U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region I
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

FEMA

February 24, 2016

Julie Gilman, Chairperson
Board of Selectmen Town of Exeter
10 Front St.
Exeter, New Hampshire 03833-2737

Re: Town of Exeter, Rockingham County, New Hampshire
Community No.: 330130

Dear Ms. Gilman:

In April of 2014, your community received Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) that were updated to incorporate the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) latest evaluation of coastal flood hazards in Rockingham County, New Hampshire. Subsequent to the issuance of those documents, an error in the 2005 effective FIRMs and FIS relative to cross section locations along the Exeter River in the Town of Exeter was identified. This error caused a conflict with newly mapped Exeter River cross sections in the Town of Exeter only. To address this error, a revised Preliminary FIRM and FIS has been issued and is enclosed.

Because the revised mapping incorporates changes to the profiles in the Town of Exeter, your community will have a 30-day period to review the enclosed products. We strongly encourage you to thoroughly review the enclosed copy, and circulate it as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other individuals or organizations in the community that would have an interest in the FIRM and FIS report, so that they will also have the opportunity to review them thoroughly over the next 30 days.

Once the 30-day review period has expired, a statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies BFEs, base flood depths, SFHAs, flood zone designations, or regulatory floodways within a community, as shown on the Revised Preliminary FIRM. We will send you a letter approximately 2 weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward information regarding notifications to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and local newspaper(s) and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date.

All comments and appeals received through the end of the 90-day appeal period will be considered and incorporated as appropriate. Following the resolution of all comments and appeals, FEMA will issue a Letter of Final Determination (LFD). When FEMA issues the LFD, the community must adopt the new FIRM panels and FIS within 6 months in order to remain in good standing with the NFIP.

The new FIRM and FIS report for your community will become effective 6 months after the LFD date. Before the effective date, you will be notified in writing of the official FIRM and FIS report effective date and asked to adopt floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances as necessary that correspond with the new FIRM or FIS report. If you or other community officials have any questions regarding floodplain ordinances, you may raise them with our FEMA Regional Office or you may discuss those issues with your State NFIP Coordinator.

Several months before the effective date, we will mail one set of printed copies of the finalized FIRM and FIS report and digital copies of the map and report products.

Your community's comments on the Revised Preliminary FIRM panels and FIS report are an important part of our mapping process, and we will consider them carefully before we publish the FIRM and FIS report in their final form. If you have any questions regarding the Revised Preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS report, please contact John Grace, CFM, the FEMA Coastal Engineer designated for your community, at (617) 832-4715 or by email at John.Grace@fema.dhs.gov. If you have any questions regarding the necessary floodplain management measures for your community or the NFIP in general, we urge you to contact Jennifer Gilbert, New Hampshire State NFIP Coordinator, at (603) 271-2155 or by email at Jennifer.Gilbert@nh.gov.

Sincerely,

MARILYN HILLIARD

Digitally signed by MARILYN HILLIARD
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Homeland Security, ou=FEMA, ou=People, cn=MARILYN HILLIARD, 0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=0505196419.FEMA.1
Date: 2016.02.25 14:13:34 -05'00'

Marilyn Hilliard
Risk Analysis Branch Chief
Mitigation Division
FEMA Region I

List of Enclosures:
DVD of revised Preliminary FIRM, revised Preliminary FIS, and SOMA

cc: Doug Eastman, Building Inspector, Town of Exeter (hard copy and DVD)
Russell Dean, Town Manager, Town of Exeter (w/o enclosures)
John Grace, CFM, Coastal Engineer, FEMA Region I (hard copy and DVD)
Jennifer Gilbert, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator, NH Office of Energy and Planning (hard copy and DVD)
Alex Sirotek, Regional Service Center, STARR Region I (w/o enclosures)
Fay Rubin, Project Manager, University of New Hampshire (w/o enclosures)