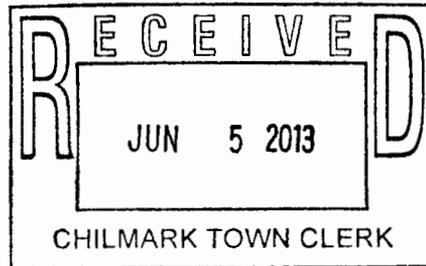




FEMA



June 3, 2013

Warren M. Doty
Chairperson, Board of Selectmen
Town of Chilmark
Chilmark Town Hall
P.O. Box 119
401 Middle Road
Chilmark, Massachusetts 02535

Prelim-EAP-R1
Community Name: Town of Chilmark,
Dukes County,
Massachusetts
Community No.: 250068
Panels Affected: 25007CIND0B, 25007C00069J,
25007C0086J, 25007C0087J,
25007C0088J, 25007C0089J,
25007C0093J, 25007C0157J,
25007C0158J, 25007C0159J,
25007C0166J, 25007C0167J,
25007C0176J, 25007C0177J,
25007C0178J, 25007C0179J,
25007C0181J, 25007C0182J,
and 25007C0183J

Re: Updated Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Updated Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report for Dukes County, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Doty:

We are pleased to present your community with copies of the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Dukes County, Massachusetts for your review and comment. These updates represent a new coastal study that was conducted in your community, using updated methodology and 2-foot topographic data obtained through Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). The purpose of this effort is to provide your community with updated flood hazard risk information that can be utilized for mitigation actions and planning in order for your community to become more resilient to flood hazards.

You will find enclosed a DVD with the flood hazard information for Dukes County as updated by this Preliminary issuance. In addition to the DVD, a hard copy of your community's Preliminary coastal FIRM panels and FIS report were forwarded to your community's Floodplain Administrator. We have also provided a hard copy set of FIRM panels to Richard Zingarelli, your National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) State Coordinator, whose contact information is provided at the end of this letter.

The flood hazard information presented on the FIRM 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, known as the base flood; as well as the Base Flood Elevations (BFEs). There are also regulatory zones in coastal areas identified as "VE Zones". These areas have been identified using National Academy of Sciences (NAS) methodology to delineate areas subject to wave heights of 3 feet or greater. In addition, these updated panels will depict a "Limit of Moderate Wave Action" (LiMWA), which represents the region subject to the limit of wave heights between 1.5 to 3 feet. The LiMWA is currently a non-regulatory demarcation on the map, but is meant to convey the risk associated with a 1.5-foot wave, which has been found through post-event damage assessment surveys to have the potential to cause substantial damage to structures built in compliance with A Zone standards. Although the LiMWA currently holds no higher building regulation requirements in the

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, FEMA's Coastal Construction Manual encourages building practices in these areas of increased risk follow V Zone standards.

Your community should note that there may be additional areas where the SFHA has changed due to new studies or the use of more precise topographic data. In areas where there were no additional studies or information, the currently effective digital SFHA was incorporated onto the new base map. This work was conducted by FEMA's mapping contractor, STARR. Please note that the BFEs will be listed in the North American Vertical Datum (1988), which may be different from the datum used in previous flood studies.

Flood hazard information for your community was converted to meet the FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) database specifications and Geographic Information System (GIS) format requirements. More information on FEMA database specifications is available at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dfm_dfhm.shtm#5. By providing the flood hazard information in GIS format, we are making it easier for your community to incorporate the data into your local GIS.

We are sending the Preliminary copies at this time to give your community an opportunity to review them. Additionally, in an effort to assist you in circulating the information, FEMA has posted digital copies of the FIRM and FIS report materials to the following website: www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata.

We are working with your NFIP State Coordinator to schedule a community coordination meeting (a "Consultation Coordination Officer [CCO]" Meeting). The purpose of this meeting will be to present the results of the study, discuss the information presented on the Preliminary FIRM and FIS report, discuss their impact on your community's participation in the NFIP, and give your community a chance to comment or ask questions. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to thoroughly review the enclosed copy, and circulate it as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other individuals or organizations in the community that would have an interest in the FIRM and FIS report, so that they will also have the opportunity to review them thoroughly before the formal community coordination meeting. We will contact you once this meeting has been scheduled. The meeting will be at least 30 days after the issuance of this letter.

