

2025 Lackawanna County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

HAZARD MITIGATION

Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: ~ \$200,000

TIMEFRAME: 18 Months

DELIVERABLES: An Updated 2025 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, including a High-Hazard Dam Analysis; Human-Caused and Technological Hazard Mitigation Annex; Historic Resources Hazard Mitigation Annex

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Public Outreach & Education
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Historic Preservation
- High-Hazard Potential Dam Analysis

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting

CLIENT CONTACT

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

VPC was contracted by the Lackawanna County Government to update the County Hazard Mitigation Plan, including development of three new Annexes (in addition to the Natural Hazard Plan Update): (1) High Hazard Potential Dam Analysis Annex; (2) Human-Caused and Technological Hazard Mitigation Annex; (3) Historic Resources Hazard Mitigation Annex.

PROJECT SUMMARY

VPC is working with the Lackawanna County Planning Department Officials, stakeholders, and 40 municipalities to update the County Hazard Mitigation Plan and High Hazard Dam Analysis. While the planning process follows the required FEMA methodologies, new components and separate planning processes were completed and are integrated into the County HMP. These include separate planning processes for Technological/Human-Caused Hazards, as well as Historic and Cultural Resources. Individual Annexes were developed for each of these components, to be integrated into the County HMP. VPC has achieved 100 percent municipal participation for this Plan Update.

VPC performed a High Hazard Potential Dam Analysis for the 33 high hazard dams in Lackawanna County. VPC developed and included potential impact maps for each of the 33 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.

As part of the Plan Update, VPC is developing a Human-Caused and Technological Hazard Mitigation Annex to reduce human, social, environmental, and economic losses from these types of hazard events. Sixteen hazards were

analyzed and detailed hazard profiles and a corresponding risk assessment were developed. New goals and objectives were created, as well as strategy and associated implementation plan to help lay out a roadmap to successful implementation, and to reduce the impacts from these types of hazard events.

VPC also developed a Historic Resources Hazard Mitigation Annex as part of the County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. This Annex was created with input from County historic preservation, risk reduction, community planning, and staff and stakeholders. VPC delivered a comprehensive look at flood and multi-hazard vulnerability of historic resources throughout Lackawanna County.

As part of the Historic Resources Risk Assessment, VPC conducted individual site visits to obtain information and to photograph each representative property to identify key hazard information, such as building foundation height and first finished floor elevation, presence of a basement, height of the lowest opening (windows/doors), key architectural features and characteristics, and other important building-related information.

Lackawanna County's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan is made up of four (4) parts: (1) The County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan; (2) High Hazard Potential Dam Analysis; (3) Human-Caused and Technological Hazard Mitigation Annex; and (4) Historic Resources Hazard Mitigation Annex