



# County Hazard Mitigation Planning

## CLIENT SPECIFICATIONS AND NEEDS

In response to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, counties are required to complete an update to their hazard mitigation plan (HMP) every five years. Every county and municipality is required to have a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved hazard mitigation plan to receive pre-disaster and post-disaster hazard mitigation funding. Each FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan must also have an annual report completed and submitted to the state hazard mitigation office and FEMA regional office.

## MCM SOLUTIONS

MCM Consulting Group, Inc. (MCM) develops an updated hazard mitigation plan which meets or exceeds both FEMA and state emergency management agency requirements. MCM works with the county's emergency management and planning departments, as well as engaging municipalities and the public to create a plan spanning the hazards which could affect the county. MCM completes extensive county specific research of past incidents and the probability of future occurrences for all required hazards. The final updated plan contains a mitigation strategy that is inclusive of goals, objectives, actions and projects that will decrease the impact of all natural and human-caused hazards identified in the risk assessment.

MCM provides, through a separate contract, annual report and hazard mitigation plan review and update services. MCM completes meetings with the county local planning team (LPT) and the municipalities to review the previous year activities. Hazard occurrences, capability changes, mitigation action changes and project opportunity form updates and additions are all part of the annual report that MCM develops specifically for each county. Each annual report is reviewed and approved by the LPT. The MCM annual review process makes the five-year update less burdensome to county.

## RESULTS

- ✓ A FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan update adopted by resolution by the county and each participating municipality.
- ✓ An annual report approved by the county hazard mitigation planning team and submitted to the state hazard mitigation office and FEMA regional office.



# Monroe County, Pennsylvania Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

MCM Consulting Group, Inc. (MCM) was contracted by Monroe County, Pennsylvania to update their current county hazard mitigation plan in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) requirements. MCM worked directly with the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management and the Monroe County Planning Department. Although MCM has completed many hazard mitigation plan updates for counties throughout Pennsylvania, the Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan update had an additional nexus.

The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) was awarded hazard mitigation grant funding to complete a project in which all historical buildings and sites would be inventoried. Any buildings or sites located in the special flood hazard area needed to be identified for further mitigation efforts. The final phase of the PHMC project was to develop the mitigation strategy that would be utilized to decrease the impact of flooding to the historical assets in the special flood hazard area and then integrate the mitigation strategy into the Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

To update the plan, MCM completed extensive research and conducted numerous planning meetings with county, municipal and PHMC officials. MCM engaged the public through specific meetings designed to engage them. The final updated mitigation plan contained a mitigation strategy that was inclusive of goals, objectives, actions and projects that decreased the impact of all natural and human-caused hazards identified in the risk assessment and provided specific areas for the integration of the PHMC mitigation strategy to decrease the impact of flooding on historic properties.

The Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan update project was successfully completed, and the first in Pennsylvania to integrate the PHMC project results. This plan update was approved by FEMA and PEMA with no required updates or changes and FEMA noted many best practice items from this planning process. The updated Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan was successfully adopted by resolution by Monroe County and each municipality in the county.