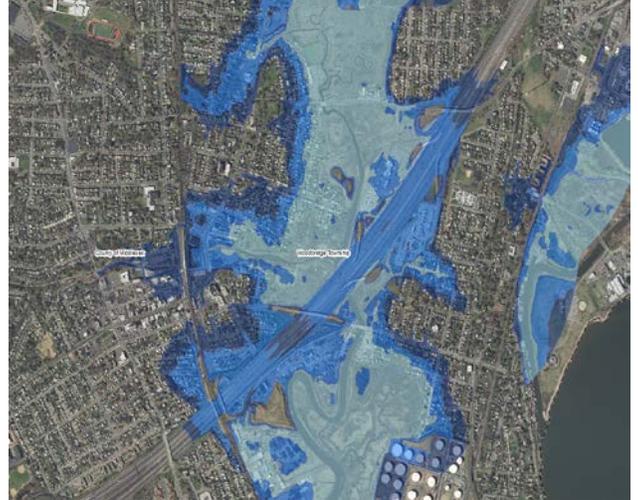


FEMA, NFIP & Flood Insurance Mapping Reform

The statutory authority for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will expire on September 30, 2017. NFIP remains \$24 billion in debt to U.S. taxpayers and hasn't repaid any principal on its loans since 2010. Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Act in 2012 and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act in 2014 to begin NFIP reform. Further legislation is needed in the next reauthorization to improve the surveying and mapping data needed to provide more accuracy and solvency in the program and fairer premiums for homeowners.

Flood maps identify areas at greatest risk of flooding and provide the foundation for NFIP. Accurate geospatial information is essential to all aspects of flood insurance risk assessment and emergency management (preparedness, prevention, protection, detection, response, recovery). Imagery, map data and other geospatial assets are of most critical value in emergency response during the initial hours and days immediately before and following a hurricane, flood or other disaster. These data can be an effective, efficient and a life-saving tool. In addition, accurate geospatial data facilitates the engineering analysis to perform risk identification and risk assessment. To further improve the nation's flood insurance program, protect homeowners, and help reduce the taxpayers' financial risk, MAPPS and NSPS recommend a number of surveying and mapping (geospatial) reforms --



- Given that elevation data from USGS for flood maps is on average 35 years old, the USGS 3D Elevation program (3DEP) should be designated as the inter-agency, intergovernmental funding pool to collect and maintain elevation data for flood maps and a variety of other national priority applications. Dedicated funding will enable USGS, FEMA and other cooperators to keep elevation map data current on an 8-year repeat cycle. For more information on 3DEP see the e-book at: www.3dep4america.com.

- Create a National Structure Inventory to aid in flood mapping and engineering, as well as benefit FEMA, first responders and other related agencies providing reliable, accurate data to streamline structure, infrastructure and safety assessments, including response and recovery time, as well as accurate pre and post disaster structure risk assessment and assessment values; simplify the sale, rating and processing of flood insurance; create a cost effective, efficient and accurate structure and infrastructure inventory providing our nation a single platform of flood mapping assessments and inventory.

- Include address and parcel data to permit the integration of address information with structure/parcel information in flood insurance processing and emergency response; to enhance data available for insurance rating; to permit first responders' access to data for life saving activities in a declared emergency.

- Strengthen the USGS National Streamflow Information Program. The USGS streamflow network is critical to the NFIP and flood risk mapping and assessment. Maintaining a dense network operational, updating the hardware, reactivating critical gaging stations, and increasing the geospatial real-time data feeds, should all be supported in the framework of the NFIP reauthorization.

- FEMA should assure maps are compliant with the NGS National Spatial Reference System 2022; establish national, geo-enabled, web access to maps, similar to North Carolina (<http://fris.nc.gov/fris/>); and assure that qualifications based selection (QBS) contracting be utilized for all surveying and mapping services.

ACTION REQUESTED:

MAPPS and NSPS respectfully urge members of Congress to sponsor/cosponsor legislation making technical reforms to the flood maps. Representatives are asked to cosponsor the bill to be introduced by Rep. Mooney of West Virginia. To cosponsor, contact Brian Chatwin of Rep. Mooney's office at 5-2711. Senators are asked to sponsor of cosponsor a companion to this bill. For more information, contact John Byrd, MAPPS and NSPS Government Affairs Manager, at jbyrd@jmpa.us or (703) 787-6665.