

Publishing flood risk information

Delivering the Flood Risk Regulations

Briefing 3 - August 2013

The Flood Risk Regulations require flood maps to be produced and published for rivers, the sea, reservoirs and surface water by 22 December 2013. This is our monthly update to give you the latest information.

Updates this month

Publishing maps online

- We are unable to publish the maps on the 'what's in your backyard' (WIYBY) system on the Environment Agency's website.
- We have now appointed an external supplier to develop an online system to display the maps. This new system will still be accessed via the Environment Agency website and will link to any existing information on WIYBY. It will look like WIYBY, but with some enhanced functionality. We are working closely with the new supplier to agree requirements.

Launching the maps

- Based on feedback from internal and external colleagues, we are currently proposing a proactive launch in early December. This will include a media release, social media and maybe some joint communications between Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and the local Environment Agency teams (where both organisations want to).
- We will be speaking with Defra and LGA to get their thoughts on this proposal before making a final decision on how we proceed.

What's in a name?

- To make sure the maps are clear for users we will be re-naming them. We have reviewed existing research and looked at what other organisations use and have come up with some suggestions.
- There are only subtle differences between the suggestions, for example suggestion 3 includes the use of 'risk' whereas the other options don't. We've also decided not to include the word 'national'. We're interested in your views, particularly on what we call the existing flood map to avoid confusion.
- If you have any feedback on the potential names, please email [Jo Diamond](mailto:Jo.Diamond@ea.gov.uk) by 6 September 2013.

Existing names	Suggestion 1	Suggestion 2	Suggestion 3
Flood map (rivers and sea)	Flood map for land-use planning	Land-use planning flood map	Flood risk map for land-use planning
National flood risk assessment	Flood map for rivers and sea	Rivers and sea flood map	Flood risk map for rivers and sea
Reservoir flood map	Flood map for reservoirs	Reservoir flood map	Flood risk map for reservoirs
Updated Flood Map for Surface Water	Flood map for surface water	Surface water flood map	Flood risk map for surface water

Maps for rivers and the sea (where gets wet)

- Work is underway to produce the flood map for rivers and the sea using the National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA) data. The existing Flood Map will remain on the 'what's on your backyard' (WIYBY) system on the Environment Agency's website but will be re-named (see the suggested names in the table above).

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL - GENERAL BRIEFING

- We are talking to the insurance industry about the impact of not providing the 1 in 75 category and using only the new categories. We may need to amend our plans depending on the outcome of these discussions.
- We have gathered information about the number of properties at risk based on the NaFRA data. We have briefed Defra and will shortly be sharing this information with relevant internal Environment Agency teams.
- We have received flow and level estimates, but have requested a bit more information and clarifications from our local teams. While this is being done, we are looking at how to present this information, so that it fits in with the other information we present, and is meaningful and useful to our customers.

Maps for surface water (where gets wet)

- We are working with the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) to produce the surface water maps.
- The final data will be provided to LLFAs in September. LLFAs hold the responsibility for this source of flooding, so this will hopefully give them time to familiarise themselves with the data ahead of the maps being launched in December.

Maps for reservoirs (where gets wet)

- The updated reservoirs maps are being developed by the Environment Agency's internal data team (Geomatics).
- The Cabinet Office has advised us that we should make the decision about whether to publish the reservoir maps or not due to security issues. We are seeking advice from our security and legal team and will make a final decision on whether we can publish the reservoir maps.

Maps showing what get wet

- We are just finalising the specification. The Environment Agency's internal data team (Geomatics) will then start work on the maps.
- The maps will be created as PDFs and added to the Environment Agency's regulation web pages.

Online summary flood risk report

- As part of our aim to make flood risk information more accessible and useful, we are developing a web page that will give customers an overall summary of flood risk from all the different sources.
- This new development will not be ready for December when the maps launch. We will continue to work with our digital team and the Government Digital Service on this improvement and plan to launch it as soon as we can.

What are the main activities over the next month?

Our priorities during August are to:

- Work with the appointed supplier on the online map viewing system.
- Start developing the maps.
- Finalise how and when we are going to launch the maps.
- Continue to develop of our frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Further information and next update

If you have any questions or require further information please contact [Jo Diamond](#).

A separate more detailed update has been circulated to Environment Agency Partnership and Strategic Overview team. If you would like to see this additional briefings please contact Jo Diamond.

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