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

FEMA

February 24, 2016

Richard Maguire, Chairperson
Seabrook Beach Village District
Commission
Seabrook Beach Village District
99 Lafayette Rd., PO Box 456
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874-0456

Re: Seabrook Beach Village District, Rockingham County, New Hampshire
Community No.: 330854

Dear Mr. Maguire:

In April of 2014, Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) were issued to coastal communities in Rockingham County, New Hampshire. The FIRMs and FIS were updated to incorporate the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) latest evaluation of coastal flood hazards in Rockingham County, New Hampshire. Subsequent to the issuance of the Preliminary FIRMs and FIS, several minor errors were identified, including the omission of the Seabrook Beach Village District boundary and label on the appropriate map panel(s). To correct these errors, Revised Preliminary FIRMs and FIS have been issued. Further, it was determined that the Seabrook Beach Village District Commission did not receive the required notification regarding the 2014 Preliminary documents. This letter corrects that oversight and provides you with the information you need to review the Revised Preliminary FIRMs and FIS.

We are pleased to present your community with copies of the Revised Preliminary FIRM and FIS report for Seabrook Beach Village District, Rockingham County, NH for your review. These preliminary documents represent a new coastal study that was conducted in your county, using updated methodology and 2-foot topographic data obtained through Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). The purpose of this effort is to provide your community with updated flood hazard risk information that can be utilized for mitigation actions and planning in order for your community to become more resilient to flood hazards.

The flood hazard information presented on the FIRM includes Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), which are the areas that would be inundated by the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, known as the base flood; as well as the corresponding Base Flood Elevations (BFEs). There are also regulatory zones in coastal areas identified as "VE Zones". These areas have been identified using National Academy of Sciences (NAS) methodology to delineate areas subject to wave heights of 3 feet or greater. In addition, these updated panels will depict a "Limit of Moderate Wave Action" (LiMWA), which represents the region subject to the limit of wave heights between 1.5 to 3 feet. The LiMWA is currently a non-regulatory demarcation on the map, but is meant to convey the risk associated with a 1.5-foot wave, which has been found through post-event damage assessment surveys to have the potential to cause substantial damage to structures built in compliance with A Zone standards. Although the LiMWA currently holds no higher building regulation requirements in the State of New Hampshire, FEMA's Coastal Construction Manual encourages building practices in these areas of increased risk follow V Zone standards.

Your community should note that there may be additional non-coastal areas where the SFHA has changed due to new studies or the use of more precise topographic data. In areas where there were no additional studies or information, the currently effective digital SFHA was incorporated onto the new base map. This work was conducted by FEMA's mapping contractor, the University of New Hampshire. Please note that the BFEs will be listed in the North American Vertical Datum (1988), which may be different from the datum used in previous flood studies.

We are sending the Revised 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.**

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]). We reviewed our records for any previous LOMCs (i.e., LOMAs and LOMRs) for your community. The SOMA reflects the LOMCs found in our records for your community. Please compare your records with this SOMA list, to ensure that we have included all LOMCs that you have in your files.

Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories:

(1) LOMCs for which results are shown on the FIRM;

(2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the FIRM because of scale limitations. However, these LOMCs are still valid. LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of previously issued LOMCs; 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.

(3) LOMCs for which results are being superseded by new or revised flood hazard information. These LOMCs will not be revalidated and the community floodplain manager should notify the property owners.

(4) LOMCs listed in Category 4 are not revalidated. FEMA will, however, review existing and/or new data to make a determination for the affected properties after the FIRM becomes effective. The community floodplain manager should notify property owners that they must reapply for the LOMC determination after the FIRM becomes effective. FEMA will then respond to their application with a determination, which will be sent to both the applicant and the community.

If you have any questions regarding the Revised Preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS report, please contact John Grace, CFM, the FEMA Coastal Engineer designated for your community, at (617) 832-4715 or by email at John.Grace@fema.dhs.gov. If you have any questions regarding the necessary floodplain management measures for your community or the NFIP in general, we urge you to contact Jennifer Gilbert, New Hampshire State NFIP Coordinator, at (603) 271-2155 or by email at Jennifer.Gilbert@nh.gov.

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: 2016.02.25 14:15:27 -05'00'

Marilyn Hilliard
Risk Analysis Branch Chief
Mitigation Division
FEMA Region I

List of Enclosures:
DVD of revised Preliminary FIRM, revised Preliminary FIS, and SOMA

cc: Stephen Keaney, Building Inspector, Town of Seabrook Beach Village District (hard copy and DVD)
Donald Hawkins, Precinct Clerk, Town of Seabrook Beach Village District (w/o enclosures)
John Grace, CFM, Coastal Engineer, FEMA Region I (hard copy and DVD)
Jennifer Gilbert, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator, NH Office of Energy and Planning (hard copy and DVD)
Alex Sirotek, Regional Service Center, STARR Region I (w/o enclosures)
Fay Rubin, Project Manager, University of New Hampshire (w/o enclosures)