



Using the FEMA Coastal Work Map Data Viewer

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is releasing draft work maps for communities along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario in New York, which include the full results of FEMA's comprehensive storm and wind study of the Great Lakes basin.

The work maps are a draft product that FEMA is sharing ahead of the future issuance of preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) through [FEMA work map data viewer \(http://arcg.is/1W5Ovq\)](http://arcg.is/1W5Ovq) web application. The work maps are intended to help community officials understand current flood risk and likely flood insurance requirements in the future. The release of this information will also provide community officials an opportunity to review and comment on areas in their community where they believe risks are inappropriately mapped (understated or overstated).

The draft work maps include coastal flood hazard areas only and will not show riverine flood hazards or any tie-ins between riverine and coastal flood hazard information in a community. However, all information for both coastal and non-coastal areas will be included on any future preliminary FIRMs. The work map data viewer also includes change products which indicates the difference between the effective mapping to the draft work maps.

The draft work maps will not affect flood insurance rates or the Federal requirement to purchase flood insurance in designated areas. Only the effective FIRM, which has been officially adopted by community officials, can be used to rate flood insurance policies or require the purchase of flood insurance. Effective FIRM information can be viewed by turning on the National Flood Hazard Layer in the Contents tab of this map or through FEMA's Map Service Center. On the map, the symbology for the work map data is different than the traditional FIRM information in order to distinguish between the products.

The map will also indicate where work map information has been released, and includes hyperlinks to various products.

This document provides step-by-step information on how to use the [FEMA work map data viewer \(http://arcg.is/1W5Ovq\)](http://arcg.is/1W5Ovq).

1. Map Overview

Once you are on the FEMA work map data viewer homepage, your screen should appear similar to Figure 1 below. Notice the three buttons at the top of the left hand "Details" panel which are circled in red below.

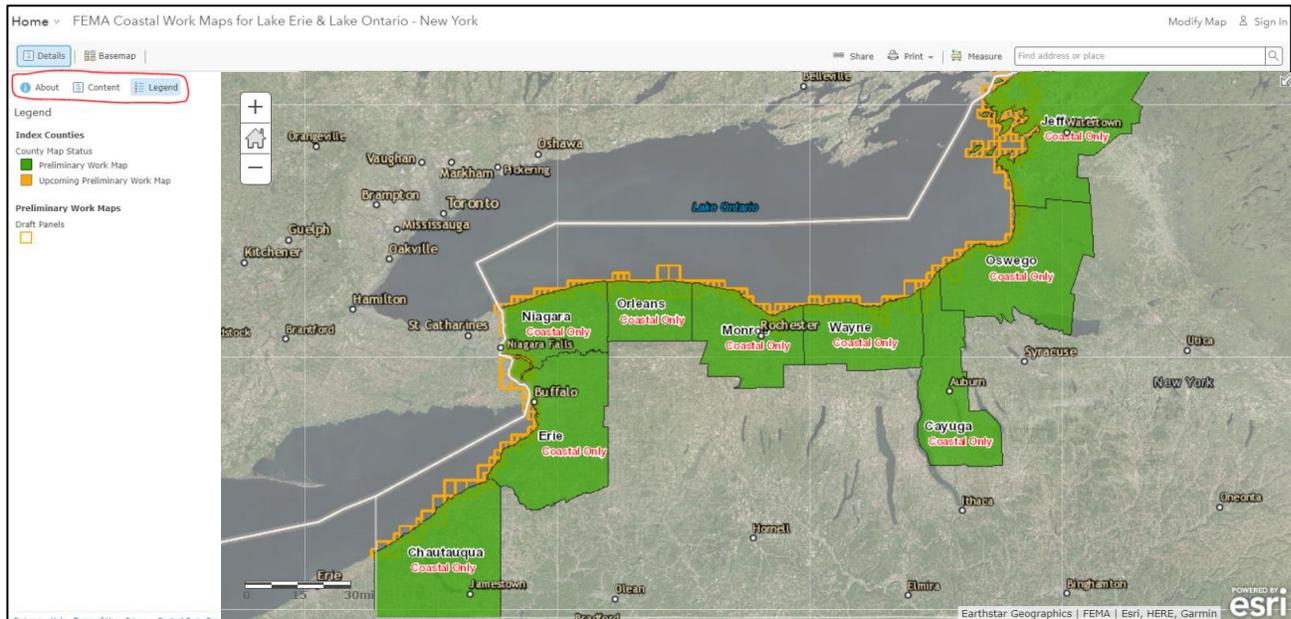


Figure 1

You are currently on the default left hand “Legend” tab. Click on the “About” tab to view additional details about the map. Click on the “More Details” link. Now you can view a description of the map and constraints on access and use. Experienced GIS users can view the map in ArcGIS desktop software by using the “Open in ArcGIS for Desktop” button located on the top right area of the webpage. Metadata about data layers included on the map is also available on this page.

