

CONTACT:

Barbara Lynch
FEMA, External Affairs
212.680.8516

OR

William Nechamen
NY State Dept of Environmental Conservation
518.402.8146

**FLOOD PLAIN RE-DEFINED ON COUNTY'S NEW FLOOD MAP;
INSURANCE IMPLICATIONS FOR MANY RESIDENTS;
STATE, FEMA "OPEN HOUSE" ON SEPT. 16 TO CLARIFY STATUS**

NEW YORK – AUG. 31, 2009 – Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DCE) will host an "Open House" Sept. 16th to display the Chenango County's new, preliminary flood map, and answer residents' questions about what the changes may mean for them.

The Open House will take place in the Summit Room of the Eaton Center at 19 Eaton Avenue in Norwich from 5pm through 8pm.

The new, preliminary flood map is the first to be done on a countywide basis for Chenango communities, and incorporates revised data from the Chenango, Susquehanna and Unadilla Rivers. Since 1972, the county has had nine presidentially declared major disasters, seven of which were flood-related.

"These maps are preliminary," said Mary Colvin, Acting Division Director of Mitigation for FEMA, Region II, which covers New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. "But they do suggest that the county flood plain is being redefined, based on the state-of-the-art technology that underpins the new map. While the countywide change may be negligible, it is fairly significant in individual towns. Residents should check the new map to see if they are affected."

Chenango County residents can view the new, preliminary flood map at their local municipal offices or online at http://www.rampp-team.com/county_maps/new_york/chenango/chenango_ny_index.pdf Users should be sure to raise the magnification level of the map to at least 100% via the toolbar to ensure ease of use.

As there are **mandatory** insurance implications for all structures in a floodplain that are backed by a federally insured or guaranteed mortgage,

residents are encouraged to check their status on the new map. Information on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is available at www.FloodSmart.gov

“The whole point of the flood maps is to make residents aware of their risk for flooding,” said William Nechamen, National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator for NYS-DEC. “When people know their risks, they can take steps to mitigate those risks. People should review the new map and find out how it affects them.”

A municipality-by-municipality overview of the changes on the new preliminary map follows:

<u>Community</u>	<u>Comments</u>
City of Norwich	Community Type: Urban Overall floodplain areal extent in the vicinity of the Chenango River and Canasawacta Creek has remained approximately equal to the previous study. The 1% annual chance floodplains along both flooding sources <i>affect a significant number of structures</i> . A large portion of the area south of East Main Street has been removed from the 0.2% annual chance floodplain due to updated topography along Canasawacta Creek.

- more -

Town of Afton

Community Type: Rural

There has generally been an increase in the 1% annual chance floodplain along the Town of Afton's major flood source, the Susquehanna River. This increase represents an approximately 5% increase in floodplain extent from the previous study. Structures not previously in the 1% annual chance floodplain have been added as a result of this revision. Along Kelsey Brook, the floodplain has remained approximately the same. Approximate studies were also carried out for several smaller streams in the Town as well. Floodplain extent along Wylie Brook has increased by approximately 20-30%. Along the portion of Kelsey Brook studied by approximate methods, the floodplain has decreased in areal extent by approximately 10-20%. The scope of study along Reed Creek has been increased by approximately 3 miles. There are several structures that are now within the 1% annual chance floodplain along Reed Creek. Bumps Creek and Wilkins Brook have new approximate studies along their lengths within the Town of Afton. Few structures, if any, are affected by the new mapping.

Town of Bainbridge

Community Type: Suburban

Floodplains along the restudied Susquehanna River have generally increased in areal extent by 5-10% throughout the Town of Bainbridge. This revision has resulted in new structures falling within the extent of the 1% annual chance floodplain. Approximate studies were also carried out for several smaller streams in the Town as well. These include Kelsey Brook, Wilkins Brook and several of their tributaries. Few structures, if any, are affected by these revisions.

Town of Columbus

Community Type: Rural

For the flooding sources within the Town of Columbus with previous studies, including the Unadilla River and Center Brook, floodplain extents have remained approximately the same. However, increased scopes of study along Center Brook and Great Brook have increased the total study mileage by approximately 11 miles. Few structures, if any, are affected by the revisions along these streams.

Town of Coventry

Community Type: Rural

Floodplain extents throughout the Town of Coventry have remained approximately equal. There are numerous flooding sources studied by approximate methods. The population is sparse and widely dispersed throughout the Town. It is suggested that residents examine the revised maps carefully to determine their proximity to an identified flooding source.

Town of German

Community Type: Rural

Floodplain extents throughout the Town of German have remained approximately equal from the previous study. All studied flooding sources were studied using approximate methods. The population is sparse and widely dispersed throughout the Town. It is suggested that residents examine the revised maps carefully to determine their proximity to an identified flooding source.

