December 20, 2018

Prelim-EAP

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| Jeremy Owens  Chairperson, Board of Selectmen  Town of Chester  84 Chester Street  Chester, New Hampshire 03036 | Community Name: | Town of Chester,  Rockingham County,  New Hampshire |
| Community No.: | 330182 |

Dear Mr. Owens:

We are pleased to present your community with Preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report for Rockingham County, New Hampshire (All Jurisdictions) for your review and comment. The enclosed FIS Report for Rockingham County describes the flood hazard information updates made to the FIRM and FIS Report and the source information used in making the updates. In areas where there were no additional studies or information, the currently effective digital Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) were redelineated based on more accurate topographic data and incorporated into the new map. Please note that the Base Flood Elevations will be listed in the North American Vertical Datum (1988), which may be different from the datum used in previous flood studies.

You will find enclosed a DVD with the flood hazard information for Rockingham County as updated by this Preliminary issuance. By providing the flood hazard information Geographic Information System (GIS) format, we are making it easier for your community to incorporate the data into your local GIS. In addition to the DVD, a hard copy of your community’s Preliminary FIRM panels and FIS Report were forwarded to your community’s Floodplain Administrator. We have also provided a hard copy of the Preliminary FIRM panels to Jennifer Gilbert, your State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator, whose contact information is provided at the end of this letter.

We are sending the 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: [**www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata**](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 before the formal community coordination meeting. 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 Alex Sirotek, Region 1 Service Center Lead, CDM Smith, 75 State Street, Suite 701, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. Please submit comments (digital format such as shapefiles preferred) no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. All comments and changes received during this review period will be incorporated, as appropriate, before the FIRM and FIS Report become effective.

To assist your community in maintaining the FIRM, we have enclosed a 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 the 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 upon request.

After the CCO Meeting, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Rockingham County. A statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies Base (1-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs), base flood depths, SFHAs, flood zone designations, or regulatory floodways within a community, as shown on the Preliminary FIRM. If your community is identified as requiring an appeal period, we will send you a letter approximately 2 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, notifications that will be published in local newspaper(s), and expected first and second newspaper 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 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 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.

Your community’s comments on the Preliminary FIRM panels and FIS Report 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 have any questions regarding the Preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS Report, please contact John Grace, CFM, at (617) 832-4715 or by email at John.Grace@fema.dhs.gov. If you have general questions about mapping issues, please call our FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX), toll free, at (877) 336-2627 (877-FEMA MAP) or e-mail our FMIX staff at FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com.

Sincerely,

Kerry Bogdan

Risk Analysis Branch Chief

Mitigation Division

FEMA Region I

## State NFIP Coordinator’s Contact Information:

## Jennifer Gilbert, ANFI, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator

## New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives

107 Pleasant Street

Johnson Hall, Third Floor

Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Phone Number: (603) 271-2155

Email: jennifer.gilbert@osi.nh.gov

## Enclosures:

DVD of Preliminary FIRM, FIS Report, and SOMA

cc: Myrick Bunker, Building Inspector, Town of Chester (hard copy and DVD)

Brian Sullivan, Chairperson, Planning Board, Town of Chester (w/o enclosures)

Sylvia von Aulock, Executive Director, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

(w/o enclosures)

Whitney Welch, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency

Management (w/o enclosures)

Jennifer Gilbert, ANFI, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator, New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives (hard copy and DVD)

John Grace, CFM, Civil Engineer, FEMA Region I (hard copy and DVD)

Alex Sirotek, Regional Service Center (w/o enclosures)

Fay Rubin, Project Manager, University of New Hampshire (w/o enclosures)