CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 2, 2024

Julia Pemberton, First Selectwoman
Town of Redding
Town Hall
P.O. Box 1028
Redding, Connecticut 06875

Dear First Selectwoman Pemberton:

On July 26, 2023, the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided your community with Preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Fairfield County, Connecticut (All Jurisdictions). FEMA has posted digital copies of these FIRM and FIS report materials to the following Website: https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelindownload/. The Preliminary FIRM and FIS report include proposed flood hazard information for certain locations in the Town of Redding. The proposed flood hazard information may include addition or modification of Special Flood Hazard Areas, the areas that would be inundated by the base (1-percent-annual-chance) flood, base flood elevations or depths; zone designations; or regulatory floodways.

We have published a notice of the proposed flood hazard determinations in the Federal Register and will publish a public notification concerning the appeal process (explained below) in the Connecticut Post on or about February 9, 2024, and February 16, 2024. We will also publish a separate notice of the flood hazard determinations on the “Flood Hazard Determinations on the Web” portion of the FEMA Website: https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/lhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp. We have enclosed copies of the notice published in the Federal Register and the newspaper notice for your information.

These proposed flood hazard determinations, if finalized, will become the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community must adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). However, before any new or modified flood hazard information is effective for floodplain management purposes, FEMA will provide community officials and citizens an opportunity to appeal the proposed flood hazard information presented on the preliminary FIRM and FIS report posted to the above-referenced Website.

Section 110 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) is intended to ensure an equitable balancing of all interests involved in the setting of flood hazard determinations. The legislation provides for an explicit process of notification and appeals for your community and for private persons prior to this office making the flood hazard determinations final. The appeal procedure is outlined below for your information.

During the 90-day appeal period following the second publication of the public notification in the above-named newspaper, any owner or lessee of real property in your community who believes his or her property rights will be adversely affected by the proposed flood hazard determinations may appeal to you,
or to an agency that you publicly designate. It is important to note, however, that the sole basis for such appeals is the possession of knowledge or information indicating that the proposed flood hazard determinations are scientifically or technically incorrect. The appeal data must be submitted to FEMA during the 90-day appeal period. Only appeals of the proposed flood hazard determinations supported by scientific or technical data can be considered before FEMA makes its final flood hazard determination at the end of the 90-day appeal period. Note that the 90-day appeal period is statutory and cannot be extended. However, FEMA will also consider comments and inquiries regarding data other than the proposed flood hazard determinations (e.g., incorrect street names, typographical errors, omissions) that are submitted during the appeal period, and will incorporate any appropriate changes to the FIRM and FIS report before they become effective.

If your community cannot submit scientific or technical data before the end of the 90-day appeal period, you may nevertheless submit data at any time. If warranted, FEMA will revise the FIRM and FIS report after the effective date. This means that the FIRM would be issued with the flood hazard information presently indicated, and flood insurance purchase requirements would be enforced accordingly, until such time as a revision could be made.

Any interested party who wishes to appeal should present the data that tend to negate or contradict our findings to you, or to an agency that you publicly delegate, in such form as you may specify. We ask that you review and consolidate any appeal data you may receive and issue a written opinion stating whether the evidence provided is sufficient to justify an official appeal by your community in its own name or on behalf of the interested parties. Whether or not your community decides to appeal, you must send copies of individual appeals and supporting data, if any, to:

Liz Ahearn, Project Manager
U.S. Geological Survey
339 Main Street
East Hartford, Connecticut 06118
(860) 291-6745
eahearn@usgs.gov

Colleen Bailey, Community Coordination Officer
FEMA Region 1
220 Binney Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142
collen.bailey@fema.dhs.gov

If we do not receive an appeal or other formal comment from your community in its own name within 90 days of the second date of public notification, we will consolidate and review on their own merits such appeal data and comments from individuals that you may forward to us, and we will make such modifications to the proposed flood hazard information presented on the FIRM and in the FIS report as may be appropriate. If your community decides to appeal in its own name, all individuals' appeal data must be consolidated into one appeal by you, because, in this event, we are required to deal only with the local government as representative of all local interests. We will send our final decision in writing to you, and we will send copies to the community floodplain administrator, each individual appellant, and the State NFIP Coordinator.

All appeal submittals will be resolved by consultation with officials of the local government involved, by an administrative hearing, or by submission of the conflicting data to an independent scientific body or appropriate Federal agency for advice. Use of a Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) is also available to your community in support of the appeal resolution process when conflicting scientific or technical data are submitted during the appeal period. SRPs are independent panels of experts in hydrology, hydraulics, and
other pertinent sciences established to review conflicting scientific and technical data and provide recommendations for resolution. An SRP is an option after FEMA and community officials have been engaged in a collaborative consultation process for at least 60 days without a mutually acceptable resolution of an appeal. Please refer to the enclosed “Scientific Resolution Panels” Overview for additional information on this resource available to your community.

