Pennsylvania Flood Hazard Mapping Needs Assessment Survey

This assessment survey will assist Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in identifying flood hazard mapping needs in your community. Instead of sending out 2,500 individual surveys to all NFIP participating communities we are asking for your participation in this county-wide survey.

Currently the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uses its Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS - https://www.fema.gov/coordinated-needs-management-strategy) to prioritize mapping needs. These needs are based on the age of flood maps/studies, changes/additions to flooding sources, population, development and growth, benefit, and cost. The Commonwealth is now trying to determine if this mapping process still meets your needs. The average age of flood maps in Pennsylvania is eight (8) years old with some being older.

The information you provide is critical to reducing the Commonwealth's flood risk. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are used in your community to identify flood risk of individual properties to determine development requirements, and they contribute to the cost of flood insurance policies, so it is important to ensure we have accurate data. This information will be used by the Commonwealth to make recommendations to FEMA for updates to FIRMs for all Pennsylvania communities through its Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) agreement.

PEMA is looking for your TOP 5 areas that have frequent flooding to share with FEMA for possible mapping review over the next five (5) years.

Please use our Survey Monkey (https://www.surveymonkey.com) for your primary area/source of flooding concern. For all other areas/sources of flooding concern please use the attached survey. If you are providing information on more than one flooding source, please complete a separate copy of Part C (pages 5-11) for each flooding source.

Note: If your community has recently gone through, or is currently going through, a map update (FEMA, US Army Corps of Engineers, etc.) you do not need to include these source areas on this survey.

Please complete and submit this survey by October 1, 2020.

Surveys can be submitted using one of the following methods:

1) Complete the Survey Monkey At: www.surveymonkey.com/r/7F97C5G

or

2) Scan and Email to RA-EMFLOODPLAINMGMTIN@pa.gov

or
3) Forward your completed survey by FAX to (717) 651-2150

For technical questions please contact Bill Bradfield, NFIP Program Manager at (717) 651-2141 or email wbradfield@pa.gov.

If you have any difficulty with your county’s submission please contact Isabella Duffy at (717) 651-2168 or e-mail iduffy@pa.gov.

Thank you.
Part A. Contact Information

Date: __________________________________________

Entity filling out survey: ☐ County Planning ☐ County EMA
☐ County Conservation District ☐ Collaborative effort

Preferred Salutation: ___Ms. ___Mrs. ___Mr. ___Dr. ___None

First Name: ____________________________ Last Name: ____________________________

Preferred Suffix: ___None ___Sr. ___Jr. ___III ___Esq. ___PE ___PLS ___AICP
___CFM ___CEM

Title: __________________________________________

Organization Name: __________________________________________

Department or Unit: __________________________________________

Building Name/Mail Stop: __________________________________________

Street Address: __________________________________________

Street Address: __________________________________________

City: ____________________________ Zip Code: ____________________________

Telephone Number: ____________________________ FAX Number: ____________________________

Email: __________________________________________

Organization Web Page URL: __________________________________________

May the person listed above be contacted to further discuss information contained in this form?

☐ Yes ☐ No
Part B. General Community Information

Organization Name: ____________________________________________________________


Effective Date(s) of County NFIP Flood Maps:

From: ________________ To: ________________

County Land Area: ______________________ sq. miles

Population: ______________________

Is your County, or any communities that you are aware of, planning any mapping or floodplain mapping updates within the next three years?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Don’t Know

Summarize below anything the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can do for you related to flooding or stormwater management problems as identified on your community’s current flood maps or flood insurance study.

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Part C. Flood Source Data Updates

Flooding Source Name (please complete a separate copy of Part C for each flooding source):

______________________________________________________________________________

Estimated damages from this flooding source (in dollars):_______________

Estimated economic impact to community from this flooding source (in dollars per event and cumulative):

______________________________________________________________________________

List DFIRM panel number(s) this source is located on: (e.g. 42109C0165D):

______________________________________________________________________________

Current flood zone designation on DFIRM? ________________________________

How many miles of the watercourse need updating? ________________________

Approximately how many structures are in the floodplain of this flooding source? __________

______________________________________________________________________________

☐ Don’t Know

Please identify the type of structures affected by this flooding source:

☐ Business ☐ Primary Residential ☐ Secondary residential

☐ Rental Property ☐ Mixed Use ☐ Natural/Cultural Monuments

☐ Agricultural ☐ Municipal/State/Federally Owned

How many new structures are built in the floodplain each year?

______________________________________________________________________________

☐ Don’t Know

If Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) are currently shown for this source, would updated information cause BFEs to change? (increase or decrease)

☐ Yes-Increase ☐ Yes-Decrease ☐ No ☐ Don’t Know
If yes, by approximately how much?

☐ Less than 1 foot  ☐ 1 to 5 feet  ☐ More than 5 feet

Would updated information change the floodplain width for the flooding source? (narrower or wider)

☐ Yes-Narrower  ☐ Yes-Wider  ☐ No  ☐ Don’t Know

If yes, by approximately how much?

☐ Less than 500 feet  ☐ 500 to 1,000 feet  ☐ More than 1,000 feet

Comments/Explanations/Data Available:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
Changes in Flood Data

Below are possible indicators of the need to update your community’s maps. Please check those that apply to this flooding source and complete the corresponding section below.

