



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

August 2, 2007

Darryl Piercy, Director  
Community Development Services  
411 North Ruby Street, Suite 2  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

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KITITAS COUNTY  
ODS

Dear Mr. Piercy:

Revised Title 14.08 of the Kittitas County Code was transmitted to me and to other interested parties by Joanna Valencia on July 23, 2007. This revision resulted from adoption of Ordinance No. 2007-22 by the County, and addressed previous reviews by this office on October 9, 2006 and March 23, 2007.

Our review of March 23, 2007 indicated approval of a draft of the revisions to Title 14.08, with the condition that three measures needed to be changed in order to be compliant with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and State floodplain management regulations. Most of the items from our reviews were satisfactorily made.

However, a major change occurred between the draft submitted on March 15, 2007 and the final adopted version. The County eliminated the FEMA floodway encroachment standard at 14.08.300(1), which is totally unacceptable. This is one of the most important standards in the NFIP and it is absolutely mandatory. This must be corrected as quickly as possible, and we will have to withhold CAV closure until the correction is made.

Also, in transposing the insurance rating of detached accessory buildings at 14.08.260, the County added words that are accurate regarding insurance rating, but kept the old words in the standard; the old words are completely inaccurate, as both of my previous letters have stated. Insurance is not rated as one foot below the BFE for buildings that are not elevated to the BFE per this standard; the rating could be much higher. This also needs to be corrected.

Please make these changes as quickly as possible. I assume they can be treated as transposition errors so that adoption can be expedited. Failure to have a compliant ordinance can subject a community to immediate suspension from the NFIP. Not having the floodway encroachment standard is a very serious deficiency that can warrant a suspension action.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (425) 649-7139.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Steele  
Floodplain Management Specialist

cc: Mark Carey, FEMA  
Dan Sokol, Jeff Lewis, Ecology  
Joanna Valencia