FEMA will make the reports and other information used in making the final determination available for public inspection. Until the conflict of data is resolved and the FIRM becomes effective, flood insurance available within your community will continue to be available under the effective NFIP map, and no person shall be denied the right to purchase the applicable level of insurance at chargeable rates.

The decision by your community to appeal, or a copy of its decision not to appeal, should be filed with this office no later than 90 days following the second publication of the flood hazard determination notice in the above-named newspaper. Your community may find it appropriate to call further attention to the proposed flood hazard determinations and to the appeal procedure by using a press release or other public notice.

If warranted by substantive changes, during the appeal period we will send you Revised Preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS report. At the end of the 90-day appeal period and following the resolution of any appeals and comments, we will send you a Letter of Final Determination, which will finalize the flood hazard information presented on the FIRM and FIS report and will establish an effective date.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed flood hazard determinations, FIRM panels, or FIS report for your community, please call our FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX), toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or e-mail the FMIX staff at FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Luis V. Rodriguez, P.E
Director, Engineering and Modeling Division
Risk Management Directorate | Resilience

List of Enclosures:
   - Newspaper Notice
   - Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations Federal Register Notice
   - “Scientific Resolution Panels” Overview

cc: Community Map Repository
    Shaun Donnelly, Chief Building Official, Town of Redding
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Fairfield County, Connecticut (All Jurisdictions)

The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Fairfield County, Connecticut (All Jurisdictions). These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for Fairfield County, Connecticut (All Jurisdictions). These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA’s website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/firm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp, or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID FEMA–2023–0002; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA–B–2392]

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Comments are requested on proposed flood hazard determinations, which may include additions or modifications of any Base Flood Elevation (BFE), base flood depth, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundary or zone designation, or regulatory floodway on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and where applicable, in the supporting Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports for the communities listed in the table below. The purpose of this notice is to seek general information and comment regarding the preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, the FIS report that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided to the affected communities. The FIRM and FIS report are the basis of the floodplain management measures that the community is required either to adopt or to show evidence of having in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

DATES: Comments are to be submitted on or before March 25, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The Preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, the FIS report for each community are available for inspection at both the online location https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelindownload and the respective Community Map Repository address listed in the tables below. Additionally, the current effective FIRM and FIS report for each community are accessible online through the FEMA Map Service Center at https://msc.fema.gov for comparison. You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. FEMA–B–2392, to Rick Sachibit, Chief, Engineering Services Branch, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA, 400 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–7659, or (email) patrick.sachibit@fema.dhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Sachibit, Chief, Engineering Services Branch, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA, 400 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–7659, or (email) patrick.sachibit@fema.dhs.gov; or visit the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) online at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx_main.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FEMA proposes to make flood hazard determinations for each community listed below, in accordance with section 110 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. 4104, and 44 CFR 67.4(a).

These proposed flood hazard determinations, together with the floodplain management criteria required by 44 CFR 60.3, are the minimum that are required. They should not be construed to mean that the community must change any existing ordinances that are more stringent in their floodplain management requirements. The community may at its own discretion apply stricter requirements of its own or pursuant to policies established by other Federal, State, or regional agencies. These flood hazard determinations are used to meet the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP.

The communities affected by the flood hazard determinations are provided in the tables below. Any request for reconsideration of the revised flood hazard information shown on the Preliminary FIRM and FIS report that satisfies the data requirements outlined in 44 CFR 67.6(b) is considered an appeal. Comments unrelated to the flood hazard determinations also will be considered before the FIRM and FIS report become effective.

Use of a Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) is available to communities in support of the appeal resolution process. SRPs are independent panels of experts in hydrology, hydraulics, and other pertinent sciences established to review conflicting scientific and technical data and provide recommendations for resolution. Use of the SRP only may be exercised after FEMA and local communities have been engaged in a collaborative consultation process for at least 60 days without a mutually acceptable resolution of an appeal. Additional information regarding the SRP process can be found online at https://www.floodsrp.org/pdfs/srp_overview.pdf.

The watersheds and/or communities affected are listed in the tables below. The Preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, FIS report for each community are available for inspection at both the online location https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelindownload and the respective Community Map Repository address listed in the tables. For communities with multiple ongoing Preliminary studies, the studies can be identified by the unique project number and Preliminary FIRM date listed in the tables. Additionally, the current effective FIRM and FIS report for each community are accessible online through the FEMA Map Service Center at https://msc.fema.gov for comparison.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 97.022, "Flood Insurance.")

