

Update on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is moving forward with finalizing preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that show revised flood hazards for coastal communities in Rockingham County, including Newington. The preliminary FIRMs were originally issued in 2014, with several revised preliminary map panels issued in 2016. The statutory appeal period required for the maps has been completed and all received appeals and comments resolved.

The next step in the process would be the issuance of a Letter of Final Determination (LFD), which is a letter sent by FEMA to all communities in the project area stating when the preliminary maps will become effective. An LFD from FEMA is expected to be issued in Spring 2019. The preliminary FIRM will become effective six months from the date of the LFD. At present, it is estimated that the preliminary FIRM for all coastal communities in Rockingham County will become effective in late 2019. The new coastal maps will update the current 2005 Rockingham County maps and Flood Insurance Study. The NH Office of Strategic Initiatives (formerly the NH OEP) will be in contact with all the communities when the Letter of Final Determination is issued and will assist to prepare the Towns for map adoption.

If a property owner believes that his / her property should not be identified as being in the flood prone area, they can prepare a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) and submit it to FEMA. Technical assistance from a land surveyor or other land use specialist is normally required when preparing a LOMA request. See the attachment on LOMA. [the link to the attachment.](#)