
Reprieve possible on deadline for compliance with regulations

MOUNT VERNON — Mount Vernon officials may get a reprieve from FEMA's June 1 deadline by enforcing a building moratorium:

According to FEMA spokesman Chuck Steele, FEMA sent a letter to Mayor Ruth Gidlund last Friday in which they outline two alternatives to the current June 1 deadline.

The letter, which was a response to a request from Gidlund, states the city can have until July 1 to write an ordinance. The only other alternative, the letter states, is a building moratorium in the city limits until an ordinance is written.

—legislator

According to Steele, a moratorium would serve the same purpose as an ordinance, preventing new construction below the 100-year flood level.

Such a moratorium would affect certain large projects already planned here, including Skagit County's new jail.

Roger Howard, project manager for the jail, said the county would be "extremely disappointed, to say the least" if such a moratorium were to be enforced.

He said he was expecting a permit from city Building Official Ron Maynock this week to begin demolition for the project.

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