Nicholas A. Shufro,

Fairfield County, Connecticut (All Jurisdictions)

Project: 16–01–0277S  Preliminary Date: July 26, 2023

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<td>Town of Greenwich</td>
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<td>City Hall Annex, 999 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604. City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810. Planning and Zoning Department, 125 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851. City Hall, 54 Hill Street, Shelton, CT 06484. Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901. Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801. Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820. Town Hall, 225 Center Road, Easton, CT 06622. John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. Town Hall, 101 Field Point Road, Greenwich, CT 06830.</td>
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<td>Town of Monroe</td>
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<td>Town of Newtown</td>
<td>Municipal Center, 3 Prime Street, Newtown, CT 06470.</td>
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<td>Town of Redding</td>
<td>Town Hall, 100 Hills Road, Redding, CT 06875.</td>
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<td>Town of Ridgefield</td>
<td>Town Hall, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877.</td>
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<td>Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615.</td>
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<td>Town Hall, 586 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611.</td>
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<td>Town Hall, 56 Norfield Road, Westport, CT 06883.</td>
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<td>Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880.</td>
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<td>Town Hall, 238 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897.</td>
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**Yates County, New York (All Jurisdictions)**

Project: 19-02-00135  Preliminary Date: May 01, 2023

| Town of Barrington | Barrington Town Hall, 4424 Bath Road, Penn Yan, NY 14527. |
| Town of Benton | Benton Town Hall, 1000 Route 14A, Penn Yan, NY 14527. |
| Town of Italy | Italy Town Hall, 6000 Italy Valley Road, Naples, NY 14512. |
| Town of Jerusalem | Jerusalem Town Hall, 3616 Italy Hill Road, Branchport, NY 14418. |
| Town of Middlesex | Town Hall, 1216 Route 245, Middlesex, NY 14507. |
| Town of Milo | Milo Town Hall, 137 Main Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527. |
| Town of Potter | Potter Town Hall, 1226 Phelps Road, Middlesex, NY 14507. |
| Town of Starkey | Starkey Town Hall, 40 Seneca Street, Dundee, NY 14837. |
| Town of Torrey | Torrey Town Building, 56 Genesta Street, Dresden, NY 14441. |
| Village of Dresden | Village Office, 3 Firehouse Avenue, Dresden, NY 14441. |
| Village of Dundee | Code Officers Office, 12 Union Street, Dundee, NY 14837. |
| Village of Penn Yan | Municipal Building, 11 Elm Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527. |

**Lunenburg County, Virginia and Incorporated Areas**

Project: 20-03-00285  Preliminary Date: May 18, 2023

| Unincorporated Areas of Lunenburg County | Lunenburg County Administration, 11413 Courthouse Road, Lunenburg, VA 23952. |

[FR Doc. 2023-28369 Filed 12-22-23; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9110-12-P

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

[Docket ID FEMA–2023–0002; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA–B–2393]

**Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations**


**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Comments are requested on proposed flood hazard determinations, which may include additions or modifications of any Base Flood Elevation (BFE), base flood depth, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundary or zone designation, or regulatory floodway on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and where applicable, in the supporting Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports for the communities listed in the table below. The purpose of this notice is to seek general information and comment regarding the preliminary FIRM and FIS report that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided to the affected communities. The FIRM and FIS report are the basis of the floodplain management measures that the community is required either to adopt or to show evidence of having in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

**DATES:** Comments are to be submitted on or before March 25, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** The Preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, the FIS report for each community are available for inspection at both the online location https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimindownload and the respective Community Map Repository address listed in the tables below. Additionally, the current effective FIRM and FIS report for each community are accessible online through the FEMA Map Service Center at https://msc.fema.gov for comparison. You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. FEMA–B–2393, to Rick Sachbit, Chief, Engineering Services Branch, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA, 400 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–7658, or (email) rick.sachbit@fema.dhs.gov; or visit the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) online at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fmri/fmixin/main.html.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FEMA proposes to make flood hazard determinations for each community listed below, in accordance with section 110 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. 4104, and 44 CFR 67.4(a).

These proposed flood hazard determinations, together with the floodplain management criteria required by 44 CFR 60.3, are the minimum that are required. They should not be construed to mean that the community must change any existing ordinances that are more stringent in their floodplain management requirements. The community may at any time enact stricter requirements of its own or, pursuant to policies established by other Federal, State, or regional entities. These flood hazard determinations are used to meet the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP. The communities affected by the flood hazard determinations are provided in the tables below. Any
The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Risk MAP Program delivers quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action to reduce risk to life and property. Risk MAP is a nationwide program that works in collaboration with states, tribes, and local communities using best available science, rigorously vetted standards, and expert analysis to identify risk and promote mitigation action, resulting in safer, more resilient communities.
Who Can Request an SRP?