Click your browser’s “Back” button or the “Map” button at the top left area of your screen to return to the map homepage.

2. Turning Map Layers On and Off

Once you are back on the map homepage, click the middle “Content” button at the top of the left hand panel (shown circled in red in Figure 2.)

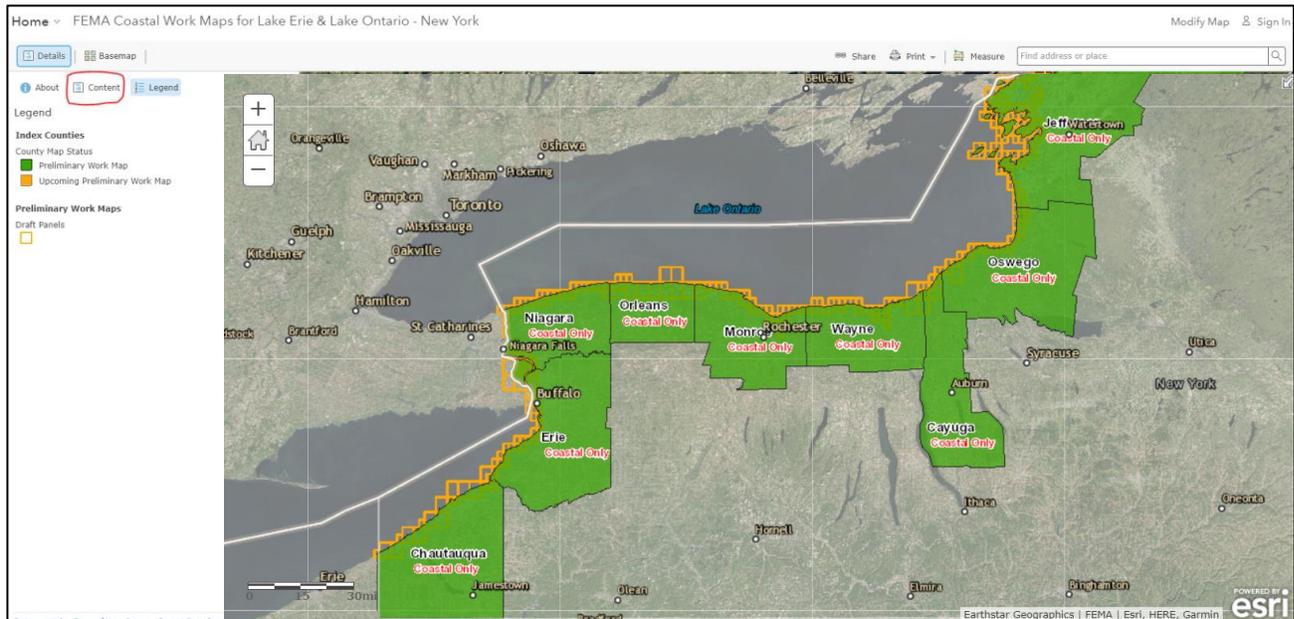


Figure 2

Here you can see the table of contents showing the datasets included in the map. Now click on the name of one of the datasets (Figure 3).

You will now see an expanded list of all map layers included in that dataset. You can check or uncheck the boxes to the left of each layer and dataset to turn the map layers on and off in the map. Keep in mind that even if there is a check mark next to a layer, it may not currently be visible in the map. This is because some layers are only visible if you have zoomed in or out to a certain level on the map.

Notice that in addition to the work map data and National Flood Hazard Layer is included in the map.

If you click on the map layer names within these datasets, the symbology for that map layer will appear underneath the name. Notice that the symbology used for the work map data is different than the FIRM data to distinguish the different data sets.

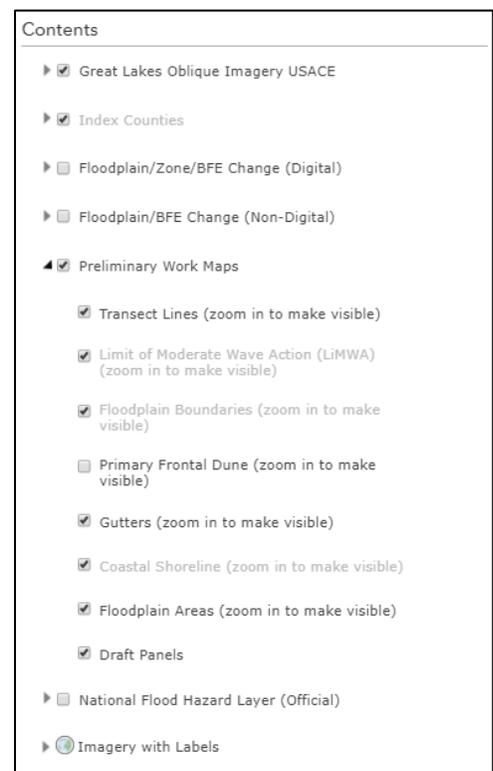


Figure 3

3. Viewing the Map Legend

Now click on the right “Legend” button at the top of the left hand panel, shown circled in red in Figure 4.

