U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region I
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

FEMA

November 9, 2015

Thomas Gauthier, Chair
Board of Selectmen
Town of Epping
157 Main Street
Epping, New Hampshire 03042-2440

Subject: Town of Epping, Rockingham County, New Hampshire
Community No.: 330129

Dear Mr. Gauthier:

I am contacting you to invite you to attend the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) upcoming Risk **M**apping, **A**ssessment, and **P**lanning (Risk MAP) Discovery Meeting for communities within the Piscataqua-Salmon Falls Watershed (8-digit hydrologic unit code, or HUC: 01060003) in New Hampshire. The meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 3, 2015**. Please see the "Discovery Meeting Details" section below for specific details.

Risk MAP is a new FEMA program that helps communities identify, assess, and reduce their flood risk. By combining quality engineering with updated flood hazard data, the Risk MAP program provides accurate and easy-to-use information to enhance local mitigation plans, improve community outreach, and increase local awareness to flood hazards.

The Discovery process commences at the beginning of a Risk MAP project and assists in identifying the scope of a watershed study. The Discovery Meeting is part of the process, and the information exchanged between FEMA and communities within the Piscataqua-Salmon Falls Watershed during Discovery will improve our understanding of your watershed's flood hazard mapping and mitigation planning. During Discovery, FEMA:

- Gathers information about local flood risk and flood hazards.
- Reviews mitigation plans to understand local mitigation capabilities, hazard risk assessments, and current or future mitigation activities.

This Discovery Meeting is being coordinated by NH GRANIT at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), in partnership with FEMA. It is focused on the following communities within the watershed - Brookfield and Wakefield in Carroll County, Barrington, Lee, Middleton, Milton, Rochester, and Somersworth in Strafford County, and Brentwood, Epping, Fremont, Nottingham and Raymond in Rockingham County. Rivers in the watershed that could potentially be discussed include major rivers such as the Salmon Falls River, North River, Lamprey River, Isinglass River, Exeter River, Cocheco River, and Branch River, as well as other smaller rivers and tributaries in the watershed.

Discovery Meeting Details

The Discovery Meetings for the Piscataqua-Salmon Falls Watershed are scheduled on the following date:

- Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 10:00 AM : Lee Public Safety Center, 20 George Bennett Road, Lee, NH 03867
- Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 2:00 PM: Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield St., Rochester, NH 03867 *

  (* Please plan to park on the side of the building facing Spaulding High School. Enter the building through the door marked 'Strafford Regional Planning Commission', which is opposite the football field/track. Take a left down the first hall, and the meeting room is on the right.)

Note that both Discovery Meetings provide the same content, and you may attend at either of the locations.

Please RSVP to Fay Rubin, Project Manager for the Piscataqua-Salmon Falls Watershed Discovery Meeting, by e-mail (fay.rubin@unh.edu) or by calling (603) 862-4240.

In case of inclement weather, please either check the NH Office of Energy & Planning (OEP) website at www.nh.gov/oep/planning/programs/fmp/news-events.htm, or call OEP at (603) 271-1762 for cancellation information. If a meeting on December 3rd is cancelled, it will be rescheduled for Monday, December 7, 2015, at the same time and location.

At the Discovery Meeting, we will review the flood risk data we have gathered to date. We will also discuss your community's flooding history, flood risk concerns and mitigation. Any data or information that you can provide before the meeting will aid in this discussion. Enclosed are a Community Information Map that display data that we have collected from previous mapping efforts and a Community Questionnaire that we ask you to complete prior to the meeting as a means of providing additional important community data to inform the Discovery process. These documents are also provided in digital form on the enclosed CD.

In addition to inviting community leaders, emergency managers, GIS specialists, and local planners to the Discovery Meeting, FEMA will invite other stakeholders with a vested interest in the Piscataqua-Salmon Falls Watershed's resources, floodplains, and flood risk. This may include representatives from State, Federal, regional, and local agencies and associations. Together, we will discuss the study that will be conducted in the watershed, any information you have to provide, and the importance of mitigation planning and community outreach.

We encourage you and/or any other relevant floodplain management staff to attend this important meeting. The partnership and exchange of data between FEMA and your community will be vital to our success in identifying flood risks and needs that may exist. If there are any data related to your community's flood risk that you have not yet provided to us, but that you would like to have taken into consideration when reviewing your flood risk, please bring it to the meeting or send it to the following address:

Fay Rubin
NH GRANIT, Earth Systems Research Center
Morse Hall, University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824

If you have any questions regarding the Discovery process, the scheduled Discovery Meeting or the data requested, please contact Fay Rubin, Project Manager, by e-mail at fay.rubin@unh.edu or by calling (603) 862-4240. Also available to answer any questions is John Grace, CFM, Coastal Engineer, FEMA Region I, by email at john.grace@fema.dhs.gov or by calling (617) 832-4715.

Sincerely,

MARILYN HILLIARD

Digitally signed by MARILYN HILLIARD
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Homeland Security, ou=FEMA, ou=People, cn=MARILYN HILLIARD, 0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=0505196419.FEMA.1
Date: 2015.11.13 15:09:49 -05'00'

Marilyn Hilliard
Risk Analysis Branch Chief
Mitigation Division
FEMA Region I

Enclosures: Community Information Map
Community Questionnaire
CD with digital versions of Community Information Map and Questionnaire

cc: Greg Dodge, Town Administrator, Town of Epping (w/o enclosures)
Paula Brown, Building Inspector, Town of Epping (w/o enclosures)
Brittany Howard, Town Planner, Town of Epping (w/o enclosures)
Jennifer Gilbert, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator, NH Office of Energy and Planning (w/o enclosures)
John Grace, CFM, Coastal Engineer, FEMA Region I (w/o enclosures)