A community, tribe, or other political entity with the authority to adopt and enforce floodplain ordinances for the area under its jurisdiction can request that FEMA use an SRP when conflicting technical and/or scientific data have been presented. For additional information, review the Appeal and Comment Processing Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping at www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping.

When Can Communities Request an SRP?

A community can request an SRP if the following requirements have been met:

- It has not yet received a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) from FEMA.
- Conflicting technical and/or scientific data, submitted during the 90-day appeal period, resulted in different flood hazards than those proposed by FEMA.
- At least 60 days of community consultation with FEMA (but no more than 120 days) have taken place.

Additionally, a community that receives a FEMA-issued resolution letter and has not previously exercised the SRP process will have 30 days from the issuance of the letter to request an SRP.

Independent Panel Sponsor

The SRP process is managed by the National Institute for Building Sciences (NIBS), a non-profit organization independent of FEMA. NIBS will administer the SRPs, ensuring that proper guidelines and procedures are employed and maintaining a cadre of experts from which panel members are selected.

Panel Member Selection

Five panelists are convened for each appeal brought to the SRP request. Panel members are technical experts in surface water hydrology, hydraulics, coastal engineering, and other engineering and scientific fields that relate to the creation of FIRMs and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) throughout the United States.

Based on the technical challenges associated with each request, NIBS develops a list of potential members with relevant expertise, from its cadre of experts. NIBS also checks that those listed are available to serve, do not reside in the state from which the appeal or data were filed, and have no personal or professional interest in the findings for the flood risk project.

NIBS provides the list to the community and FEMA to select the panel members. The community selects at least the simple majority (three), and FEMA selects the remaining panel members from the short list of cadre members, based on the technical challenges of the appeal or data submittal.
The Process

To request a review by an SRP, the community’s Chief Executive Officer or designee completes an SRP Request Form and submits it to FEMA during the time periods outlined above. Once FEMA confirms that the situation and the conflicting technical and/or scientific data are eligible for an SRP, it forwards the SRP Request Form to NIBS, which will initiate the panel selection process and develop a list of potential members.

Once the panel is convened, panel members are provided with a summary of the issue, FEMA’s data, and the data the community submitted during the 90-day appeal period. Panel members review the data and, on a point-by-point basis, deliberate and make a decision based on the scientific and/or technical challenges.

If the community feels it is necessary to make an oral presentation in support of its request, it must include a justification on the SRP Request Form.

Resolution

The panel must present its written report to the community and FEMA within 90 days of being convened, and that report will be used by the FEMA Administrator for making the final determination. A panel determination must be in favor of either FEMA or the community on each distinct element of the dispute, and the panel may not offer any alternative determination as a resolution. In the case of a dispute submitted by the community on behalf of an owner or lessee of real property in the community, the panel determination must be in favor of either FEMA, the community, or the owner/lessee on each distinct element of the dispute.

If changes to the maps are recommended in the panel’s determination, and FEMA elects to implement the panel’s determination, FEMA will incorporate the changes into a revised Preliminary FIRM and, if appropriate, FIS report. The revised products will be available to the community for review, with a resolution letter, before FEMA issues an LFD.

Once the SRP provides its determination and FEMA issues its resolution letter to implement the recommendations, the SRP recommendations are binding on all appellants and not subject to judicial review.

If the FEMA Administrator elects not to accept the panel’s findings, the Administrator will issue a written justification within 60 days of receiving the report from the SRP. Under these circumstances, the appellants maintain their right to appeal FEMA’s final determination to the appropriate Federal District Court.
Figure 1: SRP Timeline

**FEMA Flood Mapping**

**Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) Timeline**

- **2nd news publication of proposed flood hazard determinations**
- **Resolution Letter issued**
- **90-day Appeal Period**
  - **Community submits scientific/technical data**
  - **Community submits SRP request**
- **Community & FEMA select Panel**
  - **SRP (Panel) Process**
  - **Community submits SRP request to NIBS for Panel selection process**
  - **FEMA forwards eligible SRP request**
  - **FEMA reviews SRP recommendation**
  - **FEMA informs community** (within 60 days if in agreement with SRP)
- **Mapping Process continues**

*Community can submit an SRP request to FEMA no less than 60 days and no more than 120 days after the start of the community consultation phase OR within 30 days after receiving the Resolution Letter*

(Max. 90 days)