

2025 Bradford County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Bradford County, Pennsylvania

HAZARD MITIGATION



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: \$80,000 - \$100,000

TIMEFRAME: 12 Months

DELIVERABLES: A

Countywide, multi-hazard, Hazard Mitigation Plan Update; Stakeholder Engagement Feedback; Hazard Maps; High Hazard Potential Dam Analysis

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Hazard Mitigation
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Inter-Agency Cooperation
- Disaster Management
- Plan Integration

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting

CLIENT CONTACT

Robert Barnes, Director
Bradford County Department of
Public Safety
29 VanKuren Dr., Suite 2
Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-5022
barnesr@BradfordCountyPA.gov

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Vision Planning and Consulting was contracted by the Bradford County Government to update the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, including a High Hazard Potential Dam Analysis, for Bradford County, PA and its 51 municipalities in compliance with FEMA's DMA 2000 regulations (CFR 44 §201.6).

PROJECT SUMMARY

VPC was responsible for convening the work groups and establishing the planning process for the update. VPC updated the risk and vulnerability assessment for 25 different natural, human-caused, and/or technological hazards which reflected changes in Bradford County's priorities since the 2020 HMP Update. Each hazard was defined using FEMA's standard hazard definitions, and profiles were developed for each hazard which included information on location/extent; range of magnitude; past occurrences; and future occurrences. VPC also developed a vulnerability assessment profile for different spatial hazards, which identified potential loss estimates from specific hazard events, an inventory of vulnerable assets, how climate change/sea level rise will impact each type of hazard, impacts specific to typically underserved populations, as well as a final risk factor score and ranking. In Bradford County, there is a specific focus on how hazard may impact the elderly and low-income pockets of populations.

VPC also worked with the County to develop and submit a request to FEMA to obtain the most up-to-date information on the National Flood Insurance Program, including Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss Property. The exact locations of these properties will not be disclosed due to the proprietary nature of information at hand.

VPC's stakeholder engagement strategy considered the Steering Committee, local stakeholders, all 51 municipalities of Bradford

County, and the public. The Engagement Strategy included two Steering Committee meetings, two municipality meetings, a public feedback survey, a public meeting, plan a public plan review period. As a large part of the County included rural areas and small municipalities (less than 500 persons), VPC had to develop a creative public engagement strategy with unique ways to communicate with and gather information from remote and typically underserved areas. VPC engaged and involved these communities and rural populations via in-person meetings and/or one-on-one phone or video calls to gather information and hear their valuable feedback.

VPC performed a High Hazard Potential Dam Analysis for the 11 high hazard dams in Bradford County. VPC developed and included potential impact maps for each of the 11 high hazard dams, depicting the location of the dam, the dam breach inundation area, and the building occupancy in the potentially impacted area. Additionally, specific tables are provided for each dam indicating the estimated types and number of buildings impacted if a dam breach were to occur, as well as the structure value, content value, and total value for buildings exposed to inundation impacts.

A challenge that VPC had to work through was turnover regarding project oversight at the County level. From project initiation to adoption, three separate County staff oversaw and guided this Plan Update at different point during the project schedule.