



FEMA

August 17, 2021

Draft DFIRM Notification

Mr. Tim Saxton
Mayor, Town of South Bethany
402 Evergreen Road
South Bethany, Delaware 19930

RE: 30-Day Data Submission Notification

Dear Mayor Saxton:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is currently validating the draft Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) database for the Town of South Bethany, Delaware. Completing this draft database is a significant milestone for the flood risk project, as it concludes the collection and analysis of the project's initial engineering data. These data, developed by FEMA's mapping partner, the Compass PTS JV ("Compass"), provide the best available calculation of where water will collect and flow as well as what wave heights would be in the event of a flood, based on current conditions.

The engineering data will form the basis for mapping the proposed Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) on the DFIRM for your community. A SFHA is an area that is subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood (also called the base flood). Over time, water flow, drainage patterns, and coastal conditions in your area may have changed dramatically due to surface erosion, land use, and other forces. These factors may have increased or decreased the likelihood of flooding in certain areas, which would result in changing SFHA boundaries and types.

Along with the draft DFIRM database, which is available for your community's review at <https://arcg.is/Xv5Gv>, a Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF) viewer to review proposed changes to the regulatory flood map has also been prepared and is available at the same link. You can also request additional/underlying floodplain data by contacting the FEMA Project Officer, Robert Pierson, at Robert.Pierson@fema.dhs.gov. We encourage you to circulate these data as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other potentially interested individuals or organizations in the community, to allow them to thoroughly review the database. However, please note that this data is considered draft/provisional and is subject to change, as it has not yet been through the final reviews or an appeal period.

Your community has 30 days to review the draft DFIRM database and provide additional data to supplement or modify the draft database. Any data you provide must be consistent with prevailing engineering principles. FEMA wants to use the most up-to-date and accurate technical data to develop flood risk products for your community. We rely on your feedback, partnership, and knowledge during this important project to determine the extent of flood risk in your community, in support of your efforts to reduce those risks. We also look forward to working with community officials and other stakeholders in the Town of South Bethany to increase flood risk awareness and reduce the risk to life and property from flooding. Your initial feedback will not affect your community's ability to provide feedback later, or to formally appeal the flood hazard information during a future appeal period.

Please ask questions, send any data, and provide comments on the models selected for this project by September 17, 2021. Contact the FEMA Project Officer, Robert Pierson, PMP, by email at Robert.Pierson@fema.dhs.gov or by telephone (215) 931-5650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki L. Roberts", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nikki L. Roberts, P.E.
Chief, Risk Analysis Branch

cc: Joseph Hinks, Town of South Bethany Floodplain Administrator
Robert Pierson, PMP, Project Officer, FEMA Region III
Michael Powell, Delaware NFIP Coordinator
Jeffrey Smith, P.E., PMP, CFM, The Compass PTS JV