

# 2013 Schuylkill County, PA Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania



## PROJECT DETAILS

**DIFFICULTY:** Medium

**COST:** \$25,000 - \$50,000

**TIMEFRAME:** Nine (9) Months

**DELIVERABLES:** A County-Wide All-Hazards Mitigation Plan

## CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Project Management
- Meeting Coordination and Facilitation
- Mitigation Strategy Development
- Report Preparation

## PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting  
Urban Research Development  
Corp.

Borton Lawson Engineering

## CLIENT CONTACT

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## PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project involved an update to the 2007 Schuylkill County Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County as well as its 67 municipalities. The Plan was updated in compliance with the requirements of the DMA 2000 as well as the 44-CFR part 78.5 – Flood Mitigation Plan Development regulations. The Project was funded by FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation program.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Vision Planning and Consulting (VPC) served as the Prime Consultant for this project and was involved in project management, meeting coordination and facilitation, mitigation strategy development, and report preparation.

VPC's responsibilities included: reconvening the Steering Committee and re-establishing the planning process; reassessing hazards, determining vulnerability and updating the risk assessment; reassessing mitigation capabilities; revisiting goals and objectives; reviewing and updating the mitigation strategy; and updating the plan implementation and plan maintenance sections.

VPC conducted a plan integration exercise, as part of the capability assessment. VPC reviewed the following plans to identify gaps, identify their connections with hazard mitigation principles, and develop recommendations for future integration of plans and planning processes.

- County's Comprehensive Plan
- Transportation Improvement Inventory
- Zoning and Subdivision Regulations
- Open Space and Greenway Plan
- Stormwater Regulations
- Sediment and Erosion Control Regulations
- Emergency Operations Plan

Mitigation Actions included: developing a mine reclamation program; promoting water

conservation; reviewing and evaluating stormwater facilities and procedures; purchasing and installing NOAA weather radios; and implementing NIMS, among many others.

Schuylkill County's municipalities were involved at various phases during the Plan Update process. Public involvement through open houses, municipal workshops and committee meetings formed an integral component of the planning process. Extensive efforts were made to involve all 67 municipalities in various stages of the planning process through questionnaires, follow-up phone calls, and meetings.

VPC developed a Mitigation Capability Assessment feedback form that included questions related to: past hazard events; critical facilities in high hazard areas; mitigation projects; and municipal mitigation capabilities (technical and staffing). A total of 58 municipalities participated extensively in the process.