



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472



CERTIFIED MAIL
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
APPEAL START

August 14, 2023

Jamie Underwood, Chair
Board of Selectmen
Town of Boylston
Town Hall
221 Main Street
Boylston, Massachusetts 01505

Case No: 16-01-0276S
Community: Town of Boylston,
Worcester County,
Massachusetts
Community No.: 250297

Dear Chair Underwood:

On August 13, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided your community with Preliminary copies of the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Worcester County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions) and revised Preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS report on May 5, 2023. FEMA has posted digital copies of these revised FIRM and FIS report materials to the following website:

<https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/>. The Preliminary FIRM and FIS report include proposed flood hazard information for certain locations in the Town of Ashburnham. The proposed flood hazard information may include addition or modification of Special Flood Hazard Areas, the areas that would be inundated by the base (1-percent-annual-chance) flood; base flood elevations or depths; zone designations; or regulatory floodways.

We have published a notice of the proposed flood hazard determinations in the *Federal Register* and will publish a public notification concerning the appeal process (explained below) in *The Boston Globe* on or about August 21, 2023, and August 28, 2023. We will also publish a separate notice of the flood hazard determinations on the "Flood Hazard Determinations on the Web" portion of the FEMA Website: https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/flm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp. We have enclosed copies of the notice published in the *Federal Register* and the newspaper notice for your information.

These proposed flood hazard determinations, if finalized, will become the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community must adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). However, before any new or modified flood hazard information is effective for floodplain management purposes, FEMA will provide community officials and citizens an opportunity to appeal the proposed flood hazard information presented on the preliminary revised FIRM and FIS report posted to the above-referenced Website.

Section 110 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) is intended to ensure an equitable balancing of all interests involved in the setting of flood hazard determinations. The legislation provides for an explicit process of notification and appeals for your community and for private persons prior to this office making the flood hazard determinations final. The appeal procedure is outlined below for your information.

During the 90-day appeal period following the second publication of the public notification in the above-

community in support of the appeal resolution process when conflicting scientific or technical data are submitted during the appeal period. SRPs are independent panels of experts in hydrology, hydraulics, and other pertinent sciences established to review conflicting scientific and technical data and provide recommendations for resolution. An SRP is an option after FEMA and community officials have been engaged in a collaborative consultation process for at least 60 days without a mutually acceptable resolution of an appeal. Please refer to the enclosed "Scientific Resolution Panels" Overview for additional information on this resource available to your community.

FEMA will make the reports and other information used in making the final determination available for public inspection. Until the conflict of data is resolved and the revised FIRM becomes effective, flood insurance available within your community will continue to be available under the effective NFIP map, and no person shall be denied the right to purchase the applicable level of insurance at chargeable rates.

The decision by your community to appeal, or a copy of its decision not to appeal, should be filed with this office no later than 90 days following the second publication of the flood hazard determination notice in the above-named newspaper. Your community may find it appropriate to call further attention to the proposed flood hazard determinations and to the appeal procedure by using a press release or other public notice.

If warranted by substantive changes, during the appeal period we will send you Revised Preliminary copies of the revised FIRM and FIS report. At the end of the 90-day appeal period and following the resolution of any appeals and comments, we will send you a Letter of Final Determination, which will finalize the flood hazard information presented on the revised FIRM and FIS report and will establish an effective date.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed flood hazard determinations, revised FIRM panels, or revised FIS report for your community, please call our FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX), toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or e-mail the FMIX staff at FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Luis V. Rodriguez, P.E, Director
Engineering and Modeling Division
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

List of Enclosures:

Newspaper Notice
Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations *Federal Register* Notice
"Scientific Resolution Panels" Overview

cc: Community Map Repository
April Steward, Town Administrator, Town of Boylston

for approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Overview of This Information Collection

Title: Petroleum Refineries in Foreign Trade Sub-zones.

OMB Number: 1651-0063.

Form Number: N/A.

Current Actions: Extension with a decrease in burden but no change to the information collected or method of collection.

Type of Review: Extension (with change).

Affected Public: Businesses.

Abstract: The Foreign Trade Zones Act, 19 U.S.C. 81c(d), contains specific provisions for petroleum refinery sub-zones. It permits refiners and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess the relative value of such multiple products at the end of the manufacturing period during which these products were produced, when the actual quantities of these products resulting from the refining process can be measured with certainty.

