

# PLAN ADOPTION

This section contains information regarding adoption of the *Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan* by Lehigh and Northampton counties and each participating municipality.

## PLAN ADOPTION BY LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES

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 the Appendix and will be forwarded to each jurisdiction at the time of FEMA notification. Each participating jurisdiction understands that approval pending adoption of the Plan will be provided for those municipalities that meet the planning requirements, with the exception of the adoption requirement as stated above.

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 contact for this Plan. These will then be submitted to PEMA and forwarded to FEMA. Each participating jurisdiction understands that PEMA and/or FEMA will transmit acknowledgement of verification of formal plan adoption and the official approval of the Plan to the mitigation plan coordinator.

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 the 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 to 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).