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IDNR will host Macon County Floodplain Mapping Open House

General public provided opportunity to review and comment on the recently produced Macon County Flood Insurance Rate Map.

Macon County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps Are Changing!

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Flood Map Modernization Program recently released updated, preliminary digital flood hazard maps that show the extent to which areas throughout the county are at risk for flooding. **The new flood maps will be officially presented to county and local officials as well as the public on Tuesday, June 22, 2010.** These new maps will undergo a month long review/comment period before their final adoption in mid 2011. The revised maps will provide more recent, internet accessible information about flood risk, replacing maps that are more than 20 years old. They will also help community planners, engineers, builders and others to make important determinations about where and how new structures and developments should be built.

The newly released maps are part of a larger effort to modernize the nation's aging flood maps to reflect the most current flood risks and areas of recent growth. Water flow and drainage patterns change over time and the likelihood of flooding in certain areas may have changed as well.

Flood hazard maps, also known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), indicate whether properties are in areas of high, moderate or low flood risk. In reviewing the new maps, some property owners may find that their risk is higher or lower than they thought. If the risk level for a property changes so may the requirement to carry flood insurance.

To ensure all residents and property owners understand the map change process, **IDNR is hosting a public open house** on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency **on Tuesday, June 22, 2010**, where residents can view the new maps, submit comments, and learn how their properties may be affected. **The meeting will be at the Macon County Office Building – County Board Room, 141 South Main Street in Decatur from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.** A separate meeting for county and public officials will take place earlier that afternoon.

Residents can also view the new maps online at www.illinoisfloodmaps.org and submit comments to S. Fuller at shelly.fuller@illinois.gov. IDNR will accept comments through July 21, 2010.