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# A Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan for the Non-Tidal N.J. Section of the Delaware River Basin

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*Delaware River Flood of April 2005, Stockton, N.J.*

## **Objective:**

The formation of a multi-agency (NJOEM, DRBC and NJDEP) and local planning effort that results in the development and local adoption of a multi-jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan for a portion of the Delaware River Basin.

## **Goal:**

To make the Delaware River Basin more disaster resistant by reducing the long-term risks to loss of life and property damage from flooding. The aim is to build sustainable communities that, when confronted by a natural disaster, will sustain fewer losses and recover more quickly.

## **Introduction to the DRBC:**

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was formed in 1961 by the signatory parties to the Delaware River Basin Compact (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the United States) to share the responsibility of managing the water resources of the Basin. Commission programs include water quality protection, water supply allocation, regulatory review, water conservation initiatives, watershed planning, flood loss reduction and recreation.

## **Products/Services to be Provided:**

- Flood hazard identification and vulnerability assessment (HAZUS)
- Analysis of flood insurance claims and repetitive loss properties
- Historic flood damage costs by county and municipal damage areas
- Basin-scale mitigation strategies and priorities
- Compendium of local mitigation strategies
- DRBC Flood Mitigation Website to disseminate products and planning tools
- Planning Workshops led by NJOEM
- Facilitation of two meetings per county with municipalities
- Draft/Compile Final Plan



*April 2005, Lambertville, NJ.*

### **Importance of Local Participation:**

Participation by the counties and municipalities in the planning process is crucial for the successful development of a Flood Mitigation Plan that contains mitigation actions able to be implemented in the future.

Participation by the counties and municipalities is also required by FEMA in order for the jurisdiction to be eligible to adopt the multi-jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan.

### **Responsibilities of Participating Municipalities:**

- Form a local flood mitigation planning team
- Document local planning process
- Complete questionnaires identifying critical facilities and flood prone areas
- Publish notice of the municipality's intent to prepare a Flood Mitigation Plan to encourage public participation
- Distribute a questionnaire to residents known to be in the flood prone areas
- Allow time for comment at two public meetings
- Collect and summarize questionnaires and public comments
- Compose a list of community goals and desired local mitigation actions (include estimated costs, organization responsible for implementation, implementation schedule, overall priority and potential funding sources)

### **Responsibilities of County Officials:**

- Community outreach to encourage municipal participation
- Collect and review the goals and desired mitigation actions of each municipality and present the collected information in a designated format to the DRBC for inclusion in the plan
- Document the county-level planning process
- Identify county critical facilities and unique flooding hazards
- Develop a list of county-level desired mitigation actions (include estimated costs, organization responsible for implementation, schedule, overall priority and potential funding sources)
- Allow time for public comment



*April 2005, Lambertville, NJ.*