This is the map legend which shows all layers visible on the map. The map layers shown will change based on the layers turned on in the “Contents” tab and based on how much you have zoomed in or out on the map.

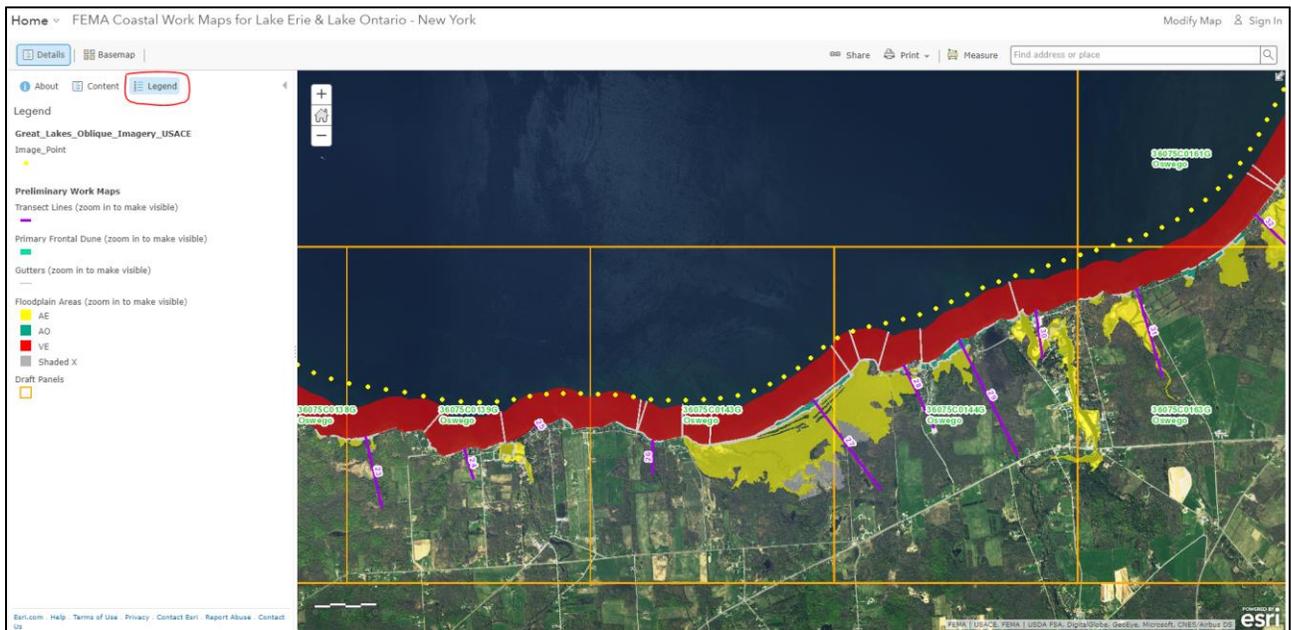


Figure 4

County Map Status Layer

Notice the colors that correspond to the status of the work map data release (e.g., Preliminary Work Map or Upcoming Preliminary Work Map) in the map legend (Figure 5). Click on a county you are interested in to get more information on the data available. For areas where a work map data has been released, the pop up box will include a hyperlink to the work map data products and effective FIRM data.

