



**FEMA**

October 19, 2016

The Honorable Paul Montinieri, Mayor  
Town of Wethersfield  
Town Hall  
505 Silas Deane Highway  
Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109

**RECEIVED**

OCT 24 2016

Town of Wethersfield  
Engineering Division

Subject: Town of Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut  
Community No.: 090040

Dear Mayor Montinieri:

I am writing about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) upcoming Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) Discovery Meeting for the Lower Connecticut Watershed in central Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts. This Discovery Meeting is being coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in partnership with FEMA. The Lower Connecticut Watershed is the 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) 01080205. Rivers in the watershed that could be potentially discussed include major rivers such as Back, Blackledge, Coginchaug, Connecticut, Deep, Duck, East Branch Eightmile, Eightmile, Falls, Green, Hockanum, Jeremy, Lieutenant, Mattabesset, Mill, Moodus, Mud, North Branch Mill, North Branch Park, Park, Podunk, Salmon, Scantic, South Branch Mill, South Branch Park, South Fork Hockanum, Tankerhoosen, and Westfield Rivers, as well as other smaller rivers and tributaries in the watershed. A watershed map is available for download at the following website:

[http://newengland.water.usgs.gov/fema\\_lower\\_connecticut](http://newengland.water.usgs.gov/fema_lower_connecticut)

Risk MAP is a new FEMA program that helps communities identify, assess, and reduce their flood risk. By combining quality engineering with updated flood hazard data, FEMA provides accurate and easy-to-use information to enhance local mitigation plans, improve community outreach, and increase local awareness to flood hazards.

The Discovery process commences at the beginning of a Risk MAP project and assists in identifying the scope of the watershed study. The Discovery Meeting is part of the Discovery process, and the information exchanged between FEMA and communities within the Lower Connecticut Watershed during Discovery will improve our understanding of your watershed's flood hazard mapping and mitigation planning. During Discovery, FEMA gathers information about local flood risk and flood hazards and reviews mitigation plans to understand local mitigation capabilities, hazard risk assessments, and current or future mitigation activities. A Community Information Sheet and a Community Information Map for your community - listing and displaying data and comments that we have collected from you during previous mapping efforts - are available for download at the website listed above.

Two Discovery Meetings are scheduled for the Lower Connecticut Watershed:

- Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 9:30 AM, Haddam Firehouse, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum, CT 06441
- Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 1:30 PM, Council Chambers, South Windsor Town Hall, 1540 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, CT 06074

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Both meetings have identical content, and you may attend either one.

Also, Discovery efforts are commencing simultaneously in two neighboring watersheds: the Shetucket Watershed (HUC 01100002) and the Thames Watershed (HUC 01100003). If your community also touches either of these two watersheds, you will also receive invitations to Discovery Meeting(s) for that watershed. The content of the meetings for all three watersheds will be very similar, so you do not need to attend more than one meeting, though you are welcome to attend all meetings that pertain to watersheds in your community.

Please RSVP to Liz Ahearn, the USGS Project Manager for the Lower Connecticut Watershed Discovery Meeting, by e-mail ([eaahearn@usgs.gov](mailto:eaahearn@usgs.gov)) or by calling (860) 291-6745.

At the Discovery Meeting, we will review the flood risk data we have gathered to date by presenting a draft Discovery Map and Discovery Report. We will also discuss your community's flooding history, flood risk concerns and mitigation. Any data or information that you can provide will aid in this discussion.

In addition to inviting community leaders, emergency managers, GIS specialists, and local planners to the Discovery Meeting, FEMA will invite other stakeholders with a vested interest in the Lower Connecticut Watershed's resources, floodplains, and flood risk. This may include representatives from State, Federal, regional, and local agencies and associations. Together, we will discuss the study that will be conducted in the Lower Connecticut Watershed, any information you have to provide, and the importance of mitigation planning and community outreach.

We encourage you and/or any other relevant floodplain management staff to attend this important meeting. The partnership and exchange of data between FEMA and your community will be vital to our success in identifying flood risks and needs that may exist. If there are any data related to your community's flood risk that you have not yet provided to us, but that you would like to have taken into consideration when reviewing your flood risk, please bring it to the meeting or send it to the following address:

Liz Ahearn  
U.S. Geological Survey  
101 Pitkin Street  
East Hartford, CT 06108

Additionally, we have an online questionnaire regarding data related to the Discovery Meeting. Please complete the questionnaire at the following website:

[http://newengland.water.usgs.gov/fema\\_lower\\_connecticut](http://newengland.water.usgs.gov/fema_lower_connecticut)

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If you have any questions regarding the Discovery process, the scheduled Discovery Meeting or the data requested, please contact Liz Ahearn, Project Manager, by e-mail ([eaahearn@usgs.gov](mailto:eaahearn@usgs.gov)) or by calling (860) 291-6745. Also available to answer any questions is Kerry Bogdan, Senior Engineer, FEMA Region I, at (617) 956-7576 or [kerry.bogdan@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:kerry.bogdan@fema.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

**MARILYN**

**HILLIARD**

Marilyn Hilliard

Risk Analysis Branch Chief

Mitigation Division

FEMA Region I

Digitally signed by MARILYN HILLIARD  
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,  
ou=Department of Homeland Security,  
ou=FEMA, ou=People, cn=MARILYN  
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Date: 2016.10.20 09:15:33 -0400'

cc: Derrick Gregor, Town Engineer, Town of Wethersfield  
Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Town of Wethersfield  
Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, Town of Wethersfield  
Anthony Dignot, Fire Marshall, Town of Wethersfield  
Fauna Eller, Assessor, Town of Wethersfield  
James Ritter, Director, Department of Emergency Management, Town of Wethersfield  
Steve Lattarulo, Chief Building Official, Town of Wethersfield  
Diane Ifkovic, State NFIP Coordinator, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Karen Michaels, State RiskMAP Coordinator, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Gemma Fabris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Lyle Wray, Executive Director, Capital Region Council of Governments  
Kerry Bogdan, Senior Engineer, FEMA Region I  
Liz Ahearn, Project Manager, U.S. Geological Survey