U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region I
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts, 02110-2320

FEMA

August 31, 2011

The Honorable Thomas G. Ferrini, Mayor
City of Portsmouth
One Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801-4511

Dear Mayor Ferrini:

I am writing to invite you to attend the upcoming Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) Discovery Meeting for coastal New Hampshire. This meeting will be our first opportunity to formally introduce you to the Risk MAP project that has been initiated in New Hampshire's 17 coastal communities (see enclosed map). Risk MAP is a new FEMA program that helps communities identify, assess, and increase awareness of their flood risk. By combining new engineering analysis with updated flood hazard data, FEMA provides accurate and easy-to-use information to enhance local mitigation plans, improve community outreach, and increase local awareness of flood hazards. We encourage you to attend the meeting, to become involved in the discussion, and to actively participate throughout the entire project.

The Discovery Meeting initiates a process, and is scheduled at the beginning of a Risk MAP project to assist us in identifying community data and/or local flood knowledge. The information exchanged between FEMA and NH's coastal communities during Discovery will improve our understanding of your coastal watershed's flood hazard mapping and mitigation planning. During the Discovery process, FEMA:

- Gathers information about local flood risks and flood hazards. Please see the enclosed Data Request Sheet for a list of data that could be of potential use for the study.
- Reviews mitigation plans to understand local mitigation capabilities, hazard risk assessments, and current or future mitigation activities.

Discovery Meeting Details

Two Discovery Meetings have been scheduled for the project. You are welcome to attend either or both of these meetings, but please note that the same information will be presented at both sessions. The meetings are scheduled for:

- Thursday, September 22, 2011 , from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  Elliott Alumni Center, 9 Edgewood Road, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824 – 1925 Room

- Thursday, September 22, 2011 , from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  (Same location as above)

Directions to the Center are available at https://www.alumni.unh.edu/photos/maps/mapdurham.html. Reserved parking will be available in lot D, which is adjacent to the Center. Please plan to pick up a permit at the front desk of the Center when you arrive.

Complex Systems Research Center, UNH, is leading the NH Coastal Study. Please RSVP to Fay Rubin, the UNH project manager, by e-mail (fay.rubin@unh.edu) or by calling (603) 862-4240.

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 New Hampshire's coastal 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, review any information you are able to provide, and discuss 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 information between FEMA and your community will be important to the successful identification of coastal flood risks in coastal New Hampshire.

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

Sincerely,

Michael J. Goetz, Chief
Risk Analysis Branch
FEMA Region I

Enclosures:
Map of Study Area
Data Request Sheet

cc: John Bohenko, City Manager
Rick Taintor, Portsmouth Planning Director
Peter Britz, Portsmouth Environmental Planner
David Allen, Portsmouth Public Works Deputy Director
Chris LeClaire, Portsmouth Emergency Management Director
Richard A. Hopley, Portsmouth Building Inspector
John Grace, Coastal Engineer, FEMA Region I
Michael J. Goetz, Branch Chief, FEMA Region I
Laura Keating, Regional Service Center, Region I
Jennifer Gilbert, NFIP State Coordinator, NH Office of Energy and Planning