



FEMA

Date: October ,1 2010  
No: 10-01  
Contact: Dennis Pinkham  
Phone: 617-956-7547

# Press Release

## FEMA Offers New Approach to Flood Mapping

**BOSTON** – FEMA Region I announced today a new initiative aimed at improving the Flood Mapping process in York and Cumberland Counties in Maine. Working closely with the Maine Congressional delegation, FEMA Headquarters in Washington and stakeholders in York and Cumberland Counties, FEMA has consistently recognized the need for close collaboration on this important project.

FEMA has proposed that the stakeholders convert to a new program known as Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP). This new program provides communities with flood information and tools they can use to enhance their mitigation plans and better protect their citizens. Through more accurate flood maps, risk assessment tools and outreach support, Risk MAP builds on Map Modernization and strengthens local ability to make informed decisions about reducing risk.

Working in close collaboration with the affected communities who have agreed in principle to review the transition to Risk MAP, FEMA will now withdraw the current proposed maps and terminate the current appeal process. The affected local governments will now be asked to co-sign a “Project Charter” and FEMA will work closely with these communities to improve the current preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps incorporating all available data. FEMA will then reissue the improved maps as a part of a new appeal process.

Through collaboration with State, Tribal and local entities, Risk MAP will deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property. Risk MAP will focus on products and services beyond the traditional Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). FEMA will work with officials to help use flood risk data and tools to effectively communicate risk to citizens and enable communities to enhance their corresponding mitigation plans.

This process involves increased collaboration and improved information sharing in the production of new flood maps and will allow FEMA to address any appropriate issues in the appeals process that will follow. Risk MAP will deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action reduces risk to life and property.

###

*“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”*