

The intent of this document is to give general direction, promote consistency and clarity among Department staff in the delineation of the regulatory floodplain limits. The following general direction has been coordinated and agreed to in a joint effort with DEEP and DOT for the purposes of applying for State permits from the DEEP Inland Water Resources Division.

According to Section 25-68b. of the Connecticut General Statutes (Definitions), "Floodplain" means that area located within the real or theoretical limits of the base flood or base flood for a critical activity. DEEP will regulate the "real" floodplain and not the theoretical floodplain when a detailed study (usually FEMA Flood Zones AE & VE) has been conducted by FEMA.

***If FEMA has a detailed analysis*** available- the real 100-year floodplain is delineated by taking the published base flood elevation (BFE) from the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and plotting the floodplain limits by that published elevation. This floodplain limit will be depicted on all plan views. The legend on these plans should clearly identify the line style as "FEMA 100-Year Flood (calculated)". On elevation views, a line will be drawn and labeled, "FEMA 100-Year Flood Elevation (calculated) = " with the calculated elevation.

***If there is no detailed study by FEMA but a hydraulic analysis has been performed for the project*** – the real 100-year floodplain is delineated by plotting the limits based on the elevations calculated by the hydraulic analysis for the existing (pre-project) condition. This floodplain limit will be depicted on all plan views. The legend on these plans should clearly identify the line style as "Existing 100-Year Flood (calculated)". On elevation views, a line will be drawn and labeled, "Existing 100-Year Flood Elevation (calculated) = " with the calculated elevation.

***If there is no hydraulic analysis*** - the 100-year (1-percent-annual-chance flood event) theoretical floodplain limits should be plotted on all plan views as depicted on the FEMA FIRM. The plan legend should clearly identify the line style as "Mapped FEMA 100-Year Flood Limit."

The above direction is presented in the order of precedence, that is, the floodplain limits shall be based on the BFEs calculated and published by FEMA, if available, followed by calculated elevations if there are no FEMA BFEs and a hydraulic analysis was performed, then the mapped FEMA lines if no flood elevations have been calculated.

Table 1 summarizes the above direction in a tabular format.

**TABLE 1**

FEMA FLOOD HAZARD ZONE	DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS PERFORMED FOR PROJECT?	DIRECTION	Method for Delineation
Zone A	Areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event generally determined using approximate methodologies. Because detailed hydraulic analyses have not been performed, no Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) or flood depths are shown.	NO	Plot the 100-year (1-percent-annual-chance flood event) floodplain limits as depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)	Map
		YES	Plot the 100-year floodplain limits based on flood elevations ( <u>EXISTING CONDITIONS</u> ) determined in the hydraulic analysis for the project.	Elevation
Zone AE and A1-30	Areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event determined by detailed methods. Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) are shown.		Plot the 100-year floodplain limits based on the published regulatory BFESs shown on the FEMA FIRM.	Elevation
Floodway (Zone AE and A1-30)	The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.		The floodway is not plotted by elevation. Plot the floodway as depicted on the FEMA FIRM.	Map
Zone AE (Coastal)	The 100-year flood limits with defined BFEs that reflect the combined influence of stillwater flood elevations and wave effects less than 3 feet. The AE Zone generally extends from the landward VE zone limit to the limits of the 100-year flood from coastal sources, or until it reaches the confluence with riverine flood sources.		Plot the 100-year floodplain limits based on the published regulatory BFESs shown on the FEMA FIRM.	Elevation