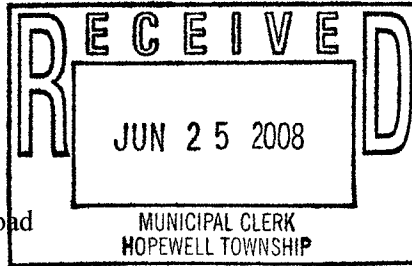




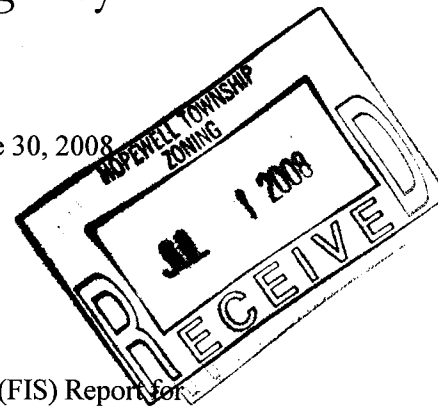
**FEMA**

# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472



June 30, 2008



The Honorable Vanessa Sandom  
Mayor, Township of Hopewell  
201 Washington Crossing – Pennington Road  
Titusville, NJ 08560

RE: Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report for Mercer County, New Jersey (All Jurisdictions)

Dear Mayor Sandom:

We are pleased to present you with Preliminary copies of the above-referenced DFIRM and FIS report for your review and comment. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has produced the DFIRM and FIS report in Countywide Format, which means that flood hazard information for the entire geographic area of the county, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, is presented. The flood hazard information presented on the DFIRM 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 (base flood); Base Flood Elevations (BFEs); and regulatory floodways, which are the areas that must be kept free of encroachment so that the base flood can be carried without significant increases in flood levels.

The flood hazard information for communities in Mercer County that was presented on the effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps (FBFMs) has been revised based on the results of a study performed by NTHMC, Inc. under contract to our office, Contract No. EMN-2003-CO-5006. The areas revised by that study include Shady Brook, Pond Run, North Branch Pond Run, portions of Miry Run, and portions of Back Creek.

We have enclosed only those DFIRM panels that actually cover your community. We have provided complete sets of the DFIRM panels to county officials under separate cover, and they should be available there for review by your community. The address of the county's map repository is provided on the enclosed DFIRM Index.

The new map panels are produced in the DFIRM standard panel layout that is based on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle map grid. The USGS grid is subdivided for production of larger scale maps. This may result in an increase in the number of map panels for your community.

We are sending the Preliminary copies at this time to give your community an opportunity to review them. We will contact you shortly to discuss them and consider scheduling a community coordination meeting. The purpose of this meeting would be to present the results of the study, discuss the information presented on the DFIRM and FIS report, discuss the impact of the DFIRM and FIS report on your community's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and give your community a chance to comment or ask questions regarding the DFIRM and FIS report and the NFIP in general. In the meantime, we encourage you to circulate the enclosed copies as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other

individuals or organizations in your community that would have an interest in the DFIRM and FIS report so that they will have the opportunity to review them thoroughly before requesting or declining a meeting.

For those flooding sources that were not affected by the restudy, we have prepared the enclosed Preliminary version of the DFIRM using the flood hazard information presented on the effective FIRMs and FBFMs for the county and the incorporated areas using a process that involves capturing data in a digital format, delineating the flood boundaries on an enhanced topographic source, and plotting map panels using computer technology. In so doing, we have incorporated all non revised floodplain data from all previously effective FIRMs and FBFMs.

To assist your community in maintaining the DFIRM, we have enclosed a Summary of Map Actions to document previous Letter of Map Change (LOMC) actions (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs), Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs)) that will be superseded when the DFIRM panels become effective. Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories: (1) LOMCs for which results have been included on the DFIRM panels; (2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the DFIRM panels because of scale limitations or because the LOMC issued had determined that the lots or structures involved were outside the SFHA as shown on the DFIRM; (3) LOMCs for which results have not been included on the DFIRM panels because the flood hazard information on which the original determinations were based is being superseded by new flood hazard information; and (4) LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures cannot be revalidated through an administrative process like that being used for the LOMCs in Category 2 above. LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of a previously issued LOMC; the letter will be sent to the community shortly before the effective date of the DFIRM and will become effective 1 day after the DFIRM becomes effective. For the LOMCs listed in Category 4, we will review the data previously submitted for the LOMA or LOMR request and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the DFIRM becomes effective.

Your community and others will have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to review the enclosed copies of the DFIRM and FIS report. The review period provides your community and others with an opportunity to identify changes or corrections to nontechnical information, such as corporate limits, road names (within or adjacent to the SFHAs), bridges, and streams labels, presented on the DFIRM or in the FIS report. Comments may be sent to the Regional Management Center, 245 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 2300, New York, New York, 10016. We will review all comments or changes received during this 30-day review period and incorporate them, as appropriate, before the DFIRM and FIS report become effective.

