RELEASE

- Community Coordination and Outreach Meeting Community officials learn the implications of the updated map and the steps and timeline to adopt the updated map.
- Open House

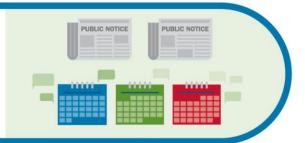
Citizens learn about their local flood risks, and what resources are available from the State, FEMA, and other partners to reduce risk.

## Risk MAP Process Continued



#### 90-DAY APPEAL AND COMMENT PERIOD

Following two public notices, community members can submit technical data to support a request to revise the FIRM though the 90-day appeals process. All appeals, including all supporting documentation, must be submitted through the appropriate community official.





#### **ADOPTION & COMPLIANCE**

Communities participating in the NFIP must adopt a compliant floodplain management ordinance by the map effective date to remain in good standing as an NFIP participant.



## 6 LETTER OF FINAL DETERMINATION

After all appeals are resolved, FEMA sends a Letter of Final Determination, kicking off a six-month period for communities to adopt the new flood maps.



#### RESILIENCE MEETING

FEMA, State and local officials, and partners work to identify and review resilience strategies, planning options, and potential actions to reduce risk.



#### **EFFECTIVE MAPS**

Once effective, new maps and products are available through FEMA's Flood Map Service Center. The new data will inform flood insurance decisions and local building regulations. Community members can submit data to amend or revise the FIRM as part of a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) process.







## **APPENDIX B: RESOURCES**

The following additional resources provide a better understanding of key elements of this report.

Implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act

Website	fema.gov/media-library/resources-documents/collections/341
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National Flood Insurance Program			
Website	fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program		
Phone	888-379-9531 (toll free)		
E-mail	floodsmart@fema.dhs.gov		
Social Media	Twitter at @NFIPtraining		

Risk MAP Program	
Website	fema.gov/risk-mapping-assessment-planning
Phone	877-336-2627 (toll free)
E-mail	FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com