19 CFR 146.4(d) provides that the operator of the refinery sub-zone is required to retain all records relating to the above-mentioned activities for five years after the merchandise is removed from the sub-zone. Further, the records shall be readily available for CBP review at the sub-zone.

Instructions on compliance with these record keeping provisions are available in the Foreign Trade Zone Manual which is accessible at: <http://www.cbp.gov/document/guides/foreign-trade-zones-manual>.

Type of Information Collection: Recordkeeping for Petroleum Refineries.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 47.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 47.

Estimated Time per Response: 1,000 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 47,000.

Dated: July 26, 2023.

Robert F. Altneu,

Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Regulations and Rulings, Office of Trade, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

[FR Doc. 2023-16155 Filed 7-28-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID FEMA-2023-0002; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-B-2357]

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Comments are requested on proposed flood hazard determinations, which may include additions or modifications of any Base Flood Elevation (BFE), base flood depth, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundary or zone designation, or regulatory floodway on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and where applicable, in the supporting Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports for the communities listed in the table below. The purpose of this notice is to seek general information and comment regarding the preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, the FIS report that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided to the affected communities. The FIRM and FIS report are the basis of the floodplain management measures that the community is required either to adopt or to show evidence of having in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

DATES: Comments are to be submitted on or before October 30, 2023.

ADDRESSES: The Preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, the FIS report for each community are available for inspection at both the online location <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload> and the respective Community Map Repository address listed in the tables below. Additionally, the current effective FIRM and FIS report for each community are accessible online through the FEMA Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov> for comparison.

You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. FEMA-B-2357, to Rick Sacibit, Chief, Engineering Services Branch, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA, 400 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-7659, or (email) patrick.sacibit@fema.dhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Sacibit, Chief, Engineering Services Branch, Federal Insurance and

Mitigation Administration, FEMA, 400 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-7659, or (email) patrick.sacibit@fema.dhs.gov; or visit the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) online at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx_main.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FEMA proposes to make flood hazard determinations for each community listed below, in accordance with section 110 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. 4104, and 44 CFR 67.4(a).

These proposed flood hazard determinations, together with the floodplain management criteria required by 44 CFR 60.3, are the minimum that are required. They should not be construed to mean that the community must change any existing ordinances that are more stringent in their floodplain management requirements. The community may at any time enact stricter requirements of its own or pursuant to policies established by other Federal, State, or regional entities. These flood hazard determinations are used to meet the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP.

The communities affected by the flood hazard determinations are provided in the tables below. Any request for reconsideration of the revised flood hazard information shown on the Preliminary FIRM and FIS report that satisfies the data requirements outlined in 44 CFR 67.6(b) is considered an appeal. Comments unrelated to the flood hazard determinations also will be considered before the FIRM and FIS report become effective.

Use of a Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) is available to communities in support of the appeal resolution process. SRPs are independent panels of experts in hydrology, hydraulics, and other pertinent sciences established to review conflicting scientific and technical data and provide recommendations for resolution. Use of the SRP only may be exercised after FEMA and local communities have been engaged in a collaborative consultation process for at least 60 days without a mutually acceptable resolution of an appeal. Additional information regarding the SRP process can be found online at https://www.floodsrp.org/pdfs/srp_overview.pdf.

The watersheds and/or communities affected are listed in the tables below. The Preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, FIS report for each community are available for inspection at both the online location <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/>

Community	Community map repository address
Town of Natick	Town Hall, 13 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760.
Town of North Reading	Town Hall, 235 North Street, North Reading, MA 01864.
Town of Pepperell	Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Pepperell, MA 01463.
Town of Reading	Town Hall, 16 Lowell Street, Reading, MA 01867.
Town of Sherborn	Town Hall, 19 Washington Street, Sherborn, MA 01770.
Town of Shirley	Town Hall, 7 Keady Way, Shirley, MA 01464.
Town of Stoneham	Town Hall, 35 Central Street, Stoneham, MA 02180.
Town of Tewksbury	Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876.
Town of Townsend	Town Hall, 272 Main Street, Townsend, MA 01469.
Town of Tyngsborough	Town Hall, 25 Bryants Lane, Tyngsborough, MA 01879.
Town of Wakefield	Town Hall, 1 Lafayette Street, Wakefield, MA 01880.
Town of Watertown	Town Hall, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472.
Town of Wayland	Town Hall, 41 Cochituate Road, Wayland, MA 01778.
Town of Westford	Town Hall, 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886.
Town of Weston	Town Hall, 11 Town House Road, Weston, MA 02493.
Town of Wilmington	Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887.
Town of Winchester	Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon Street, Winchester, MA 01890.

