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Subject: FEMA Preliminary New Maps for St Louis County - Available in Viewer now

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Hi all,

I'm addressing this to zoning authorities in St. Louis county and DNR staff who I thought would be interested. (Please let me know if I should be using different emails, and if different or additional staff or elected/appointed officials should be included in the email updates DNR sends communities about this map update process). Feel free to pass this information on to others.

Some of you have been anxiously waiting for these preliminary new FEMA maps, but it may be a surprise to others.

FEMA mailed paper copies of the preliminary new Flood maps, the preliminary new Flood Insurance Study and cover letters on 10/28/2022. All cities, the townships that do floodplain zoning and the county should have received those by now. (I know DNR copies were here when I came to the office today.)

Which communities have FEMA mapped higher risk areas on these preliminary new maps? Aurora, Babbitt\*, Biwabik, Brookston\*, Cook, Duluth, Ely, Floodwood, Gnesen twp, Hermantown, Hibbing, Hoyt Lakes, Iron Junction\*, Lakewood twp, Meadowlands\*, Midway twp, Mountain Iron, Orr\*, Proctor, Rice Lake, SLC unincorporated, Tower\*, Virginia and Winton\*. \*Community that does not currently participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. (We'll send a separate note about how to get enrolled and the benefits to your community and residents.)

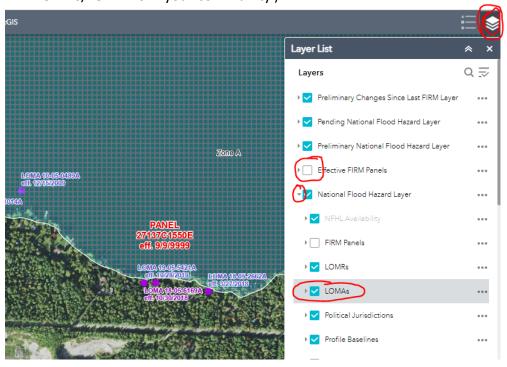
(The follow do not have FEMA mapped higher risk flood areas: Buhl, Chisholm, Eveleth, Gilbert, Kinney, Leonidas, and McKinley. None of these communities currently participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, but you can if you'd like your residents to have the choice to purchase flood insurance.)

## How to see FEMA's preliminary new maps in a nice interactive viewer:

- FEMA's <u>Flood Map Changes Viewer (FMCV)</u> is a user friendly interactive map, and likely to be your best way to look at the FEMA preliminary new maps.
- User hints: Select the layer icon in the upper right, expand to see the layers, turn off the "Effective FIRM Panels" to get rid of dots (used for paper maps)
- Communities with existing Letters of Map Amendments (LOMAs) and Letters of Map Revisions based on fill (LOMR-Fs) will want to expand the National Flood Hazard Layer and

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turn on the "LOMA" layer to see purple dots for those locations. (The following have LOMAs/LOMR-Fs: Aurora, Cook, Duluth, Floodwood, Gnesen, Hermantown, Hibbing, Midway, Orr, Proctor, Rice Lake, SLC unincorporated and Tower. The cover letters with your mailed map packet had a "Summary of Map Actions" attached that lists past LOMAs/LOMR-Fs in your community.)



**Want GIS files?** If so, I can forward steps on how to find those files on <u>FEMA's Map Service Center site</u>.

Want pdf copies of map panels and the Flood Insurance Study? You can get those at <u>FEMA's</u> preliminaries download site.

**Next Steps?** FEMA or its contractors will begin to reach out for dates to hold a local official meeting (that they call a CCO – Community Consultation Officers - meeting) and a public open house. These are usually held 1-2 months after the preliminary new maps are issued. They will also get community input on whether those should be virtual or in-person. A couple months after the local official meeting and public open house, there will be a formal 90-day appeal period. At the local official meeting they will cover the updates that were done, what types of appeals and comments can be made, and what the process will be after those meetings.

Questions? Feel free to reply, or give me a call.

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