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615 Chestnut Street, 6th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404



FEMA

May 25, 2022

Debbie Messmer
State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
9711 Farrar Court
North Chesterfield, Virginia 23236

Dear Debbie Messmer:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed our review of the Hampton Roads PDC Hazard Mitigation Plan, based on the standards contained in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 201, as authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). These criteria address the planning process, hazard identification and risk assessment, mitigation strategies and plan maintenance requirements.

The plan received a “satisfactory” rating for all required criteria and is approvable pending adoption. However, prior to formal approval, each participating jurisdiction covered under the Hampton Roads PDC Hazard Mitigation Plan is required to provide FEMA with a resolution of adoption.

We commend you for your dedication demonstrated in supporting the DMA2K and your commitment to reduce future disaster losses. If you have questions, please contact me at (215) 931-5532.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Wolfe".


Sarah Wolfe, Branch Chief
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch
FEMA Region 3

Enclosure:

cc: Christopher Bruce, All-Hazards Planner, Region 3, VDEM
John Sadler, Emergency Management Administrator, Hampton Roads Planning District
Commission


Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool Annex


Recommendations for Improvement

Jurisdiction: Hampton Roads PDC		Title of Plan: Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan		Date of Plan: 2022	
Element A: Planning Process					
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Where available, local plans should be integrated into the mitigation plan and vice versa. This should be described in more depth in the next plan.		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The next plan should describe the results of the yearly plan maintenance meetings described in the plan. The same process was described in the previous plan with limited discussion of that process in this plan.		
Element B: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment					
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provide more information about “Relative Social Vulnerability in the Study Area” to describe areas that have High or Relatively High Social Vulnerability since the map scale covers the entire region, making it difficult to distinguish those areas. It is recommended to create larger scale maps to better indicate location for flooding and coastal erosion/landslides. At the current scale, floodplains and hazardous areas are impossible to discern.		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Risk and Vulnerability Assessment needs to be reviewed for readability and consistency, particularly the description of the methodology of the vulnerability assessment. It should be revised so that a lay person can get a general understanding of what the author of the plan is trying to convey.		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Add narrative to the HMP describing explicitly how the Virginia state dam safety agency (Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation)—such as Mark Kilgore, a VADCR Dam Safety Engineer and member of this plan’s Hazard Mitigation Planning Steering Committee—coordinated with the jurisdiction and/or other local dam owners throughout the planning process.		
Element C: Mitigation Strategy					
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For all jurisdictions within the planning area, include detailed information on how participating communities manage the NFIP to ensure compliance with the local floodplain ordinance. Each floodplain manager should complete the NFIP Survey to identify how their communities are continuing to comply with floodplain requirements and regulations.		

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Recommendations for Improvement

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Increase community-level interactions and risk-based discussions, by improving descriptions and connections between the outcome of the risk assessment/vulnerability analysis with non-regulatory Flood Risk Products and the mitigation strategy. Content should flow from problem identification (risk/vulnerability) to mitigation strategy (goals/objectives/actions).</p> <p>The revised plan should describe the systems or processes in place whereby local plans, ordinances, and programs are in place for a town but managed by the county</p>
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Element D: Plan Review, Evaluation, and Implementation		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Utilize the 5-Year Planning Wheel, which reflects the continuous development, implementation and enhancement of your Hazard Mitigation Plan.</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Submit annual progress reviews and plan discussion to state and FEMA</p>
Additional Comments		

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Recommendations for Improvement

	☒	HHPD2 and HHPD4: Add narrative explaining how vulnerable populations in Washington County are impacted by HHPD dam risk, or add a mitigation action to collect and analyze data to determine dam risk impacts to vulnerable populations throughout the county for the purpose of integrating the information into county plans (such as the hazard mitigation plan) to inform decision-making.
	☒	Obtain the latest version of the FEMA: Region 3 High Hazard Potential Dams State and Local Mitigation Planning Tips Resource from FEMA Region 3 and/or State staff and use it to inform the development of the next plan update or ammendment.

