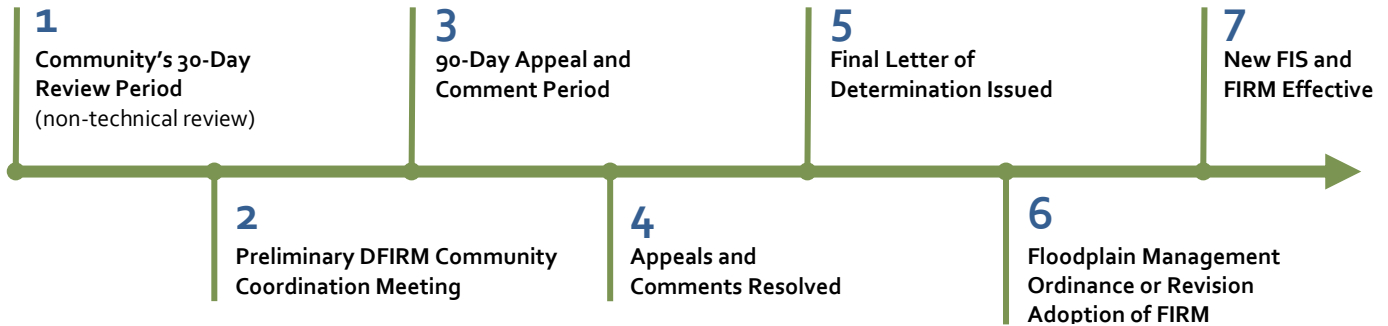


# TIMELINE FOR FLOOD MAP ADOPTION



## 1. COMMUNITY'S 30-DAY REVIEW PERIOD OF PRELIMINARY FLOOD MAP

Your community has 30 days to review the preliminary digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report. Please send corrections or additions of all non-technical information to Joe Martinenza, Program Manager-Floodplain Unit, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1152 East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. His email is [Joseph.Martinenza@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Joseph.Martinenza@dnr.ga.gov). Examples of non-technical information include corporate limits, road names, and stream labels.

## 2. PRELIMINARY DFIRM COMMUNITY COORDINATION (PDCC) MEETING

After the community's 30-day review, Georgia DNR and FEMA, along with the study contractor, will organize an in-person or virtual PDCC Meeting and invite local community and county officials as well as other identified key stakeholders. The purpose of the PDCC Meeting is to present the preliminary FIRM panels, discuss the process and timeline, and answer any questions before the information is presented to the public. The community is encouraged to then hold a public meeting for the residents and business owners to see if and how their flood risk has changed and learn what options and resources are available. Meeting notices may be placed on your local government's website, published in local newspapers, and announced on radio and television stations, as appropriate.

## 3. THE 90-DAY APPEAL AND COMMENT PROCESS

FEMA will publish the proposed Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) twice in the legal advertisements of the local newspapers, usually within one week of each other. The notice is also published in the Federal Register. After the second publication of the notice in the local newspaper, the 90-day appeal period begins. By statute, FEMA provides a formal 90-day appeal period whenever BFEs are proposed for a community. The document, [Appeals and Comments: Required Support Data and Documentation for Community Officials](#), provides comprehensive review guidance. There are two procedures that the community or other interested parties may use to refute the data shown on the Preliminary FIRM and FIS report after their review:

### Who Should Communities Inform That a Preliminary Flood Map Was Issued?

**THE PUBLIC!** The primary concern should be to inform your residents that a FIRM was issued that may affect their property and make it necessary for them to purchase flood insurance once the FIRM becomes effective.

**INSURANCE AGENTS, LENDERS, REALTORS, AND BUILDERS** are also affected by changes to FIRMs. We encourage you to contact the local chapters of the groups below along with other local organizations and inform them that FEMA, in partnership with the State of Georgia, has issued a preliminary FIRM affecting your community.

- Independent Insurance Agents of Georgia: [www.iiag.org](http://www.iiag.org)
- Professional Insurance Agents of Georgia: [www.piasouth.com](http://www.piasouth.com)
- Home Builders Association of Georgia: [www.hbag.org](http://www.hbag.org)
- Mortgage Bankers Association of Georgia: [www.mbag.org](http://www.mbag.org)
- Community Bankers Association of Georgia: [www.cbaofga.com](http://www.cbaofga.com)
- Georgia Association of Realtors: [www.garealtor.com](http://www.garealtor.com)

## The Appeal Process

**Technical and/or scientific data** to support an appeal of the proposed BFEs/Base Flood Depths or any changes in the Special Flood Hazard Area boundary, floodway delineation, or zone designation may be submitted to show the data is scientifically or technically incorrect. Types of scientific or technical errors include:

- Methodology used was inappropriate;
- Assumption within the analysis is inappropriate or incorrect;
- Error in the analysis or its application; and
- Data incorrect.

Topographic maps or other ground elevation data of greater detail than those used by FEMA to show more recent topographic conditions may be submitted. All maps and other supporting data submitted must be certified by a registered professional engineer or licensed land surveyor and must reflect existing conditions.

The basis of formal appeals is provided along with the data needed to support it in FEMA's Appeal and Comment Processing guidance found online at: [www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/Appeal Comment Processing Guidance Feb 2019.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/Appeal%20Comment%20Processing%20Guidance%20Feb%202019.pdf). All appeals are submitted to the **Chief Executive Officer of the community** during the 90-day appeal/ comment period.

## The Comment Process

**Non-technical data** proposed changes are submitted to the **Chief Executive Officer of the community** during the 90-day appeal/ comment period. Non-technical data include base map errors, corporate limit revisions, and road location and name revisions.

It is then the community's responsibility to forward the appeal or comment petitions, all supporting documentation, and the community's statement of support or non-support for the appeal or comment to the State Floodplain Management Office. If an appeal or comment is received, three different letters may be sent to the community:

1. An Acknowledgement Letter, notifying the community that the State received an appeal or comment.
2. An Appeal Resolution Letter, containing the decision of the appeal.
3. A Revised Preliminary Transmittal Letter, disseminating a revised preliminary FIRM when necessary.

## 4-7. LETTER OF FINAL DETERMINATION AND SIX-MONTH COMPLIANCE PERIOD

After all appeals and comments are resolved, a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) is sent to the community stating that the new FIRM and FIS report will be effective approximately six (6) months later. This initiates the six-month Compliance Period during which the community must adopt, update, or revise its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Georgia Floodplain Management Office will provide the State's **model** ordinance for review and guidance and assist in the community's adoption process. After adoption of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance or its revisions, as appropriate, the ordinance must be submitted for approval to the Georgia Floodplain Management Office. Joe Martinenza, State Floodplain Management Coordinator, will notify FEMA that the community is compliant. If FEMA does not receive compliance notification, the community will receive the following letters:

- A 90-day Suspension Letter, sent approximately three (3) months before the preliminary FIRM becomes effective.
- A 30-day Suspension Letter, sent approximately one (1) month before the preliminary FIRM becomes effective.

If appropriate action is not completed to adopt a new or revised Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance including the adoption of the FIRM and FIS report, the community will be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Suspension of a participating community occurs when the community fails to adopt an adequate ordinance or solve its compliance problems. If suspended, no new federal flood insurance policies can be written, existing federal flood insurance policies cannot be renewed, and the community will not be a participant in the NFIP.

**NOTE:** It is very important for the community to maintain one or more sets of the older FIRM and FIS reports for future reference.