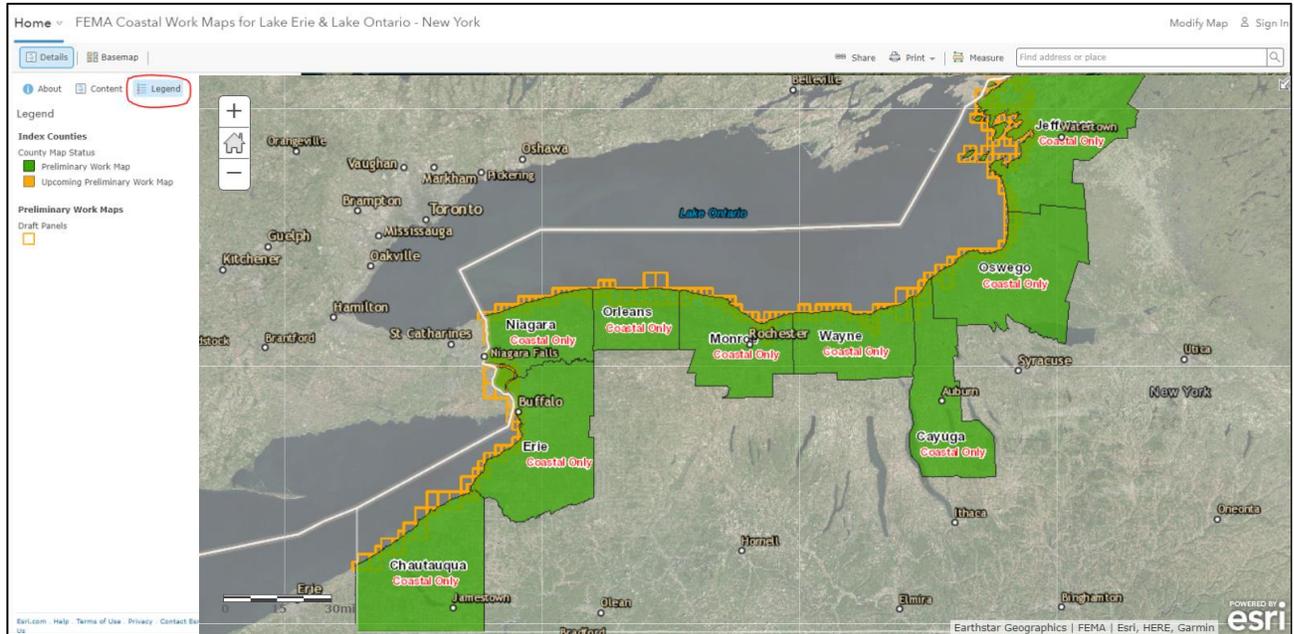


Figure 5

4. Find Your Location on the Map and Get FEMA Flood Hazard Information

To find a location of interest on the map, either zoom to the desired location using the zoom controls on the left side of the map and your left mouse button to pan, or type in an address in the upper right field (Figure 6).



Figure 6

You should now be zoomed in to the map and be able to see your location of interest and the available flood hazard information for that location. Now, left click your mouse on the map at your location of interest. The layers selected will be highlighted in blue on the map.

A pop up window will appear which lists the updated flood zone and elevation information and other visible map layers for that location (Figure 7). Only layers that are turned on and currently visible in the map will appear in the pop up window.

In the pop up window, you will also see a hyperlink to view Great Lakes Study website. Note that the pop up window may have more than one screen depending on the number of layers selected—use the arrows at the top right hand side of the pop up window to navigate through the screens.

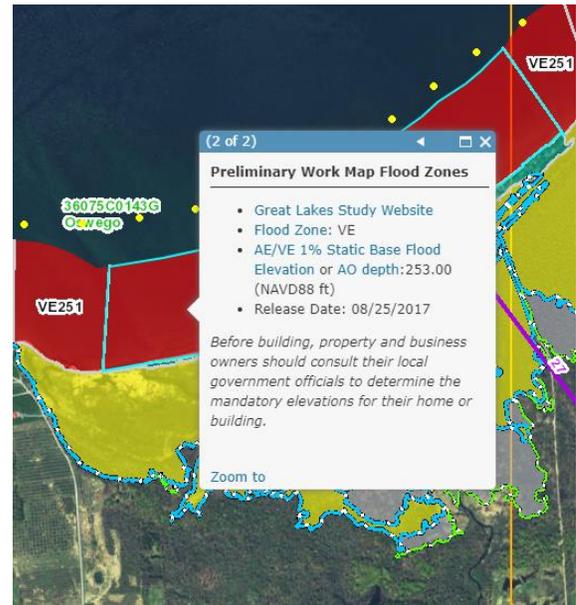


Figure 7

You will also be able to download maps in .pdf format and GIS shapefiles from hyperlinks in the pop up window which include your location of interest (Figure 8). To download these files, the Map Panels layer must be visible in the map. These .pdfs can then be viewed offline or printed.



Figure 8

5. Other Features

The horizontal bar at the top of the map homepage has the additional features described below.



- The “Basemap” button allows you to select a different base map than the one currently shown on the map. You can choose different street maps, topographic data sets, or imagery.
- You can print the map using the “Print” option or by using your browser’s “Print Screen” option and pasting into a separate document.
- You can measure distances or areas on the map by using the “Measure” tool.
- Options to share the map via link or embed the map into a webpage are also provided using the “Share” button.