



**TOWN OF BETHANY BEACH**

**P.O. BOX 109  
214 GARFIELD PARKWAY  
BETHANY BEACH, DE 19930  
OFFICE (302) 539-8011  
FAX (302) 539-7604  
EMAIL: [sfrederick@townofbethanybeach.com](mailto:sfrederick@townofbethanybeach.com)**

Dear Property Owner:

I have reviewed your recent application for a permit to repair your existing home that was damaged by [insert cause of damage]. The building is located in a mapped Special Flood Hazard Area. As required by our floodplain management regulations and/or building code, I have determined that the building has been substantially damaged. This determination is based on a comparison of the cost estimate of the work required to restore the building to its pre-damage condition to the market value of the building (excluding land value). When the cost to repair equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the building, the work is repair of substantial damage.

As a result of this determination, you are required to bring the building into compliance with the flood damage-resistant provisions of The Code of the Town of Bethany Beach, Chapter 453 Flood Damage Prevention, Sections 453-1 Findings and 453-9 Definitions for the definitions of Substantial Improvement and Substantial Damage.

I would be pleased to meet with you and your designated representative (architect/builder) to discuss how to bring your home into compliance. There are several aspects that must be addressed to achieve compliance. The most significant requirement is that the lowest floor, as defined in the regulations/code, must be elevated to or above the base flood elevation (BFE) plus the freeboard. You may wish to contact your insurance agent to understand how raising the lowest floor higher than the minimum required elevation can reduce NFIP flood insurance premiums.

If the damage was caused by flooding and if you have a flood insurance policy from the National Flood Insurance Program, you should contact your adjuster to discuss the Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage. This coverage may provide a claim payment to help pay for work required to bring your home into compliance. Your adjuster can explain that the ICC claim may also be used to pay certain costs associated with demolishing and rebuilding your home, or moving your home to a site outside of the floodplain.

Please resubmit your permit application along with plans and specifications that incorporate compliance measures. Construction activities that are undertaken without a proper permit are violations and may result in citations, fines, or other legal action.

Thank you,

Susan Frederick  
Building Inspector/Certified Floodplain Manager  
Town of Bethany Beach  
(302) 539-8780