



November 27, 2012

Mr. David L. Miller, Associate Administrator  
Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
1800 South Bell Street  
Arlington, VA 20598-3020

Dear Mr. Miller:

It is our understanding that in response to Hurricane Sandy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) along with the states of New Jersey and New York will be establishing advisory flood hazard information, to include advisory Base Flood Elevations (aBFEs) that will assist affected communities as they begin the post-disaster rebuilding phase. The New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) supports FEMA and New Jersey in their efforts to establish these advisory data.

Prior to Hurricane Sandy, FEMA was performing a restudy of the coastline in both New Jersey and New York to better characterize coastal flood risks. FEMA continues this study, which is being conducted as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). An important outcome of the study is the development of a number of products, including Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or FIRMs. These maps help in the determination of flood risk, and are used in establishing requirements for the purchase of flood insurance under the NFIP.

Providing advisory flood hazard information is an interim step in the mapping process that is not usually taken, but recognized by FEMA as vital for rebuilding strong and resilient communities. Building data now will mean that damaged and destroyed buildings will likely be in compliance with the updated FIRMs planned for release in summer 2013. It is important to note that although the production of advisory flood hazard information for the New Jersey and New York coastline will be on an expedited schedule (FEMA anticipates as early as December 2012), FEMA indicates this will not affect their quality as they will be prepared using sound engineering and scientific practices.

By using the advisory flood hazard information, community officials, businesses, and property owners can have the best available, recommended elevations, and flood hazard zones to guide local elevation requirements for new and rebuilt structures. Using advisory flood hazard information as the new standard for building and rebuilding can reduce the vulnerability of structures to flooding and, in some cases, may help reduce flood insurance premiums. In addition to guiding reconstruction, the advisory

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[www.njafm.org](http://www.njafm.org)

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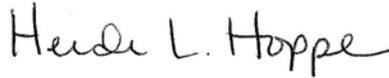
# ***NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT***

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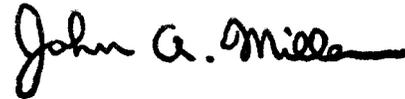
flood hazard information can be utilized under four FEMA programs: Public Assistance Grants, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program to maintain eligibility for these grants.

NJAFM appreciates FEMA's efforts to quickly produce advisory flood hazard information and we strongly support this initiative.

Sincerely,



Heidi L. Hoppe  
NJAFM Chair



John A. Miller, P.E., CFM, CSM  
NJAFM Legislative Committee Chair

cc: NJAFM Board by email