



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

NOV - 1 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is seeking your comments on a proposed rule regarding new elevation standards for floodplain management for all new, HUD-supported properties.

This proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on October 28, 2016, and is also enclosed with this letter. The proposed rule identifies several specific questions for public comment, and HUD is reaching out directly to tribal leaders to solicit their comments during the public comment period, which ends on December 27, 2016.

For those interested, HUD will host a webinar on Monday, December 12, 2016, at 3 p.m. (Eastern Time) to discuss the proposed rule. If you do not have webinar access, you can still participate by conference call. HUD will send out information in the next few weeks on how to access the webinar/conference.

Your feedback is important to HUD. Please submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov, or by postal mail to:

Regulations Division
Office of General Counsel
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW, Room 10276
Washington, DC 20410-0500.

All submissions must refer to the rule's docket number, "FR-5717-P-01," and title, "Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands; Minimum Property Standards for Flood Hazard Exposure; Building to the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard."

The proposed rule would revise 24 CFR Part 55 (Part 55), Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, to require that newly constructed or substantially improved structures deemed 'non-critical' be elevated two feet above the site's base flood elevation (also called '100-year floodplain'). Properties considered 'critical,' such as hospitals, nursing homes, and police/fire facilities, would be elevated to three feet above the base flood elevation or the '500-year floodplain,' whichever is greater. In addition, the proposed rule would enlarge the horizontal floodplain area to reflect the vertical increase for projects processed under Part 55.

This proposed rule would not change the scope of projects or activities that require completing the 8-Step Decision-making Process under Part 55 to evaluate the practicability of

the project, nor would it change the requirements and guidance specifying which actions subject to Part 55 require elevation or floodproofing. Rather, this rule would only expand the areas in which these requirements would apply.

The rule would not require projects in areas where the 100-year floodplain has not been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to comply with Part 55. More information and frequently asked questions on the proposed rule are available [on HUD's Environmental Review website](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in the effective delivery of HUD's programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heidi J. Frechette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Heidi J. Frechette
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Native American Programs

Enclosure