



FEMA

October 17, 2018

Mr. Jimmy J. Gianato
Director/Governor's Authorized Representative
West Virginia Division of Homeland Security
and Emergency Management
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Building 1, Room EB-80
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0360

Re: State of West Virginia State Hazard Mitigation Plan Approval

Dear Mr. Gianato:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III Mitigation Division, Risk Analysis Branch has approved the updated State of West Virginia State Hazard Mitigation Plan effective, October 16, 2018, through October 15, 2023, in accordance with the planning requirements of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), as amended, the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, and Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), §201.

A FEMA-approved state mitigation plan is a condition of receiving certain non-emergency Stafford Act assistance and FEMA mitigation grants from the following programs:

- Public Assistance Categories C-G (PA C-G)
- Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

State mitigation plans must be updated and resubmitted to the FEMA Region III Mitigation Division, Risk Analysis Branch for approval. If the plan is not updated by the expiration date indicated on this FEMA approval letter, the plan is considered lapsed and FEMA will not obligate funds until the mitigation plan is approved by FEMA.

If at any time over the plan approval period FEMA determines that the state is not complying with all applicable federal statutes and regulations in effect, with respect to the periods for which it receives funding or is unable to fulfill mitigation commitments, FEMA may take action to correct the noncompliance (44 CFR §§201.3(b)(5) and 201.4(c)(7)).

The state is responsible for communicating with local and tribal officials, as applicable, interested in applying through the state for FEMA assistance. FEMA encourages states to communicate with the appropriate officials regarding mitigation plan status and eligibility requirements. At a minimum of every six (6) months, FEMA will provide to the state written information on mitigation plans, including but not limited to:

- Local and tribal, as applicable, mitigation plan expiration dates
- Consequences of not having a FEMA-approved local or tribal, as applicable, mitigation plan with respect to eligibility for HMA programs;
- Availability of mitigation planning training and technical assistance; and
- Upcoming funding opportunities.

The state is responsible for reviewing and submitting approvable mitigation plans to FEMA. If the state is not submitting approvable mitigation plans, FEMA will provide feedback as well as technical assistance or training, as needed.

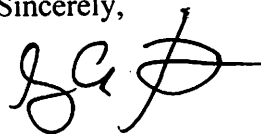
In addition, FEMA will provide a reminder to the state, at a minimum, twelve (12) months prior to the plan expiration date, of the consequences of not having a FEMA-approved mitigation plan with respect to eligibility for the FEMA assistance programs that require FEMA-approved mitigation plan as a condition of eligibility. To maintain eligibility for PA C-G, FMAG, HMGP, PDM and FMA, the state must submit a draft of the next plan update prior to the end of the approval period, and allow sufficient time for the review and approval process, including any revisions, if needed, and for formal adoption by the state following determination by FEMA that the plan has achieved a status of "Approvable Pending Adoption".

Finally, we look forward to working with you to discuss the status of West Virginia's mitigation program each year over the approval period.

If we can be of assistance, please contact April Cummings, Director, Mitigation Division (Acting), at (215) 931-5635 or april.cummings@fema.dhs.gov.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,



MaryAnn Tierney
Regional Administrator

cc: Michael Todorovich, Deputy Director, WV Division of Homeland Security and
Emergency Management
Brian Penix, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Kelli Batch, Co State Hazard Mitigation Officer