This review period also provides your community with an opportunity to identify changes and corrections to non-technical information. These may include corporate limits, road names, bridges, stream names, etc. on the FIRM or in the FIS report. Please send comments to Alex Sirotek at the Regional Service Center, 99 High Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. We will consider all comments and changes received during this period and will incorporate them, as appropriate, before the FIRM and FIS report become effective.

We reviewed our records for any previous Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment [LOMAs], Letters of Map Revision [LOMRs]) for your community. According to our records, no LOMCs have been issued for your community. Please let us know immediately if your records show any LOMCs in your community.

After the CCO meeting, a statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies BFEs, base flood depths, SFHAs, flood zone designations, or regulatory floodways within a community, as shown on the Preliminary FIRM. We will send you a letter approximately 2 weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward information regarding notifications to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and local newspaper(s) and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date. Additional information concerning the 90-day appeal period will be provided during the CCO meeting.

All comments and appeals received through the end of the 90-day appeal period will be considered and incorporated as appropriate. Following the resolution of all comments and appeals, FEMA will issue a Letter of

Final Determination (LFD). When FEMA issues the LFD, the community must adopt the new FIRM panels and FIS within 6 months in order to remain in good standing with the NFIP.

The new FIRM and FIS report for your community will become effective 6 months after the LFD date. Before the effective date, you will be notified in writing of the official FIRM and FIS report effective date and asked to adopt floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances as necessary that correspond with the new FIRM or FIS report. If you or other community officials have any questions regarding floodplain ordinances, you may raise them with our FEMA Regional Office or you may discuss those issues with your NFIP State Coordinator. Several months before the effective date, we will mail one set of printed copies of the finalized FIRM and FIS report and digital copies of the map and report products.

Your community's comments on the Preliminary FIRM panels and FIS report are an important part of our mapping process, and we will consider them carefully before we publish the FIRM and FIS report in their final form. If you have any questions regarding the Preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS report, please contact David Mendelsohn, the FEMA Consultation Coordination Officer designated for your community, at (617) 832-4713 or by email at David.Mendelsohn@fema.dhs.gov. If you have any questions regarding the necessary floodplain management measures for your community or the NFIP in general, we urge you to contact Richard Zingarelli at (617) 626-1406 or by email at richard.zingarelli@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,



Richard Verville, Chief
Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch
FEMA Region I

NFIP State Coordinator's Contact Information:
Richard Zingarelli, NFIP State Coordinator
Flood Hazard Management Program
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800
Boston, MA 02114

Phone Number: (617) 626-1406
Email: richard.zingarelli@state.ma.us

Enclosures:
DVD of Preliminary FIRMs, FIS report, and SOMA

cc: Jennifer L. Christy, Town Clerk, Town of Chilmark (hard copy and DVD)
Chief Brian Cioffi, Police Department, Town of Chilmark (w/o enclosures)

Timothy Carroll, Director, Emergency Management, Town of Chilmark (w/o enclosures)
Leonard Jason, Jr., Inspector of Buildings, Town of Chilmark (w/o enclosures)
Chief David Norton, Fire Department, Town of Chilmark (w/o enclosures)
Pam Goff, Chairperson, Conservation Commission, Town of Chilmark (w/o enclosures)
Dennis Jason, Harbormaster, Town of Chilmark (w/o enclosures)
Janet Weidner, Chairperson, Planning Board, Town of Chilmark (w/o enclosures)
David Mendelsohn, Consultation Coordination Officer, FEMA Region I (hard copy and DVD)
Kerry Bogdan, Senior Engineer, FEMA Region I (w/o enclosures)
Richard Zingarelli, NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (hard copy and DVD)
Alex Sirotek, Regional Service Center, STARR Region I (w/o enclosures)
Tom Tufts, Project Manager, STARR (w/o enclosures)