National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program

... a research and implementation partnership

Legislative Update
(Adapted from 2009/2010 Presentations to ACEHR)

Presentation to Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction
11 March 2011

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NEHRP Reauthorization Status

- “Old” authorization (PL 108-360) expired on 9/30/09 – but this only impacted authorized funding levels, not operational requirements for agencies.
- House of Representatives passed HR 3820* (3/3/10) and then referred bill to Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- Senate did not act on HR 3820 in 111th Congress.
- Both houses of Congress will need to pass a reauthorization bill. The House-passed bill in the 111th Congress has lapsed.
- Agencies plan to work with House Science, Space, & Technology Committee and Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to restart authorization process, but we currently have no details about approach planned by 112th Congress.
- Agencies are continuing their NEHRP activities, within budget constraints.
- HR 3820 endorsed many of the directions set forth in NEHRP Strategic Plan.

* See http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h3820rfs.txt.pdf
HR 3820 Recap: Global Changes

• Includes NEHRP as Title I (of 5 titles) of new *Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009*

• Other titles:
  
  II: Wind (NWIRP)
  III: Interagency Coordinating Committee on Natural Hazards Risk Reduction
  IV: National Construction Safety Team Act Amendments
  V: Fire Research Program

• Also establishes NIST as lead agency for **NWIRP**

• Reduces authorization levels for FEMA, NIST

• Keeps NSF, USGS authorization levels essentially level

• Eliminates requirements for all agencies to support NSF report that led to NEES development (since NEES is well underway)
HR 3820 Recap: Agency Role Changes

• Lead Agency (NIST) Responsibilities:
  ➢ Increased emphasis on social sciences
  ➢ Increased emphasis on issuing recommended model code changes and reporting on their adoption (note: historically a FEMA lead role)
  ➢ Lead for post-earthquake investigations (*PIMS not mentioned*)

• Agency Program Responsibilities:
  ➢ FEMA, NIST largely unchanged
  ➢ NSF – increased emphasis on multi- and inter-disciplinary research, and on social sciences
  ➢ USGS – legacy NEIC library functions removed
HR 3820 Recap: Committee Structure Changes

- Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC):
  - Becomes earthquake + wind, with NOAA membership added
  - Required meetings reduced from 3 to 2 per year
  - Authorizes core ICC members to add other agency heads that they deem appropriate

- Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction:
  - Function and composition largely unchanged
  - Parallel committee for wind hazards established
  - NIST Director has authority to establish other advisory committees
HR 3820 Recap: Reporting Processes

- Biennial report on program (instead of annual reports)
- Program budget report to be submitted in years when no annual report is required
- New strategic plan is required (appears to combine previous requirements for strategic and management plans in new strategic plan format)
HR 3820 Recap: SDR Report Requirement

- Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) of the Committee on Environment & Natural Resources of the National Science & Technology Council (NSTC) would be required to report in two years on:
  - Current Federal R&D and technology transfer activities that address hazard mitigation for natural disasters, including earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and floods;
  - Areas of research common to two or more hazards; and,
  - Opportunities to create synergies among research activities for different hazards.
HR 3820 Recap: Budget Snapshot

- Funds authorized for FY 2010 – FY 2014.
- 2009 Authorizations (last year of PL 108-360):
  - FEMA: $23.64M
  - USGS: $88.9M (with not less than $36M for ANSS)
  - NIST: $14.64M
  - NSF: $42.77M + $ 21.93M for NEES (Total: $64.7M)
- 2010 Authorizations in HR 3820 (not enacted):
  - FEMA: $10.238M
  - USGS: $90.0M (with not less than $36M for ANSS)
  - NIST: $7.0M
  - NSF: $64.125M
- 2011-2014 authorizations typically increase about 3% per year.