

8. PLAN ADOPTION

Adoption of the *Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan* by Lehigh and Northampton counties and each participating municipality is a critical step for ensuring implementation of its goals, objectives and actions.

Adoption by the local governing bodies demonstrates the commitment of Lehigh and Northampton counties and each participating municipality to fulfill the mitigation goals and objectives outlined in the Plan. Adoption formalizes the Plan and authorizes responsible agencies to execute their responsibilities. For this multi-jurisdictional plan to be approved, each jurisdiction included in the Plan must have its governing body adopt the Plan upon notification of approval pending adoption by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). County and municipal adoption resolution templates are provided in Appendix I.

Following adoption or formal action on the Plan, each participating jurisdiction must submit a copy of the resolution or other legal instrument showing formal adoption (acceptance) of the Plan to their respective county emergency management agency for this Plan. These will then be submitted to PEMA and forwarded to FEMA. Upon final FEMA approval, each municipality must submit a copy of the FEMA approval letter to their respective county emergency management agency.

In addition to being required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, adoption of the plan is necessary because:

- It lends authority to the plan to serve as a guiding document for all local and state government officials;
- It gives legal status to the plan in the event it is challenged in court;
- It certifies to program and grant administrators that the plan's recommendations have been properly considered and approved by the governing authority and jurisdictions' citizens; and
- It helps ensure the continuity of mitigation programs and policies over time because elected officials, staff and other community decision-makers can refer to the official document when making decisions about the community's future.

Source: FEMA 2003. "How to Series" - Bringing the Plan to Life (FEMA 386-4).

THANK YOU

To the many citizens, community leaders, stakeholders and municipal partners who helped develop this Plan. The *Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan* would not have been possible without their time, incredible commitment and input.

County and Municipal Partners

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Tammy White, Sec/Treasurer, Lynn Township
Tim Weis, Zoning Officer, Forks Township
Robin Yoder, Emergency Management Director, Hanover Township, Lehigh County

Special thanks to those Citizens and Community Stakeholders who attended public or Planning Team meetings

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