Norfolk County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions)
Project: 15-01-0633S Preliminary Date: April 07, 2023

City of Quincy	City Hall, 1305 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA 02169.
Town of Avon	Town Hall, 65 East Main Street, Avon, MA 02322.
Town of Bellingham	Municipal Center, 10 Mechanic Street, Bellingham, MA 02019.
Town of Braintree	Town Hall, 1 John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive, Braintree, MA 02184.
Town of Brookline	Town Hall, 333 Washington Street, Brookline, MA 02445.
Town of Canton	Town Hall, 801 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021.
Town of Cohasset	Town Hall, 41 Highland Avenue, Cohasset, MA 02025.
Town of Dedham	Town Hall, 450 Washington Street, Dedham, MA 02026.
Town of Dover	Town House, 5 Springdale Avenue, Dover, MA 02030.
Town of Foxborough	Town Hall, 40 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035.
Town of Franklin	Town Hall, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038.
Town of Holbrook	Town Hall, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343.
Town of Medfield	Town House, 459 Main Street, Medfield, MA 02052.
Town of Medway	Town Hall, 155 Village Street, Medway, MA 02053.
Town of Millis	Veterans Memorial Building, 900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054.
Town of Milton	Town Office Building, 525 Canton Avenue, Milton, MA 02186.
Town of Needham	Town Hall, 1471 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492.
Town of Norfolk	Town Hall, 1 Liberty Lane, Norfolk, MA 02056.
Town of Norwood	Town Hall, 566 Washington Street, Norwood, MA 02062.
Town of Plainville	Town Hall, 142 South Street, Plainville, MA 02762.
Town of Randolph	Town Hall, 41 South Main Street, Randolph, MA 02368.
Town of Sharon	Town Office Building, 90 South Main Street, Sharon, MA 02067.
Town of Stoughton	Town Hall, 10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072.
Town of Walpole	Town Hall, 135 School Street, Walpole, MA 02081.
Town of Wellesley	Town Hall, 888 Worcester Street, Wellesley, MA 02482.
Town of Westwood	Town Hall, 580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090.
Town of Weymouth	Town Hall, 75 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA 02189.
Town of Wrentham	Town Hall, 79 South Street, Wrentham, MA 02093.

Worcester County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions)
Project: 16-01-0276S Preliminary Date: May 05, 2023

City of Fitchburg	City Hall, 718 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.
City of Gardner	City Hall, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, MA 01440.
City of Leominster	City Hall, 25 West Street, Leominster, MA 01453.
City of Worcester	City Hall, 455 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608.
Town of Ashburnham	Town Hall, 32 Main Street, Ashburnham, MA 01430.
Town of Berlin	Town Offices, 23 Linden Street, Berlin, MA 01503.
Town of Bolton	Town Hall, 663 Main Street, Bolton, MA 01740.
Town of Boylston	Town Hall, 221 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505.
Town of Clinton	Town Hall, 242 Church Street, Clinton, MA 01510.
Town of Harvard	Town Hall, 13 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA 01451.
Town of Holden	Starbuck Building, 1204 Main Street, Holden, MA 01520.
Town of Hopedale	Town Office, 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA 01747.
Town of Hubbardston	Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Hubbardston, MA 01452.
Town of Lancaster	Prescott Building, 701 Main Street, Lancaster, MA 01523.
Town of Lunenburg	Town Hall, 17 Main Street, Lunenburg, MA 01462.
Town of Mendon	Town Hall, 20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756.
Town of Milford	Town Hall, 52 Main Street, Milford, MA 01757.
Town of Paxton	Town Hall, 697 Pleasant Street, Paxton, MA 01612.
Town of Princeton	Town Hall, 6 Town Hall Drive, Princeton, MA 01541.
Town of Rutland	Town Hall, 250 Main Street, Rutland, MA 01543.
Town of Sterling	Butterick Municipal Building, 1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Worcester County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions)

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Worcester County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions). These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for Worcester County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions). These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfc_main.asp or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

OVERVIEW

SCIENTIFIC RESOLUTION PANELS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through its flood hazard mapping program, Risk MAP (Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning), identifies flood hazards, assesses flood risks, and partners with states, tribes and local communities to provide accurate flood hazard and risk data to guide them in taking effective mitigation actions. The resulting National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps provide the basis for community floodplain management regulations and flood insurance requirements.

