



## Memorandum

To: Council  
From: Mary Ellen Ramage  
Cc: Mayor Rengers  
Date: September 26, 2016  
Re: Status of Plan Implementation

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By Resolution No. 1338B, the Borough adopted the Allegheny County 2011 Hazard Mitigation Plan in February of 2012 in its continual efforts to ensure the safety of residents and property in the event of an emergency. In February of 2016, the Borough passed Resolution No. 1362F, thereby adopting the updated Allegheny County 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This memo is our progress report.

For credit under the Community Rating System, this memo must be distributed to the media and made available to the public. It is being sent to newspapers that cover the Borough, and copies of this report will be available for review at the Municipal Building, 437 Butler Street, Etna, PA 15223. Additionally, the Allegheny County 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan can be obtained by CD through the Allegheny Department of Emergency Services/Management Division or viewed online at <http://www.pennsylvaniiahmp.com/alleghehny-hmp>.

### Background

As noted in the Allegheny County 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan, there have been 16 Presidential Disaster Declarations and Emergency Declarations in Allegheny County since 1955, including several in Etna. The emergency management community, citizens, elected officials and other stakeholders in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania recognize the impact of disasters on their community and support proactive efforts needed to reduce the impact of natural and human-made hazards.

Accordingly, the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee (HMPSC) and Planning Team (HMPT), government leaders from Allegheny County, in cooperation with the elected officials of the County and its municipalities, have prepared this Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update. The Plan is the result of work by citizens of the County to develop a pre-disaster multi-hazard mitigation plan that will not only guide the County towards greater disaster resistance, but will also respect the character and needs of the community.

According to the Plan, its purpose is to:

- To protect life, safety, and property by reducing the potential for future damages and economic losses that result from natural hazards;
- To qualify for additional grant funding, in both the pre-disaster and the post-disaster environment;
- To qualify for additional credit under the Community Ratings System (CRS);
- To speed recovery and redevelopment following future disaster events;
- To demonstrate a firm local commitment to hazard mitigation principles; and
- To comply with both state and federal legislative requirements for local hazard mitigation plans.

### **Borough Participation**

The Borough of Etna, along with 127 other municipalities in Allegheny County, participated in numerous planning and participation events during the plan update process. Once again, the Borough submitted several projects to the updated plan, and two new projects and a carryover project from the last plan are included in the updated plan, including provide elevation certificates and flood-proofing projects to homes in hazard area (carryover project); acquire vacant structures, demolish, and establish stormwater management areas prohibiting redevelopment as established in the municipal comprehensive plan; flood proofing entire municipal complex, which includes administration, police, and volunteer fire department; and construct flood wall behind industrial site at Crescent Ave/Grant Ave to and past Butler/Kittanning Street Bridge and purchase Stop Barrier for the Bridge and for Butler Street near Duquesne Electric Company.

The Borough previously completed the recommended project of flood-proofing the Administrative and Police portions of the Municipal Complex—all doors and windows of the Police and Administrative offices have been outfitted with the flood barriers—as part of the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Borough has submitted a Letter of Interest under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for potential funding to complete flood-proofing of the fire doors at the Municipal Complex, resulting in the entire Municipal Complex—the Borough’s only Critical Facility—being completely flood-proofed.

### **Additional Borough Projects**

Beyond projects highlighted in the Allegheny County Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Borough has engaged in the following activities to help mitigate any potential flood-related damage.

- Continued weekly inspection maintenance of runs and catch basins.
- The disconnection and redirection of six catch basins in Shaler the contributed to the Park Run watercourse, resulting in the reduction of 7.6 contributing acres—a 57% reduction
- Byerley Drive Streambank Erosion Control Remediation Study
- Outreach to residents about flood safety and insurance, including at the Borough Building, the Shaler Hills Library, and at various community events
- Flood hazard map
- Consultations with Borough Engineer for flood-control projects

- Continued education from the Emergency Management Institute with Public Works Director, Jeff Richmond completing course in NIMS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incident and Introduction to Incident Command System, and Emergency Management Coordinator, Peter Ramage, completing courses in Fundamentals of Emergency Management, Introduction to National Response Framework, Emergency Planning, Leadership and Influence, and EOC Management and Operations

### **Future Projects**

The Borough continuously looks to find ways to further reduce the flooding hazard in Etna. In that regard, future projects the Borough hopes to undertake include:

- Byerley Drive Streambank Erosion Control project
- Installation of debris poles at Park Avenue Run
- Pine Creek Watershed-Wide flood project inventory and status report, in conjunction with the North Hill Council of Governments
- Demolition of vacant, multi-unit residential structure in SFHA and replace with stormwater retention greenspace (project grant application submitted)

For any additional questions about the Hazard Mitigation Plan or other flood-related questions, please contact the Borough's Floodplain Manager, Mary Ellen Ramage or the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator, Peter Ramage, at 412-781-0569.