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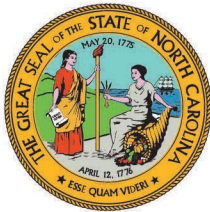
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SHADI ESKAF

Director



NORTH CAROLINA  
Environmental Quality

# Memo

To: CDBG-I Grantees

From: Colleen Simmons, Program Manager, CDBG-Infrastructure Unit, Division of Water Infrastructure, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

Date: July 1, 2024

Subject: Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) Final Rule  
– EFFECTIVE June 24, 2024

## Relevant for Environmental Information Document / Environmental Review Records and Amendments to Environmental Review Records

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Projects funded under Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and other HUD-assisted programs, and subject to the required related laws and authorities at 24 CFR Part 58.5 will be required to use the new floodplain standards for all projects starting June 24, 2024. This means the larger FFRMS floodplain will be required for projects subject to 24 CFR Part 55.

The FFRMS Final Rule amends existing floodplain and wetland regulations to require a greater level of flood protection for new construction and substantial rehabilitation projects. Building to this standard will increase the Nation's resilience to flooding, reduce the risk of flood loss to human life and property and minimize the direct impacts of floods on households across the county.

A few key changes:

- The Final Rule expands the 'floodplain of concern' from the previous 100-year floodplain to a newly defined "FFRMS floodplain", that uses the best available data. The FFRMS floodplain considers future flood risk from climate change.
- The Final Rule increases the elevation of new construction and substantial improvements. It made changes to the 8-step process required when proposing development in the floodplain and wetlands.



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Specific compliance milestones are:

1. Projects previously obtaining a Release of Environmental Condition and Funds will not need to reevaluate on or after June 24 to comply with the new rule.
2. Projects that have previously published an NOI/RROF will not need to reevaluate on or after June 24 to comply with the new rule.
3. Projects that have previously published all required final floodplain or wetland notices will not need to reevaluate on or after June 24 to comply with the new rule.

The Final Rule affects the preparation of Environmental Review Records (ERR) and amendments to ERRs. **Local governments and their EID/ERR preparers must use these new standards.**

Resources:

- Division website.
  - The CDBG-I Environmental Review page has been updated and will continue to be updated as new information is available.
- HUD Exchange.
  - HUD's Updated [WISER \(Web-Based Instructional System for Environmental Review\) module for Floodplain Management, Wetlands, and Flood Insurance](#)
  - [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard](#) information page on HUD Exchange with FAQs.
  - [Environmental Review: Floodplain Management](#)

Contact:

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Bacon, Compliance Specialist, at 919-707-9242 or [Emily.bacon@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Emily.bacon@deq.nc.gov).