

The Flood Record

September 2020

Welcome to the First Issue of The Flood Record

This new quarterly newsletter will focus on how to help you with your role in floodplain management. The articles will address topics such as:

- local permitting
- state floodway permitting
- new floodplain mapping
- flood insurance
- FEMA technical bulletins
- Community Rating System

Our target audiences are the local official that manages a communities' floodplain regulations, as well as anyone involved in floodplain management at the local, township, county, regional and state levels. The information in this letter will also benefit planners, surveyors, engineers, insurance agents, and realtors. Please forward this newsletter to anyone in your community that would benefit from this information. If you wish to receive a copy, send your e-mail address to Marilyn Sucoe at marilyn.sucoe@illinois.gov.

Help us keep our local official e-mail addresses accurate. Send any contact updates to Marilyn Sucoe at marilyn.sucoe@illinois.gov.

Where do I go for help now that Paul retired?

If you haven't heard, Paul Osman retired at the end of August, after 30 years with the state. Over those years, Paul has answered your questions, taken a final look at permits, worked with you on violations, and helped with post-flood damages assessments. Although no one can replace Paul, you can now direct your questions to Marilyn Sucoe at Marilyn.sucoe@illinois.gov or 847.608.3181.

Marilyn has worked for the state for 2 years in the Bartlett office. She has over 30 years of floodplain management experience. She has worked as a local floodplain administrator, managed a flood buyout grant, and has extensive experience with the Community Rating System program.

If you have questions related to a state floodway permits, in the six Northeastern Illinois counties call the 847/608-3116. For the remainder of the state, please call the Downstate Regulatory Programs at 217/524-1458.

New FEMA Contact

Ashley Reimann is the new primary contact for Illinois communities for FEMA-related floodplain management questions or concerns. Ashley has worked at FEMA for one year prior to taking on this new role. She has previous experience working in local community development and building code research and reform.

Ashley can be reached at Ashley.reimann@fema.dhs.gov or (312) 841-2816.

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FEMA's website – Where is everything?

If you have tried to find a Technical Bulletin or another FEMA guide, you may be having trouble on the new FEMA website. Try using FEMA's [Building Sciences – Flood Publications](#) page and the search tool.

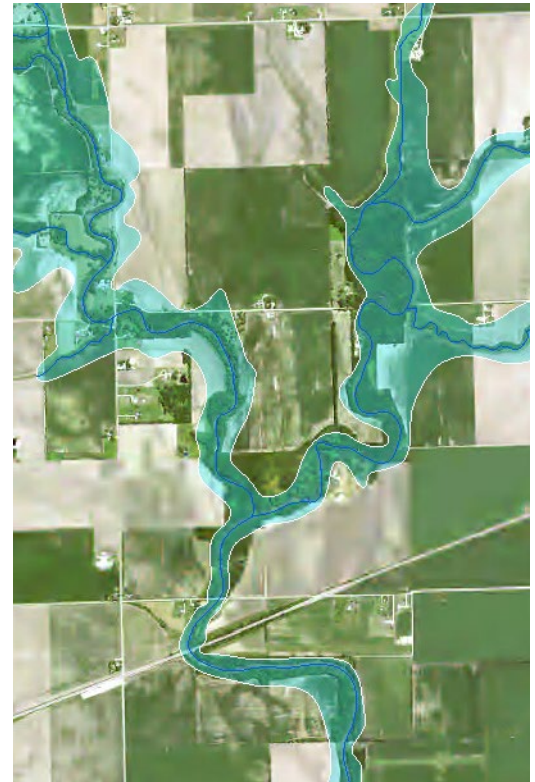
When Is a State Floodway Permit Required?

A state floodway permit is generally required when any development occurs in and along the lakes, rivers and streams of the state. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) specifically has jurisdiction over BOTH:

- mapped or designated floodways in a Zone AE floodplain **and**
- unmapped floodways in a Zone A floodplain

when the drainage area in an urban area is 1 square mile or more or in a rural area is 10 square miles or more.