1. Development near Special Flood Hazard Area (“SFHA”, also referred to as the “100-year” floodplain). Includes:
   - Zone A (unstudied),
   - Zone AE (studied with/without floodway),
   - Zone AO (sheet flow),
   - Zone AH (ponding),
   - Zone D (possible but undetermined hazard)
   - Zone V (coastal - unstudied with velocity wave action)
   - Zone VE (coastal - studied with velocity wave action)
   - and/or Unmapped Flood-prone Areas

2. Recent flooding event contradicts maps
3. Significant development throughout watershed
4. New or modified flood control structures (e.g., dams, levees)
5. New or replacement bridges, culverts, road crossings, channelization
6. Changes in stream location or size
7. Existing Engineering Data
8. Other changes ________________________________

1. Development Near Zone A, AE, AO, AH, D, VE and/or Unmapped Flood-prone Areas

How much area is designated as Zone A for this flooding source?

__________________ Acres  □ Don’t Know

Has development occurred in or around Zone A or unmapped flood-prone areas?

□ Yes  □ No

Is development proposed to occur in or around Zone A or unmapped flood-prone areas?

□ Yes  □ No

If yes, how would you describe this development?

□ Low  □ Moderate  □ High

□ Don’t Know
Include a description of the type, density, and location of the existing and/or proposed
development, as well as additional comments, explanation, and data available:

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

2. Recent Flooding Event Contradicts Maps

Have there been any significant flooding events along this flooding source in your community,
approximately equal to the 1% annual chance (100-year) event?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don’t Know

If yes, how did this flooding event compare with the 100-year floodplain boundary on the FIRM?

☐ Poor ☐ Good

Has there been any repeated flooding of areas outside the 100-year floodplain (i.e., in Zone X, B,
or C)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don’t Know

Comments/Explanation/Data Available:

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

3. Significant Development Throughout Watershed

Do you believe the hydrologic analysis used in the effective FIS and FIRM for this flooding
source in your community does not reflect significant development in the watershed or is
outdated?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don’t Know
4. **New or Modified Flood Control Structures (e.g., dams, levees)**

Have any flood control structures been constructed in this flood source's watershed upstream of your community since the effective FIRM was published, or were any omitted from the FIRM?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don’t Know

If yes, what kind of flood control structures are they?

- [ ] Manmade reservoirs, lakes, ponds, dams
- [ ] Levees, berms, dikes
- [ ] Channels

Was a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) submitted to FEMA for this structure(s)?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don’t Know

Has there been any change in the operating status of any existing flood control structures?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don’t Know

If yes, will these changes impact the 100-year flood discharge?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don’t Know

Comments/Explanation/Data Available:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
5. **New or Replacement Bridges, Culverts, Road Crossings, Channelization**

Have any new bridges, culverts, or road crossings been constructed across this flooding source since the effective FIRM was published?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don’t Know

Was a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) submitted to FEMA for this structure(s)?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don’t Know

If yes, is information regarding the size and location of the structure readily available?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don’t Know

Comments/Explanation/Data Available:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

6. **Changes in Stream Location or Size**

Have there been any significant changes in the stream channel location or size for this flooding source since the effective FIRM was published?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don’t Know

If yes, what caused this change?

- [ ] Natural stream migration
- [ ] Channelization
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Dredging/widening/filling
- [ ] Don’t Know

Have there been any significant changes in the vegetation along the stream banks or floodplain?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Don’t Know
If yes, has the vegetation increased or decreased?

☐ Increased  ☐ Decreased

Comments Explanation/Data Available:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

7. Existing Engineering Data

Are you aware of any existing engineering surveys or other technical data that you would be willing to share?

☐ Surveyed Cross-Sections  ☐ As-built Surveys (Channels/Culverts)  ☐ LiDAR

☐ Topographic Surveys  ☐ Hydraulic Engineering Studies (HEC-RAS, etc.)

☐ Other studies: ________________________________

Comments/Explanation/Data Available:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
8. Other changes

Please describe any other changes not identified in this survey:

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Community Recommendations

Based on the previous indicators and the current zone designation on the FIRM, mapping options exist when your community's FIRM is updated. Please indicate below your recommendation for this flooding source.

Currently Unmapped
(Zone X or C)
☐ No change
☐ New approximate mapping
☐ New detail mapping

Approximate Mapping
(Currently Zone A, D, or V)
☐ No change
☐ New approximate mapping
☐ New detail mapping

Detailed Mapping
(Currently AE, AH, AO, VE, X (shaded))
☐ No change
☐ New approximate mapping
☐ New detail mapping

THANK YOU for taking the time to complete this survey!

Please Scan and Email your survey to RA-EMFLOODPLAINMGTIN@pa.gov

Or

FAX to 717-651-2150

For Questions or Problems while FAXing this form, you can call 717-651-2168 or Email Isabella Duffy at iduffy@pa.gov

Or, you can call Bill Bradfield at 717-651-2141, or Email wbradfield@pa.gov

Please KEEP A COPY of the completed forms in the event that a follow-up is required, or the forms do not FAX properly.