U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region III
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor
615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

FEMA

The Honorable Richard G. Ballengee
Mayor
Town of Christiansburg
100 East Main Street
Christiansburg, Virginia 24073

APR 3 2012

Dear Mayor Ballengee:

The Town of Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia's adoption of the New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan dated January 3, 2012 has been received by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The plan is now approved with the receipt and acceptance of the formal adoption resolution. As such, the Town of Christiansburg is now eligible to apply for federal disaster assistance until the New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan expires on March 30, 2017.

We reviewed the plan based on the criteria contained in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 201, as authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). These criteria address the planning process, risk assessment (including hazard identification), mitigation strategy and plan maintenance process requirements.

The New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan received a "satisfactory" rating for all required criteria. However, the DMA2K also includes a provision to encourage communities to continuously strive to improve their plans and resulting mitigation actions. Therefore, the plan must be reviewed, revised if appropriate, and resubmitted for approval within five years of the initial approval date of March 30, 2012 in order to continue to be eligible for federal disaster assistance.

We encourage you to participate in the expansion and documentation of the plan's assessment and analysis of mitigation measures. We also encourage you to follow the schedule for regular evaluation, updating, and monitoring, and have enclosed a list of specific recommendations for improving the plan.

If you have questions, please contact Matthew Wall, Virginia State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at (804) 897-6500.

I commend you for your dedication demonstrated in preparing and adopting a strategy to reduce future disaster losses.

Sincerely,

Eugene K. Gruber
Mitigation Division Director

Enclosure

cc: Matthew Wall, Virginia State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Recommendations for Improvements
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
Virginia – Region III

New River Valley PDC, Town of Christiansburg, Virginia
Hazard Mitigation Plan

1. The lowest floor elevation of the most vulnerable structures could be determined and kept as an annex to the plan.

2. The planning committee should consider using social media outlets to get more public participation when the plan is updated next.

3. A complete analysis of the NFIP in each jurisdiction should be included in the next plan update. Items to consider include: how new construction is inspected to ensure compliance with the local floodplain ordinance, how residents and others are assisted with mapping questions, how violations are dealt with.

4. Include a discussion of vulnerability in terms of types and numbers of future buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities for all the natural hazards addressed in the plan. Base the information on an inventory of proposed structures located within the identified hazard area boundaries. Determine how far into the future the assessment will go in considering such structures, including planned and approved development.

5. A thorough reporting on the progress to implement mitigation projects should be included when the plan is updated.