At the end of the 30-day review period, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for another community within your county for which we added or modified BFEs. Because the countywide DFIRM must be processed for all communities concurrently, further action for your community will be postponed pending the completion of the 90-day appeal period and resolution of all appeals.

After the review and appeal periods have ended and all comments/appeals have been addressed, we will initiate final preparation of the DFIRM and FIS report. The new DFIRM and FIS report for your community will become effective approximately 6 months later. Before the effective date, you will be reminded that your community must adopt new floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances as necessary to reflect any changes in the DFIRM or FIS report, including reference to the new effective date. If you or other community officials have any questions regarding the floodplain ordinance for your community, you may raise them at the community coordination meeting if such a meeting is held, or you may discuss those issues with your State NFIP Coordinator. Approximately 1 or 2 months before the effective date, we will send your community printed copies of the DFIRM and FIS report.

Once the DFIRM and FIS report are printed and distributed, the digital files containing the flood hazard data for the entire county can be provided to your community for use in a computer mapping system. These files can be used in conjunction with other thematic data for floodplain management purposes, insurance purchase and rating requirements, and many other planning applications. In addition, your community may be eligible for additional credits under our Community Rating System if you implement your activities using digital mapping files.

Your community's comments on the Preliminary DFIRM panels and FIS report are an important part of our review process, and we will consider them carefully before we publish the DFIRM and FIS report in their final form. If you are interested in discussing the enclosed documents, please contact the Consultation Coordination Officer designated for your community at (212) 680-3609.

Sincerely,



William R. Blanton Jr. CFM, Chief  
Engineering Management Section  
Mitigation Division

List of Enclosures:  
FIRM and FIS  
State NFIP Coordinator  
List Summary of Map Actions

cc: John J. Moyle, State NFIP Coordinator

**PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF MAP ACTIONS SOMA-4**

Community: HOPEWELL, TOWNSHIP OF

Community No.: 345298

To assist your community in maintaining the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), we have summarized below the previous Letter of Map Change (LOMC) actions (i.e., Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs) and Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs)) that will be affected by the preparation of the enclosed revised FIRM panel(s).

**1. LOMRs and LOMAs Incorporated**

The modifications effected by the LOMRs and LOMAs listed below have been reflected on the Preliminary copies of the revised FIRM panels. However, these LOMRs and LOMAs will remain in effect until the revised FIRM becomes effective.

LOMC	Case No.	Date Issued	Project Identifier	Old Panel	New Panel
			NO CASES RECORDED		

**2. LOMRs and LOMAs Not Incorporated**

The modifications effected by the LOMRs and LOMAs listed below have not been reflected on the Preliminary copies of the revised FIRM panels because of scale limitations or because the LOMR or LOMA issued had determined that the lot(s) or structure(s) involved were outside the Special Flood Hazard Area, as shown on the FIRM. These LOMRs and LOMAs will be revalidated free of charge 1 day after the revised FIRM becomes effective through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of the previous LOMC.

LOMC	Case No.	Date Issued	Project Identifier	Old Panel	New Panel
LOMA	02-02-0644A	February 22, 2002	66 Titus-Mill Road	3452980015E	34021C0107F

**3. LOMRs and LOMAs Superseded**

The modifications effected by the LOMRs and LOMAs listed below have not been reflected on the Preliminary copies of the revised FIRM panels because they are being superseded by new detailed flood hazard information or the information available was not sufficient to make a determination. The reason each is being superseded is noted below. These LOMRs and LOMAs will no longer be in effect when the revised FIRM becomes effective.

**PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF MAP ACTIONS SOMA-5**

Community: HOPEWELL, TOWNSHIP OF

Community No.: 345298

LOMC	Case No.	Date Issued	Project Identifier	Reason Determination Will Be Superseded
			NO CASES RECORDED	

1. Insufficient information available to make a determination.
2. Lowest Adjacent Grade and Lowest Finished Floor are below the proposed Base Flood Elevation.
3. Lowest Ground Elevation is below the proposed Base Flood Elevation.
4. Revised hydrologic and hydraulic analyses.
5. Revised topographic information.

**4. LOMRs and LOMAs To Be Redetermined**

The LOMCs in Category 2 above will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of the determination in the previously issued LOMC. For LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures has changed, the LOMC cannot be revalidated through this administrative process. We will review the data previously submitted for the LOMR or LOMA requests listed below and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the effective date of the revised FIRM.

LOMC	Case No.	Date Issued	Project Identifier	Old Panel	New Panel
			NO CASES RECORDED		