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GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF ENERGY AND PLANNING

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www.nh.gov/oep

October 1, 2014

Mr. Bruce Hodson
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Town of Madbury
13 Town Hall Road
Madbury, NH 03823-7502

Dear Mr. Hodson:

As you may recall, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent your community a letter dated April 9, 2014, regarding the preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Rockingham and Strafford counties. FEMA also held two community coordination meetings on May 8, 2014 to review these maps and the FIS.

Whenever new maps are produced by FEMA, the agency requires that communities who are members of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) have ordinances that are fully compliant with the NFIP regulations. As the lead agency for the NFIP, FEMA has requested that the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) conduct a "compliance review" of your current floodplain management regulations. We have completed this review and will be forwarding the results of our review electronically to Fritz Green/fritz.green.bari@gmail.com.

We are sending the results electronically to more easily prepare the ordinance amendments for your 2015 Town Meeting. The results detail the floodplain ordinance amendments to be proposed and, if needed, the amendments to the floodplain regulations in your community's subdivision and site plan review regulations.

By adopting the amendments at the 2015 Town Meeting, your community will remain eligible to participate in the NFIP once the new maps become effective in Fall 2015. Any needed amendments to the town's subdivision and site plan regulations can be done at any time by the Planning Board prior to the maps' effective date. Our goal is to keep you enrolled in the program and not risk suspension so we will do all we can to assist you in this process.

At this time, you do not need to be concerned with adoption of the new maps. OEP will be back in touch with your community to help you through the process of adopting the new maps at a later date. For now, you need to be concerned with preparing the appropriate amendments to your ordinance and to your regulations, if needed. As with

any amendments to an ordinance, we recommend that you also check with your town's attorney on these changes.

Also enclosed is information about one of the many additional floodplain regulations to consider for adoption to further strengthen floodplain management in your community. Freeboard is a term used in reference to the requirement that the lowest floor of a structure be elevated a certain number of feet above the base flood elevation. The enforcement of freeboard requirements can both further reduce risk to a structure and insurance premiums for property owners. More information about additional floodplain regulations can be found on OEP's web site at: <http://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/programs/fmp/community.htm>.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed amendments or the amendment process, please contact me at 603-271-1762 or Jennifer.gilbert@nh.gov.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Gilbert
Senior Planner
NH Floodplain Management Coordinator

cc: Fritz Green, Planning Board Chair
Eric Fiegenbaum, Administrative Assistant (email only)
Justin Corrow, Building Inspector (email only)
Kyle Pimental, Strafford Regional Planning Commission (email only)
John Grace, FEMA Region 1 (email only)

Enclosure