

2025 New Castle County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

HAZARD MITIGATION

New Castle County, Delaware



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: \$80,000 - \$90,000

TIMEFRAME: 11 Months

DELIVERABLES: A Countywide, multi-jurisdictional and multi-hazard, Hazard Mitigation Plan Update; Stakeholder Engagement Feedback; Hazard Maps; High Hazard Potential Dam Analysis

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Public Outreach & Education
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Plan Integration
- High-Hazard Potential Dam Analysis

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting

CLIENT CONTACT

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Vision Planning and Consulting was contracted by the New Castle County Office of Emergency Management to develop the five-year update to the County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The update also includes a High Hazard Potential Dam Analysis, for New Castle County and its 13 municipalities.

PROJECT SUMMARY

VPC is working with the New Castle County Office of Emergency Management, stakeholders, and the County's 13 municipalities to conduct the five-year update to the County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (HMP). VPC updated the hazard risk and vulnerability assessment to reflect changes since the 2020 HMP Update. Each hazard has been 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 is developing 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.

VPC 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 developed and in implementing a stakeholder engagement strategy which considers the Steering Committee, local stakeholders, all 13 municipalities in New Castle County, and the Public. The Engagement Strategy includes two (2) steering committee

meetings, two (2) municipality meetings, a public feedback survey, a public meeting, and a public plan review period. VPC designed this engagement strategy in order to ensure that every community had the opportunity to participate and provide input into the plan update.

VPC performed a High Hazard Potential Dam Analysis for the 16 high hazard dams in New Castle County. VPC developed and included potential impact maps for each of the 16 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.

One problem VPC has faced during this update was municipal participation. Due to a limited turnout to the first municipal meeting, VPC planned and held a second, originally unplanned municipal meeting in order to increase the opportunities for municipal participation. Additionally, the VPC team has been working closely with the County's Emergency Management Coordinator to send regular reminders to the municipalities to fill out questionnaires and information packets which contain valuable municipal specific hazard information.