An individual permit is required unless the development can meet the conditions of one of the [Statewide permits or Regional Permit No. 3](#). These permits are meant to cover routine, minor construction activities such as overhead and underground utility crossings, small boat docks, bridge and culvert replacement, and streambank stabilization. As a floodplain administrator you can review the project and if it meets the special conditions listed, you can issue the local permit without state approval.



IEMA Announces Pre-Application Deadline for FEMA Grants/BRIC & FMA

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to help local governments fund hazard mitigation projects as a way to reduce a community's risks for disasters and other hazards. [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#) and [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) are both nationally competitive grant programs that are submitted through IEMA, but funded through FEMA.

To be considered for the BRIC and FMA grant programs, local jurisdictions must submit the required [pre-application form](#). All pre-application forms must be submitted to IEMA at ema.mitigation@illinois.gov no later than **September 30, 2020**. Applicants with additional questions can also contact the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Sam Al-Basha, at 217-785-9942.

The FMA grant can be used to fund projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damages to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. In order to qualify for the FMA grant, local governments must have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. In federal fiscal year 2020, there is \$160 million available through this nationally competitive grant program. For FMA, further information is available in the NOFO: [DHS-20-MT-029-000-99](#) and [FMA Fact Sheet](#).

The BRIC grant can be used for capacity-building, enabling innovation, promoting partnerships. The program aims to reduce overall risk to the population and structures through mitigation, while at the same time reducing reliance on federal funding from Stafford Act disaster declarations. The BRIC grant can be used to fund mitigation measures for all hazards. BRIC grants can also be used to help fund Hazard Mitigation Plans, which are a necessary component for many federal grant programs. In federal fiscal year 2020, there will be \$500 million available through this nationally competitive grant program. For BRIC, further information is available in the NOFO: [DHS-20-MT-047-00-99](#) and [BRIC Fact Sheet](#).



“Actions You Can Take to Protect a Flood-Prone House or Business with a Crawlspace”

The ASFPM Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee recently prepared and released a guide for reducing flood damage and flood risk to homes and businesses containing a crawlspace. This guide provides a step-by-step decision-making process for home owners and business owners who want to reduce their exposure to flood damage and potentially lower their flood insurance premiums.

While it is advisable for residents to consult with the local floodplain management administrator on regulatory and flood insurance requirements, this guide is intended to provide basic flood risk reduction advice for structures containing a crawlspace.

This guide can be found and downloaded from the [ASFPM Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee webpage](#).

Floodplain Mapping in Illinois

Of Illinois’ 102 counties, the majority have modern, digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that can be viewed from your computer on FEMA’s National Flood Hazard Layer. However, 23 counties still have paper only maps!

The Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) and IDNR/Office of Water Resources are working with FEMA to achieve statewide digital flood hazard mapping. The map shows the status of countywide mapping projects in Illinois as of August 2020. Flood studies are in progress in 12 counties, which is just the first step toward preparing updated maps. Information about current projects can be found at <https://www.illinoisfloodmaps.org/>.

When an area is rapidly urbanizing or a new flood risk is mapped, this mapping is issued as a Physical Map Revision. Information on the river basins that are being studied can be found on the [ISWS’s Destined for DFIRMs](#) webpage.

You can help the mapping effort. Input from zoning administrators, floodplain managers, emergency managers, engineers, and other community leaders is essential to produce the best and most accurate information. Communities are sent a letter and asked for their input as the initial plans for new maps are being prepared. Once initial studies are complete, communities are given the information and again asked to review and comment. After community comments are resolved, Preliminary Maps are issued and the formal comment and appeals periods are held as we move toward final products. **Please take the time to review and comment on the mapping to help us develop the best maps for your community.**

The Flood Record is issued four times per year with the support of a FEMA Community Assistance Program – State Support Service Element grant. If you have ideas or requests for topics to be covered in future editions, please e-mail [Marilyn Sucoe](mailto:Marilyn.Sucoe).

