

Text Version of Map Adoption Video

Hello. Welcome to this short video discussing the Road to Flood Map Adoption and incorporating local knowledge into the mapping process.

Over the past few years, FEMA and community officials have worked towards a public-facing, updated flood map. At the early stages of a flood study, FEMA and community officials collaborate to coordinate, review, and reflect on updated hazard mapping. Once updated mapping is ready to be shared with the public, FEMA refers to the products as “Preliminary.” FEMA staff meet with community officials at a Consultation Coordination Officer’s Meeting, or CCO Meeting. They discuss the public rollout of the preliminary mapping, due process phases, and the community map adoption requirements.

When the Preliminary maps are released, people who live in the updated areas get a chance to review and comment on the updated maps. This is done through the public process and a formal appeal period. A fair amount of work has taken place to collect the latest technical data. This has informed our understanding and mapping of the flood risk. However, it is important to provide an avenue for the people who are affected by these maps to provide feedback and specific local knowledge on the flooding in this area. The official appeal period is 90 days long.

Once an appeal period begins, the public may submit feedback on the flood map update. Often, this feedback is provided in the form of a comment. Comments may correct or clarify misspellings, labels, and missing information. No technical analysis is required.

An appeal is different than a comment. It must demonstrate how and why the preliminary information is incorrect. This must include an analysis that shows how it could have been done more correctly. An appeal may be challenging to prove if one is not well-versed with the technical models used in the flood study update. However, even a comment can point us in the direction of why the results may not look right.

When providing feedback, keep in mind that the flood risk the maps show is related to a 1% -annual-chance flood event. In other words, this type of event has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. This type of event has a one in four chance of occurring over the life of a 30-year mortgage. It’s quite possible that your area has yet to see this kind of event in your lifetime. The bottom line is that we want to make sure we get it right. But to make a change to the maps, we do need supporting technical information. Maybe you can highlight a feature that does not appear to be factored into the technical analysis. Or maybe you have more detailed survey information. This can sometimes be enough to help us make a change.

Following the appeal period, the flood study will have three additional milestones. These are the letter of final determination, or LFD, map adoption, and effective maps. FEMA will send out an LFD letter approximately six months after the end of the appeal period and any associated resolutions. At this stage, FEMA notifies the community that the updated

mapping will become effective as a regulatory product in 180 days. The next stage is map adoption. In this period, each community updates or verifies that its floodplain management regulations meet the National Flood Insurance Program requirements. Finally, on the effective date, each updated map becomes the community's official regulatory product. It will be the source for making future decisions related to floodplain management.

If you are considering submitting a comment or appeal, we recommend that you talk to our project team first. They can give you a good understanding of how the analysis was done. They may also know what technical information is needed to make a change. Comments and appeals should be submitted to your community, and they will pass it on. Contact information for your community official is available below. We've provided a form to help you submit a comment or appeal. This form provides additional background information to help us resolve the concern, but use of the form is not required.

All appeals and comments must be submitted before the appeal period closes. If you need more information on the process to change these maps, or just to understand how the flood risk was determined, please contact us at the email below. In the email, you must include your name, contact number, and property address. One of our experts will reach out to you. Thank you for your attention and interest in the Flood Map adoption process.