Town of Greene

Community Type: Rural

Along the main flooding source in the Town of Greene, the Chenango River, the 1% annual chance floodplain has generally increased 5-10% in areal extent due to a restudy. This increase in floodplain extent affects structures that were not previously included in the special flood hazard area (SFHA). Throughout the remainder of the Town, numerous flooding sources were studied by approximate methods. Along Page Brook, the floodplain has increased in extent by 10-20% and several structures are affected. In addition the scope of study along Page Brook and several of its tributaries has increased by approximately 6.5 miles. Along Genegantslet Creek and its tributaries, the floodplain has generally increased in extent by 5-10%, while the scope of study has increased by approximately 3 miles. Along Mill and Spring Brook, the scope of study has increased by approximately 5.5 miles. Along Tillotson Creek and its tributaries, the scope of study has increased by approximately 2.5 miles. There are several structures throughout the Town affected by these increased scopes of study. It is suggested that residents examine the revised maps carefully to determine their proximity to an identified flooding source.

Town of Guilford

Community Type: Rural

The main flooding source in the Town of Guilford, the Unadilla River, was studied for the first time using detailed methods and as a result the floodplain increased in areal extent from 5-10%. The revision resulted in a number of structures being included within the floodplain. The remaining flooding sources in the Town are studied by approximate methods. The floodplain along Guilford Brook has increased in extent by approximately 5-10%. Approximately 6 miles of new study was also performed for Mud Pond Creek and one of its tributaries. There are several structures impacted by this new analysis. A portion of Lyon Brook in the northwestern part of the Town was also studied using approximate methods, and results in the inclusion of a structure within the floodplain.

Town of Lincklaen

Community Type: Rural

All flooding sources within the Town of Lincklaen have been studied using approximate methods. Along the main flooding source, Mud Creek, and its tributaries the floodplain has generally increased in extent from 5-15%. In addition, approximately 2.5 miles of study was performed along Ashbell Creek. At least one structure is affected by this new study.

Town of McDonough

Community Type: Rural

Floodplain extents throughout the Town of McDonough have remained approximately equal from the previous study. All studied flooding sources were studied using approximate methods. The population is sparse and widely dispersed throughout the Town. It is suggested that residents examine the revised maps carefully to determine their proximity to an identified flooding source.

Town of New Berlin

Community Type: Rural

The main flooding source in the Town of Guilford, the Unadilla River, was studied for the first time using detailed methods and as a result the floodplain increased in areal extent from 5-10%. The revision resulted in a number of structures being included within the floodplain. The remaining flooding sources in the Town are studied by approximate methods. Along Mill Brook and Great Brook, approximately 11 miles of new approximate study was performed. A number of structures are affected by this revision.

Town of North
Norwich

Community Type: Rural

Along the main flooding source in the Town of North Norwich, the Chenango River, the 1% annual chance floodplain has generally increased 5-10% in areal extent due to a restudy. This increase in floodplain extent affects structures that were not previously included in the special flood hazard area (SFHA). Throughout the remainder of the Town, numerous flooding sources were studied by approximate methods. Along Thompson Creek, the floodplain decreased in areal extent by approximately 5-10%. New studies were also carried out for Cold Spring Brook (1.7 miles) and Fly Creek (2.5 miles).

Town of Norwich

Community Type: Rural

Overall floodplain areal extent in the vicinity of the Chenango River and Canasawacta Creek has remained approximately equal to the previous study. The remaining flooding sources in the town have been studied by approximate methods. Along Lyon Brook, the floodplain has increased in areal extent by about 5-10%. Floodplains along Gilmore Brook, Johnson Creek, and Ransford Brook remained approximately equal in extent from the previous study. A new approximate analysis was performed for Thompson Creek upstream of its confluence with the Chenango River.

Town of Otselic

Community Type: Rural

In the Town of Otselic, floodplains along previously studied streams have remained approximately the same. A new approximate study was performed for Ashbell Brook (4 miles). Several structures are affected by this new study.

Town of Oxford

Community Type: Rural

The floodplain along the Town of Oxford's main flooding source, the Chenango River, has increased by 15-20% as a result of a detailed restudy of the river. Previously, the Chenango River was studied using approximate methods. The remaining studied streams were analyzed using approximate methods. Floodplains have generally remained the similar in areal extent. Due to the number of flooding sources, it is recommended that residents carefully examine the maps to determine their proximity to flooding sources. New approximate analyses were carried out on Fly Meadow Creek and Lyon Brook. The floodplains along these streams affect several structures.

Town of Pharsalia

Community Type: Rural

Floodplain extents throughout the Town of Pharsalia have remained approximately equal. There are numerous flooding sources studied by approximate methods. The population is sparse and widely dispersed throughout the Town. It is suggested that residents examine the revised maps carefully to determine their proximity to an identified flooding source.

Town of Pitcher

Community Type: Rural

Floodplain extents throughout the Town of Pharsalia have remained approximately equal. The largest difference is along Brakel Creek, where the floodplain has increased in extent by 10-15%. All identified flooding sources were studied by approximate methods. The population is sparse and widely dispersed throughout the Town. It is suggested that residents examine the revised maps carefully to determine their proximity to an identified flooding source.

Town of Plymouth

Community Type: Rural

All identified flooding sources were studied by approximate methods. Floodplain extents throughout the Town have remained approximately equal. New approximate studies were performed for East Branch Canasawacta Creek (5.6 miles) and Cold Spring Brook (3.6 miles). Several structures in the Town are affected by this revision. The population is sparse and widely dispersed throughout the Town. It is suggested that residents examine the revised maps carefully to determine their proximity to an identified flooding source.

