



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CENTRAL OFFICE
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May 12, 2016

The Honorable Lili McMillan
Mayor, City of Orono
2750 Kelley Parkway
Orono, MN 55356

Dear Honorable Mayor McMillan,

HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY

You recently received a letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) dated May 4, 2016, about your floodplain regulations. This letter, known as the Letter of Final Determination (LFD), explains that the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for your community, as well as the Hennepin County Flood Insurance Study, are now complete and will become effective on November 4, 2016 (which is 6 months from the date of the LFD).

This letter is intended to explain the statement in the LFD that “your community is required... to adopt or show evidence of adoption of floodplain management regulations that meet the standards of Paragraph 60.3(d)....by the effective date of the FIRM.” In other words, *your community must amend your floodplain ordinance, or adopt a new ordinance, by November 4, 2016, in order to continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).* The DNR, as the State Coordinating Agency for the NFIP, will be assisting you in this effort.

The DNR will advise your staff as to what type of floodplain ordinance your community should adopt. Matt Bauman, from our office, will be contacting you within the next few weeks with a draft ordinance tailored to your community. I urge you to respond as soon as possible to initiate this process so as to prevent your community from being suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program should you not meet the 6-month deadline.

We strongly encourage your community to complete a draft of a new or revised floodplain ordinance and forward it to Mr. Bauman's attention by August 4, 2016 (the midpoint of the 6-month adoption period). This allows time for our review and approval, for your community to complete the adoption/publication process, and for an adopted/certified copy of the ordinance to be sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Chicago Regional Office by November 4, 2016.

All communities will eventually receive one set of paper copies of the Hennepin County Flood Insurance Study and the respective flood insurance rate map panels from FEMA. Many communities prefer to have the final study/maps available when they initiate the ordinance adoption/amendment process. We anticipate that electronic versions of the final maps will be available within the next month, and we will make them available on our ftp site: ftp://ftp.dnr.state.mn.us/pub/waters/floodplain/County_data/Hennepin/. These posted documents will include pdfs for viewing and printing, as well as shapefiles for GIS.

mndnr.gov



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FEMA has advised us that, without exception, a community will be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program if the required floodplain ordinance documents are not received in its Chicago Regional Office by the study/map effective date. A suspended community may be reinstated if the community: 1) submits the required floodplain ordinance language; and 2) documents that no improper floodplain development has occurred since the study/map effective date or that any improper floodplain development has been properly mitigated. During the suspension period, no flood insurance policies can be written or renewed in the community. This would have a serious impact on people exposed to flood damage or those who are trying to purchase homes in the designated 100-year floodplain, where flood insurance is a requirement of the loan.

While our office in St. Paul will be the main contact for the ordinance update, we will coordinate with DNR Area Hydrologist Kate Drewry of our St. Paul regional office. Ms. Drewry will continue to be your main contact for day-to-day assistance with administering your floodplain management ordinance and for questions about other DNR water-related programs and permits. Please feel free to contact Ms. Drewry at any time at (651) 259-5753 or kate.drewry@state.mn.us. If you have questions for me, you may contact me at the address in the footer of page one, at (651) 259-5713, or at ceil.strauss@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Ceil Strauss, CFM
State Coordinator, National Flood Insurance Program

ec: Melanie Curtis, City Planner
Terri Yearwood, DNR Eco-Waters' Regional Manager
Jeanne Daniels, DNR Eco-Waters' District Manager
Kate Drewry, Area Hydrologist