

Action Items from 2014 National Earthquake Program Managers Meeting Denver, Colorado | May 21 – 22, 2014

I. FEMA HQ and Regional Meeting

- Improve communications inside and outside NEHRP.
- Determine whether to work with State inventories to take advantage of current and existing national inventory tools for the effective capturing and collection of information.
- Consider if guidance can and should be developed to help States more effectively collect information.
- Reinvigorate the Western Integration Group (WIG).
- HQ to send the FEMA NEHRP Accomplishments Report for FY 2013 to the Regions.

II. NEPM Meeting Breakout Session (States)

- Work together on a more regular basis.
- Develop a better process for communication.
- Leverage resources and cooperate with each other.
- Develop a position paper (NEMA/NEHRP).
- Obtain capability statements from the consortia and partners.

III. NEPM Meeting Breakout Session (FEMA and Consortia and Partners)

- Improve the NEHRP partnership structure for State/Territorial input and State dialogue by engaging States/Territories through HQ and Regional staff, consortia, and other partners. All States/Territories in each Region to provide input on short- and long-term needs and maintain a dialogue with staff from the consortia, partners, and HQ and Regions.
- Develop a long-term strategy to drive NEHRP rather than a short-term annual needs list.
- Leverage existing resources inside and outside NEHRP. Current resources can be used to generate new resources (Disney/FLASH collaboration is a good example).
- Strengthen and improve some partnerships.
- Encourage regular dialogue between all groups supporting States/Territories (HQ, Regions, consortia, and partners). Hold quarterly calls and an additional half-day meeting during the next NEPM.
- Facilitate semi-annual State meetings (conference call or other) with NEHRP support, similar to the ShakeOut calls among the Western States and CUSEC States. There are resources, such as the FLASH website, to upload materials.
- A workgroup (HQ, Regions, consortia, and partners) will meet in 30-60 days to create an action plan for these and other priorities, including how to create more visibility and more momentum for NEHRP, how to engage other NEHRP agencies in these efforts, and how to strengthen these relationships.

- Reach out to the States in the next 30-60 days. It is important for the States to know that this group supports them.

IV. NEPM Meeting Plenary Session (All; Communication Issues)

Communications Process

Quarterly Communication for all Stakeholders

- Create an accurate and current email list serve.
- Conduct web meetings and webinars.
- Take notes during meetings and share them at the end of the meeting.
- Have subgroups meet once a month.
- Create an agenda and send action items before the meeting.
- Feature at least two partners on each call to share capabilities and accomplishments.
- Provide additional contractor support for communication.
- Create a mechanism for project-centric communication with stakeholders.

Additional Communication Tools (Contractor Support)

- Use the National Program Management website for resource and information sharing.
- Survey the need for new tools and features on the CUSEC State earthquake website.
- Reinvigorate and update the CUSEC State earthquake website and post new and updated sources and project summaries and events.
- Provide additional support outside normal project lists to best communicate State needs.

Improved Communication with HQ and the Regions, Partners, and Consortia

- Develop and share a quarterly newsletter.
- Develop a one-pager to summarize current projects.
- Agree on projects and priorities before planning and implementing them with the States.

Transparency

Organization and Priorities

- Establish a consistent process for program funding requests (criteria).
- Provide program guidance, allowing for as much lead time as possible.
- Create a Best Practices SOP for State staff.

Clarifications

- Determine why funding mechanisms have changed from direct support to the States to the current process (explain the Federal decision-making process).
- Clarify the mechanism for the grant application and award process.
- Provide a better understanding of long-term project planning and funding.

Better Strategic Planning

- Good communication can help overcome transparency issues.
- Better represent emergency management in NEHRP priorities.
- Develop an organizational structure/process to promote transparency (use NTHMP as a model).

V. NEPM Meeting (All; Work Process)

- To meet the September 1 deadline, all partners will meet in the next 30-60 days to plan and meet with the States.
- States to have access to Regional staff to discuss program goals and needs.
- States will submit their information for the October 1-September 30 fiscal year; adjust the timeline to allow States to have enough time to submit their information, and allow FEMA time to prioritize and allow time for interaction.
- Provide a range of funding availability.
- States to identify “core” and “supplemental” projects, along with cost estimates, for each program and project.
- FEMA to send specific instructions for funding opportunities.
- Regions to reach out to the States to ask for their core and supplemental projects and to establish national and State-specific projects.
- Provide project recommendations.
- Leverage projects to achieve greater impact.
- Results-Outcomes-Implications on goals for expected results.
- Identify and rank priorities for projects.
- Determine if projects falls within core competencies, capabilities, and capacities of the partner.
- NEMA representation can provide a mechanism for project prioritization and serve as an advocate for funding (Mr. Goltz offered to represent NEHRP on the NEMA Advisory Committee).
- Determine how to elevate the role and importance of Regional earthquake managers.
- FEMA to look for clear scope, national scale, and leverage opportunities and results.