



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
KALAMAZOO DISTRICT OFFICE



C. HEIDI GREETHER
DIRECTOR

April 27, 2018

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Diane Stephenson
Stephenson Land Surveying
27873 White Street
Cassopolis, MI 49031
ds@stephensonls.com

Dear Ms. Stephenson:

SUBJECT: Floodplain Service No: HNB-ZN6G-6A899
MiWaters Site Name: 14-McKenzie Street-Dowagiac
Site TRS: 05S14W31; Volinia Township, Cass County, Dowagiac Creek

Thank you for your March 1, 2018, request for floodplain information at the above site. The 1.0 percent annual chance (100-year) floodplain elevation of the Dowagiac Creek on the upstream side of the crossing at McKenzie Street is estimated to be 840.0 feet NAVD88 and the 100-year floodplain elevation of the Dowagiac Creek on the upstream side of the crossing at Griffis Road is estimated to be 835.0 feet NAVD88. These estimates are based on the high water elevations provided by your office from the February 21, 2018 flooding that likely exceeded the 1.0% annual chance event. Please see the enclosed portion of the Flood Insurance Rate Map for Volinia Township.

Any occupation, filling, or grading below the 100-year floodplain elevation requires a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Water Resources Division (WRD), under the state's Floodplain Regulatory Authority found in Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA). Compensating cut for more than 300 cubic yards of fill placed in the floodplain must be provided.

In general, construction and fill may be permitted in portions of the floodplain that are not floodway, provided local ordinances and building standards are met. Floodways are the channel of the stream or drain and those portions of the floodplain adjoining the channel that are reasonably required to carry and discharge the 100-year flood. These are generally the areas of moving water during a flood. Work activity in the floodway will normally require an engineering analysis to verify that the proposal does not increase the floodplain elevation on upstream properties. Residential construction is prohibited in the floodway portion of the floodplain.

The Michigan Residential Building Code requires that the lowest floor of structures located within the regulated floodplain (including basements) be elevated at least 1-foot above the design flood level (normally the 100-year elevation). Nonresidential structures may be elevated or dry floodproofed. Enclosed space below the 100-year floodplain elevation, such as a crawl space, must be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic forces on exterior walls.

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April 27, 2018

Page 2 of 2

Volinia Township does *not* participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Proper enforcement of the building code standards is a prerequisite of the community's participation in the NFIP. Additional local requirements may also apply and be more restrictive. In the NFIP communities, flood insurance must be purchased as a condition of obtaining a federally insured mortgage in federally identified 100-year floodplain areas. Insurance rates can be very high for new construction if the lowest floor elevation standards are not met.

No review has been performed as part of this service to determine whether wetlands exist at the subject site. Wetlands are regulated under the authority of Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the NREPA. The existence of wetlands may restrict the development on-site. If you are unsure of the presence of wetlands, it is recommended that you contact the WRD concerning the Wetlands Identification Program (WIP) or engage a private wetland consultant. For more information regarding the WIP, please contact Mr. Keto Gyekis, Wetlands, Lakes, and Streams Unit, WRD, at 517-243-5002 or gyekisk@michigan.gov. If the project will impact wetlands, please contact the Wetlands Program permits staff; a staff map is available at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-permit-staff_402908_7.pdf. The permit application can be found at: www.michigan.gov/jointpermit.

This letter does not obviate the need for any other state, federal, or local permits that may be required by law. If you have any further questions regarding the floodplain requirements, please feel free to contact me at 269-568-2680; bayhaj@michigan.gov; or MDEQ, Kalamazoo District Office, 7953 Adobe Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-5025.

Sincerely,



John Bayha, P.E.
District Floodplain Engineer
Kalamazoo District Office
Water Resources Division

Enclosure

cc: Volinia Township Building Department