



**FEMA**

May 4, 2017

Sheila Noll, Chairman  
York County  
224 Ballard Street  
Yorktown, Virginia 23690

Municipality: York County, VA  
Planning District: Hampton Roads  
Adoption Date: March 21, 2017  
Date Approved: May 1, 2017  
Expiration Date: April 30, 2022

Re: Hazard Mitigation Plan Approval

Dear Chairman Noll:

The Hazard Mitigation Plan for your community has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Your community is now eligible to apply for federal disaster assistance until the plan expires.

The plan was reviewed and approved based on the criteria contained in 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 201, as authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). These criteria address the planning process, risk assessment (including hazard identification), mitigation strategy and plan maintenance process requirements. Enclosed is a list of specific recommendations for improving the plan. FEMA encourages communities to improve and update their plans as well as take mitigation actions by implementing strategies within the plan. Some resources to assist you include:

Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards  
<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=6938>

Integrating Hazard Mitigation Into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for  
Community Officials <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7130>

If you have questions, please contact Robbie Coates, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at (804) 897-9766. I commend you for your dedication demonstrated in preparing and adopting a strategy to reduce future disaster losses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Gruber", written over a horizontal line.

Eugene K. Gruber, P.E.  
Director, Mitigation Division

Enclosure

cc: Robbie Coates, State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
Stephen P. Kopczyński, York County Department of Emergency Management

*Handwritten notes:*  
10/10/17  
10/10/17

# Recommendations for Future Improvements

## Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

for

York County, VA

*Plan Approval Date: 5/1/2017*

1. The committee should consider the use of social media sources to promote public awareness of the plan, and seek public comments through these media sources.
2. The planning committee should be increased to include other community organizations and interest such as watershed organizations, business owners, and other entities to provide additional information when the plan is updated next.
3. The lead for the updated plan should attempt to gain more participation from the many stakeholders involved in the planning process. More specifically, attendance by jurisdictions should be improved at committee meetings.
4. The planning team needs to provide specific information on how each jurisdiction participated in the updating of the plan, as well as providing specific information on what they provided for the updated plan.
5. The updated plan should include any documentation of the committee meetings that occurred during the five years of the plan.
6. The updated plan should include any data developed in the five years since the plan was last updated. Information could include lowest floor elevation of vulnerable structures, and other information that could be used in mitigation grant applications. This information could be kept as an appendix to the plan.
7. The updated plan needs to clearly document the status of any mitigation actions that have taken place during the five years of the plan. The committee should consider a narrative that celebrates the success of mitigation in the community.
8. The updated plan should include information on specific projects that the jurisdiction would like to implement. This information could be placed in an appendix that includes specific information on structures. Due to its sensitive nature, this information would not be considered public information, but would be provided to the State and Federal governments.
9. When the plan is updated next, a better integration with existing planning mechanisms needs to be included. For example, the County comprehensive plan should be analyzed to determine how this all hazard Mitigation Plan can be incorporated into that existing planning mechanism and how the comprehensive plan can be incorporated into the local hazard Mitigation Plan.

In the next plan update, the plan should include more in-depth information on how the NFIP is managed in each of the jurisdictions. Examples could include: process to ensure new construction is compliant with the local floodplain ordinances; how residents are assisted in mapping issues and how substantially damaged structures are managed to ensure compliance with the latest floodplain ordinance.