What is a Scientific Resolution Panel?

FEMA's Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) process reinforces FEMA's commitment to work with communities to ensure the flood hazard data depicted on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are developed collaboratively, using the best science available.

Flood hazards are constantly changing, and FEMA updates FIRMs through several methods to reflect those changes. When proposed changes to a FIRM are met with conflicting technical and/or scientific data during a regulatory appeal period, an independent third-party review of the information may be appropriate. An SRP serves as an independent third party.

The SRP process benefits both FEMA and the community:

- ▶ It offers a neutral review process by independent third parties.
- ▶ It confirms FEMA's commitment to using the best science for the purpose of accurately depicting flood hazards on flood maps.
- ▶ It provides an additional opportunity for resolving community appeals involving conflicting technical and/or scientific data.

While FEMA had previously established an SRP process, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 formally established a statutory SRP process. The *Appeal and Comment Processing Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping*, which incorporates the legislative requirements for the SRP, is available at www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping.

For Additional Information

For more information on appeals, see the FEMA document *Appeals, Revisions, and Amendments to National Flood Insurance Program Maps: A Guide for Community Officials* at www.fema.gov/flood-maps/change-your-flood-zone/guide-community-members

Part 67 of the NFIP regulations, which pertains to appeals, is available at www.ecfr.gov/current/title-44/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-67

FEMA's Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping webpage includes the *Appeal and Comment Processing Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping*: www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping

Templates and Other Resources:

www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/32786?id=7577

Other Important Links:

- NIBS Scientific Review Panel website: www.floodsrp.org
- Risk MAP: www.fema.gov/flood-maps/tools-resources/risk-map
- Information on Recent and Upcoming Map Changes: www.fema.gov/flood-maps/change-your-flood-zone#lomc
- Flood Insurance: www.floodsmart.gov

RISK MAPPING, ASSESSMENT, AND PLANNING PROGRAM (RISK MAP)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Risk MAP Program delivers quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action to reduce risk to life and property. Risk MAP is a nationwide program that works in collaboration with states, tribes, and local communities using best available science, rigorously vetted standards, and expert analysis to identify risk and promote mitigation action, resulting in safer, more resilient communities.

The Process

To request a review by an SRP, the community's Chief Executive Officer or designee completes an SRP Request Form and submits it to FEMA during the time periods outlined above. Once FEMA confirms that the situation and the conflicting technical and/or scientific data are eligible for an SRP, it forwards the SRP Request Form to NIBS, which will initiate the panel selection process and develop a list of potential members.

Once the panel is convened, panel members are provided with a summary of the issue, FEMA's data, and the data the community submitted during the 90-day appeal period. Panel members review the data and, on a point-by-point basis, deliberate and make a decision based on the scientific and/or technical challenges.

If the community feels it is necessary to make an oral presentation in support of its request, it must include a justification on the SRP Request Form.

Resolution

The panel must present its written report to the community and FEMA within 90 days of being convened, and that report will be used by the FEMA Administrator for making the final determination. A panel determination must be in favor of either FEMA or the community on each distinct element of the dispute, and the panel may not offer any alternative determination as a resolution. In the case of a dispute submitted by the community on behalf of an owner or lessee of real property in the community, the panel determination must be in favor of either FEMA, the community, or the owner/lessee on each distinct element of the dispute.

If changes to the maps are recommended in the panel's determination, and FEMA elects to implement the panel's determination, FEMA will incorporate the changes into a revised Preliminary FIRM and, if appropriate, FIS report. The revised products will be available to the community for review, with a resolution letter, before FEMA issues an LFD.

Once the SRP provides its determination and FEMA issues its resolution letter to implement the recommendations, the SRP recommendations are binding on all appellants and not subject to judicial review.

If the FEMA Administrator elects not to accept the panel's findings, the Administrator will issue a written justification within 60 days of receiving the report from the SRP. Under these circumstances, the appellants maintain their right to appeal FEMA's final determination to the appropriate Federal District Court.