Town of Preston

Community Type: Rural

All identified flooding sources were studied by approximate methods. For previously studied flooding sources, floodplain extents remained approximately equal. New approximate studies were carried out for Fly Meadow Creek and its tributaries (9.5 miles) as well as Bowman Creek and its tributaries (2.1 miles). Several structures in the Town are affected by this revision. The population is sparse and widely dispersed throughout the Town. It is suggested that residents examine the revised maps carefully to determine their proximity to an identified flooding source.

Town of Sherburne Community Type: Rural

The floodplain along the Town of Oxford's main flooding source, the Chenango River, has increased by 15-20% as a result of a detailed restudy of the river. Previously, the Chenango River was studied using approximate methods. The remaining studied streams were analyzed using approximate methods. Approximate floodplains have generally increased in areal extent in the Town of Sherburne by approximately 5-15%. Affected streams include Handsome Brook, Pleasant Brook, and the Sangerfield River. There are several structures along these sources that are now within the SFHA.

Town of Smithville Community Type: Rural

Floodplain extents throughout the Town of Smithville have remained approximately equal. There are numerous flooding sources studied by approximate methods. The population is sparse and widely dispersed throughout the Town. It is suggested that residents examine the revised maps carefully to determine their proximity to an identified flooding source.

Town of Smyrna Community Type: Suburban

All identified flooding sources were studied by approximate methods. For a previously studied portion of Pleasant Brook, floodplain extents remained approximately unchanged. The scope of study was increased upstream by approximately 3.2 miles. New approximate studies were performed for portions of Cold Spring Brook (0.4 miles), Crooked Brook (4.0 miles), and East Branch Canasawacta Creek (2.1 miles). This revision results in the location of some structures within the SFHA. Along Kelsey Brook, the floodplain has increased in areal extent by 5-10% as a result of updated topography. This increase is greatest near its confluence with the Susquehanna River.

Village of Afton Community Type: Suburban

There has generally been an increase in the 1% annual chance floodplain along the Village of Afton's major flood source, the Susquehanna River. This increase represents an approximately 10-15% increase in floodplain extent from the previous study. Structures not previously in the 1% annual chance floodplain have been added as a result of this revision. The Afton Fairgrounds are completely within the 1% annual chance floodplain as a result of this revision. The approximate floodplain along Bumps Creek has generally decreased in extent, again due to updated topography.

Village of Bainbridge Community Type: Urban

There has generally been an increase in the 1% annual chance floodplain along the Village of Bainbridge's major flood source, the Susquehanna River. This increase represents an approximately 10-15% increase in floodplain extent from the previous study. A moderate number of structures not previously located within the 1% annual chance floodplain have been added as a result of this revision.

Village of Earlville Community Type: Suburban

The Village of Earlville is a dual-county community that straddles Chenango and Madison Counties and is being included with the Chenango first-time countywide map. The floodplain along the Village of Earlville's main flooding source, the Chenango River, has increased by 20-30% as a result of a detailed restudy of the river. Previously, the Chenango River was studied using approximate methods. Flooding along the Sangerfield River in the portion of Earlville within Madison County, which was redelineated using new topography, remains approximately equivalent to the previous study. For the portion of the Sangerfield River that lies within Chenango County, floodplains have generally increased in extent by 20-30%.

Village of Greene Community Type: Suburban

The floodplain along the Village of Greene's main flooding source, the Chenango River, has increased by 15-20% as a result of a detailed restudy of the river. A significant number of structures not previously located within the SFHA have been included as a result of this revision. The floodplain along Birdsall Brook, an approximate study, has decreased in areal extent.

Village of New Berlin Community Type: Suburban

The main flooding source in the Town of Guilford, the Unadilla River, was studied for the first time using detailed methods and as a result the floodplain increased in areal extent from 5-10%. The revision resulted in a number of structures being included within the floodplain. Mill Brook was also studied by approximate methods for the first time within the corporate limits and has resulted in the inclusion of several structures within the floodplain.

Village of Oxford

Community Type: Suburban

The floodplain along the Town of Oxford's main flooding source, the Chenango River, has increased by 15-20% as a result of a detailed restudy of the river. Previously, the Chenango River was studied using approximate methods. A significant number of structures have been placed within the SFHA in downtown Oxford as a result of this revision.

Village of Sherburne

Community Type: Suburban

The floodplain of the Chenango River within the Village of Sherburne has increased by approximately 40-50% as a result of a detailed restudy. The Chenango River was previously studied using approximate methods in this community. A number of structures are now located within the SFHA. Mad Brook was also studied for the first time using approximate methods. This revision affects several structures along the approximately one mile of study within the Village.

Village of Smyrna

Community Type: Urban

Flooding along Pleasant Brook in the Village of Smyrna has generally decreased as a result of this study; however, there are still some structures located within the SFHA.

FEMA's mission is to support residents and first responders to ensure a collaborative effort to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

###