



FEMA

W-12114

December 18, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Write Your Own Company (WYO) Principal Coordinators and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Servicing Agent

FROM: NFIP Clearinghouse

SUBJECT: Advisory Base Flood Elevations Released for Counties in New Jersey

As communities begin to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy, it is important to recognize lessons learned and to employ mitigation actions that ensure structures are rebuilt stronger, safer, and less vulnerable to future flooding events.

Prior to Hurricane Sandy, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), charged with administering the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), was restudying areas of the New Jersey and New York coastlines in order to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). These updated maps were set to be delivered to state and local officials in mid-2013. Because existing FIRMs for these areas were developed more than 25 years ago, and updated FIRMs are not finalized, FEMA determined it is vital to provide near-term Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) to support reconstruction efforts.

As of December 15, 2012, FEMA has issued ABFEs for 10 New Jersey counties. The counties that received this information are: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Union.

To view the ABFE information, maps, user guides, and other helpful resources, visit www.region2coastal.com/sandy/abfe.

In the near term, FEMA will issue ABFEs for the following New York counties: Bronx, Kings, New York, Richmond, Queens, and Westchester.

Providing reliable and timely flood hazard data is just one way FEMA is helping decision makers ensure that New Jersey and New York coastal communities recover smarter and stronger in the wake of this devastating event.

cc: Vendors, IBHS, FIPNC, Government Technical Representative

Required Routing: All Departments