

Interim Flood Hazard Prevention Regulations Adopted – Public Comments Now Accepted

The Cle Elum City Council has repealed and replaced Cle Elum Municipal Code Chapter 15.24 Flood Hazard Prevention with interim regulations that include amendments required by FEMA and the Washington State Department of Ecology necessary for the City to remain eligible for participation in the federal flood insurance program. The adoption of these amended regulations as an interim land use control has enabled the City to meet the requirements of FEMA while providing City Staff sufficient time to prepare and present for Planning Commission review updated Flood Hazard Prevention regulations that are integrated with the City's updated Critical Areas regulations. Following review of the updated and integrated regulations by the Planning Commission the draft regulations will be circulated for public review and comment and a public hearing will be conducted by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will then consider all comments received by the City and make a recommendation to the City Council.

The City is now accepting written comments on these interim flood hazard regulations which may be hand delivered, mailed, or emailed, **provided that all written comments must be received by the City, or post marked no later than Friday November 19, 2021.** All comments must clearly identify the name and address of the person(s) submitting the comments. No comments may be submitted through social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and the like.

- Comment letters may be mailed to: City of Cle Elum, Attention: Planning Department/Interim Flood Hazard Prevention Regulations, 119 West First Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922.
- Emails may be sent to planning@cityofcleelum.gov. Please include Interim Flood Hazard Prevention Regulations in the subject line; or

- Written comments addressed to Planning Department/ Interim Flood Hazard Prevention Regulations may be hand delivered to Cle Elum City Hall, 119 West First Street, or placed in the Drop Box located outside of the Customer Entrance on Oakes Avenue.

The Cle Elum City Council will also accept direct testimony on the proposed Interim Flood Hazard Prevention regulations at a public hearing during their regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday November 8th at 6:00 pm** and again on **Monday November 22, at 6:00 pm**. The City Council meetings are conducted at the Cle Elum City Hall 119 W First Street, however virtual participation by Zoom or by phone will also be an option. Please go to the City website at cityofcleelum.com or call (509) 674-2262 for information on how to participate virtually.

It is anticipated that during the subsequent review that the City Staff and the Planning Commission will consider the following:

1. The discretionary amendments to the Flood Hazard Prevention regulations (CEMC 15.24) recommended by the Department of Ecology.
2. The integration of the DOE recommended revisions to the Flood Hazard Prevention regulations with the critical area regulations protecting frequently flooded areas previously reviewed by the Planning Commission.
3. The proposed Best Available Science Report which is the basis for updating the City's critical areas regulations and is to be used when evaluating project specific development proposals.
4. The location and classification of streams in the City.
5. The base map and standards to be used as a reference when determining whether a proposed development is in proximity to a stream that triggers the need for a critical area report.

6. Possible formatting changes to make the regulations more user friendly and easier to administer.

For more information, please review the following documents or contact the City of Cle Elum at planning@cleelum.gov.

Links:

- Updated FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS) ([Vol. 1](#), [Vol. 2](#), & [Vol. 3](#)).
- Updated FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- [Ordinance 1615](#) (2021).