



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Office of Community Planning and Development

February 26, 2024

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the **start of the 90-day appeal period, which will begin on February 28, 2024 for the Farmington River watershed flood mapping project** for Hartford County.

Preliminary flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) and a flood insurance study (FIS) were previously released to the Town of Simsbury and letters were mailed to alert owners with properties in flood zones. To determine if your property is within a preliminary flood zone, please go to the FEMA Map Service Center website <https://msc.fema.gov> and type in your address (including town and state).

This appeal period is an opportunity for the municipality or any property owners to challenge the FIRM & FIS by providing additional scientific or technical data to FEMA. An **appeal** is a formal written objection to a new or revised base flood elevation (BFE), flood zone, or floodway. An appeal must be supported by an analysis or scientific evidence showing that the information on the preliminary FIRM or FIS is scientifically or technically incorrect.

After the appeal period ends, FEMA will evaluate the data received and revise the preliminary FIRM and FIS if appropriate. Once all appeals are resolved, FEMA will send an appeal resolution letter to the community and all appellants.

Below are some resources for property owners and community officials on the appeal process.

- **Appeals and Comments, Information for Property Owners:**

[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_appeals-comments-info-property-owners.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_appeals-comments-info-property-owners.pdf)

**The appeal period begins on February 28, 2024 and will end on May 28, 2024.** Public notice of this appeal period was published in the *Hartford Courant* newspaper on February 21 and 28, 2024 (see attached document for *Hartford Courant* Legal Notice). A notice of the map change was also posted in the Federal Register on January 29, 2024:

[https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-01-29/pdf/2024-01625.pdf?utm\\_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=federalregister.gov](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-01-29/pdf/2024-01625.pdf?utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov).

You can email or mail appeals to the Town of Simsbury's Floodplain Administrator at:

**Brittany MacGilpin, Assistant Town Planner/Floodplain Administrator**  
**Simsbury Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street**  
**Simsbury, CT 06070**  
**Email: [bmacgilpin@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:bmacgilpin@simsbury-ct.gov)**

Telephone (860) 658-3245  
Facsimile (860) 658-3206

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[www.simsbury-ct.gov](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov)

8:30 - 7:00 Monday  
8:30 - 4:30 Tuesday through Thursday  
8:30 - 1:00 Friday

Or, FEMA will accept submissions directly from property owners if received during the appeal period. Appeal data can be sent or emailed to FEMA or CDM Smith (FEMA's mapping contractor) at the contacts below:

**Christopher Markesich**  
**Community Coordination Officer**  
**FEMA Region I**  
**220 Binney Street**  
**Cambridge, MA 02142**  
**(617) 832-4712**  
**Email: [christopher.markesich@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:christopher.markesich@fema.dhs.gov)**

**Katelyn T. Henry**  
**CDM Smith**  
**11500 North Lake Drive**  
**Suite 305**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45249**  
**Email: [henrykt@cdmsmith.com](mailto:henrykt@cdmsmith.com)**

If you have any further questions, please contact the Assistant Town Planner/Floodplain Administrator at 860-658-3240 or email at [bmacgilpin@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:bmacgilpin@simsbury-ct.gov).

**Other helpful resources on FEMA floodplain management include:**

**FEMA Region I Map Update Guide:**

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/747e0a9bcde14ad09323d3cb9a181e9d>

*This guide provides a general overview of the map update process.*

**Map Changes and Flood Insurance:** [https://agents.floodsmart.gov/sites/default/files/fema\\_nfip\\_map-changes-flood-insurance-property-owners-09-2023.pdf](https://agents.floodsmart.gov/sites/default/files/fema_nfip_map-changes-flood-insurance-property-owners-09-2023.pdf)

*This publication provides residents with information on flood insurance requirements that may result from a flood map change.*

**Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS):**

<https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/>

*Select "Connecticut" as the State, Select "Hartford County" as the County from the drop-down boxes. This website provides a total list of the affected panels in the watershed. Below is a list of affected panels by community.*

*For a resident to find which flood map panel pertains to their address, they should first go to the FEMA Map Service Center website <https://msc.fema.gov> and type their address into the search box.*