Great Lakes Coastal Flood Hazard Mapping – Applying V-Zone Building Requirements on the Great Lakes

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is revising the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for coastal counties along the Great Lakes to include the impact of surge and wave run-up. Areas impacted by waves have special designations on these maps. Building construction in these designated areas is required to be consistent with ASCE 24. A primary requirement of which is that structures be built on piles and/or columns to allow waves to move under a structure to prevent erosion that undermines the foundation. This will be important not only in relation to mapping V Zones but also LimWAs (limit of moderate wave action) since the V Zone building standards apply in these areas as well. This presentation focuses on the implication of designations on FIRMs in coastal communities on the Great Lakes.