

**MCM Consulting Group, Inc.**  
**Focus Spotlight**  
**Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Project**

The Monroe County, Pennsylvania hazard mitigation plan was updated in a long-term planning process which occurred between July 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016. Due to the in-depth nature of hazard mitigation planning, Monroe County sought the services of MCM Consulting Group, Inc. (MCM), which has a vast span of knowledge in hazard mitigation planning. Monroe County and MCM initiated the planning process with the development of a multi-discipline local planning team, which included representatives from local business, academia, government, and the first responder community.

A comprehensive capability assessment and a risk assessment were completed by Monroe County representatives and local government representatives. The capability and risk assessments give government and public safety representatives the opportunity to take a detailed, structured look at the hazards that could affect citizens, safety and infrastructure in their communities and county. The assessment also affords them an opportunity to look at their current ability to mitigate and recover from these hazards. In addition to county and local government representation, agencies including hospitals, museums, historical associations and educational institutions participated in the assessments.

The Monroe County hazard mitigation plan update interfaced with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) on a project that created a database of historical properties, structures and landmarks within Monroe County that are located in the special flood hazard. Mitigation strategies were developed for the historical areas to reduce the impact of any future flooding. The simultaneous completion of the Monroe County hazard mitigation plan and the PHMC project brought a new concept to hazard mitigation planning by combining it with historical planning and the joint development of mitigation strategies.

The next component of the plan update was a public survey that included information on hazards and emergency plans. A survey was created on Survey Monkey® with the link being distributed throughout municipalities in the county for feedback. MCM was able to engage all twenty municipalities of Monroe County and accomplish a 100% participation rate in the hazard mitigation planning process. The dedication with which Monroe County and its municipalities participated in the process was pinnacle to the success of the project.

The updated Monroe County hazard mitigation plan was reviewed by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The required review gives the agencies the opportunity to determine if the plan meets all required

federal and state regulations, and suggest changes and improvements to the plan. In the case of the Monroe County plan, it was approved in the initial review with no recommendations and given approved pending adoption status.