



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

Office of Water Resources • 2050 West Stearns Road • Bartlett, Illinois 60103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2010

CONTACT:

Shelly Fuller

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Phone: 847-608-3100 ext. 2018 or Email: shelly.fuller@illinois.gov

IDNR will host Douglas County Floodplain Mapping Open House

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

Douglas 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 Wednesday, February 3, 2010.** These new maps will undergo a month long review/comment period before their final adoption in early 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 and the Illinois State Water Survey are hosting a public open house on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Wednesday, February 3, 2010**, where residents can view the new maps, submit comments, and learn how their properties may be affected. **The meeting will be at the Tuscola City Hall, Conference Room, 214 N. Main Street in Tuscola from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.** A separate meeting for county and public officials will take place earlier that afternoon.

Residents can 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 March 4, 2010.