National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program

... a research and implementation partnership

Program Update

Presentation to Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazard Reduction
23 November 2009

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Jack Hayes – NEHRP Director
Presentation Outline

- NEHRP Reauthorization Status
- Program Budgets
- Status of Strategic Plan Implementation
- Status of Annual Report Preparation
- Agency Responses to 2009 ACEHR Input Letter
- National Research Council Study Status
- Management Plan Development Status
NEHRP Reauthorization

- “Old” authorization (PL 108-360) expired on 9/30/09.
- Agencies are continuing NEHRP “business as usual,” within budget constraints, while reauthorization activity proceeds.
- House S&T Committee conducted reauthorization hearings in June – thanks to Jim Harris, Mike Lindell, and Tom O’Rourke for their testimony!
- Current indications are that House & Senate are considering different approaches to reauthorization.
  - Agencies do not have details about current Senate approach.
  - Published version of draft HR 3820* provides insights into current House approach.
  - Draft HR 3820 seems to endorse directions set forth in NEHRP Strategic Plan.

* See http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.3820:/
NEHRP Reauthorization: Draft HR 3820

- **General Changes:**
  - NEHRP included as Title I (of 5 titles) of new *Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009*
  - Other titles:
    - II: Wind
    - III: Interagency Coordinating Committee on Natural Hazards Risk Reduction
    - IV: National Construction Safety Team Act Amendments
    - V: Fire Research Program
  - NIST also established as lead agency for other hazards
  - Agency NEHRP authorization levels reduced by varying percentages
  - Requirements for all agencies to support NSF report that led to NEES development eliminated (since NEES is underway)
NEHRP Reauthorization: Draft HR 3820

- **Significant Agency Role Changes:**
  - Lead Agency (NIST):
    - Increased emphasis on social sciences
    - Lead for post-earthquake investigations (PIMS not mentioned)
    - Increased emphasis on issuing recommended model code changes and reporting on their adoption *(note: historically a FEMA lead role)*
  - 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
NEHRP Reauthorization: Draft HR 3820

- Significant Committee Structure Changes:
  - Interagency Coordinating Committee:
    - Becomes earthquake + wind, with NOAA membership
    - Required meetings reduced from 3 to 2 per year
  - Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction:
    - Function and composition largely unchanged
    - Parallel committee on wind hazards established
    - NIST Director has authority to establish other advisory committees
NEHRP Reauthorization: Draft HR 3820

- Significant Reporting Changes:
  - Biannual 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)
NEHRP Reauthorization: Draft HR 3820

• Significant Reporting Changes, Continued:

  ➢ Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) of the Committee on Environment & Natural Resources of the National Science & Technology Council (NSTC) 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

    ✓ Opportunities to create synergies among research activities for different hazards
# NEHRP Program Budgets

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**Notes:**

3. “Requested” budgets reported for NIST & NSF in President’s FY 2010 Budget Request – Continuing Resolution thru 12/18/09.
4. FEMA FY 2005 budget covered program activities and S&E, but excluded state grants.
5. NIST budgets support NEHRP Secretariat and NIST Earthquake Risk Mitigation R&D Program.
8. FY 2009 ARRA funds are not included.
Strategic Plan Implementation Status

- Agencies will report details during their individual presentations.
- Highlights include:
  - NSF awarded new NEES Operations cooperative agreement to Purdue University (known as NEEScomm)
  - FEMA re-established its State Assistance program
  - USGS has initiated major ANSS instrumentation upgrades supported with ARRA funding
  - NIST solicited earthquake research grant proposals supported with ARRA funding
  - NSF received ARRA funding to make additional research awards
Strategic Plan Implementation Status

- Continued from previous slide.

- Highlights include:
  - FEMA neared completion of the 2009 Recommended Provisions
  - NIST proceeded with its buildup activities, with emphasis on PBSE
  - FEMA and NIST initiated formal interagency meetings to develop closely coordinated research and knowledge transfer activities
  - FEMA, NIST, & USGS presented joint New Madrid overview in Memphis
Annual Report Preparation Status

• Consistent with draft HR 3820, and in absence of authorization, agencies intend to report their budgets in 2010, with next report to be a “biannual” 2009-2010 report.
Agency Responses to 2009 ACEHR Input Letter

- Formal response from NEHRP ICC now in final stages of staffing
- Key highlights of responses:
  - Transfer of post-EQ lead agency:
    - Legislation is key – current legislation places USGS in lead role
    - ACEHR recommendation to transfer lead role for post-EQ investigations is in draft HR 3820
  - Enhance collaboration and advancements in lifeline engineering:
    - Regulatory oversight of nation’s lifelines is beyond NEHRP scope, but NEHRP will explore ways to focus national attention
    - NEHRP will support increased activity as resources permit
    - NSF actively cites the Strategic Plan in its solicitations
Agency Responses to 2009 ACEHR Input Letter

- Key highlights of responses, continued:

  - **Promote synergistic activities:**
    - Conducted Meeting of Interagency Committee on Seismic Safety in Construction (ICSSC) in August – progress hinges on NEHRP Director’s capacity to work issues
    - Briefed NSTC SDR at its November meeting – interest in NEHRP cooperation expressed by FHWA and NASA

  - **Support interdisciplinary research activities:**
    - NSF already substantially engaged
    - FEMA & NIST efforts depend on resource availabilities

  - **Continue multi-hazard demonstration projects:**
    - USGS continues to work in this area
• Project well underway

• National workshop conducted at UC Irvine, August 2009

• Committee met in Chicago in October 2009

• Committee’s last meeting to be held in DC in early December 2009

• Final report anticipated by late spring to early summer 2010
Management Plan Development Status

- Agencies have awaited final seating of Administration Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) leaders to establish detailed direction
- (Meanwhile) New draft reauthorization seems to combine features of management plan with strategic plan
- Results of NRC study should be available by mid-2010