

**NEHRP**  
**Talking Points for ICC Meeting**

April 3, 2008

OSTP, WDC

Chris D. Poland, Chair NEHRP ACEHR

Theme:           Doing much better  
                  Need to re-prioritize  
                  Every dollar added to NEHRP has significant impact  
                  We are interested in your reaction - we are on the same team

Basis:            May, October, and April committee meetings

Background

1.     16 outspoken earthquake professionals  
       Practitioners, researchers, owners, professors, building officials
2.     Responsible to advise you in four areas
  - a.    Trends and developments in Science and Engineering
  - b.    Program effectiveness
  - c.    Revisions that are needed to the program
  - d.    Coordination and implementation of NEHRP
3.     We have gathered data in all four areas
  - a.    Briefings by your agencies
  - b.    Our own statements on Trends and Developments
  - c.    Annual reports and strategic plans (as individuals)
  - d.    Solicited remarks from former senior staff  
          Jane Bullock, Pat Leahy, Bill Anderson, and Dick Wright
4.     We owe you an annual report after one year – April 30

Impressions

1.     A dramatic improvement in the organization and operation of NEHRP
  - a.    NEHRP Office and director: Jack focused, collaborative, expert, passionate, resilient, dedicated. Thanks to NIST for stepping forward and finding funding
  - b.    Agency representatives to the working group: Jack, Ed, David, and Joy. Responsive, expert, collaborative, flexible, territorial (good), good stewards of the available funds, good listeners
  - c.    ICC: gentlemen, you have made yourselves available, approachable, open, interested, pragmatic, and impressive. I certainly appreciate your challenge to find balance. This is only one program.
  - d.    Thank you

Impressions, continued

2. We judge the program to be effective or better across the board in 27 out of 34 of the statutory areas. The process (the score card)
  - a. Funding limitations are a reality; everyone is focused on making best use of the resources that are available
  - b. Not able to fund all statutory activities, you probably know those not funded are mostly related to implementation. That is hard for me. My life is implementation.
    - i. States grants programs
    - ii. Teach communities how to respond
    - iii. Establish demonstration projects
    - iv. Implementing research results
    - v. Promoting better building practices-lifeline systems
    - vi. Developing national standards
    - vii. Political, economic, and social research
3. We believe some adjustment in priorities is needed; the strategic plan gives us the opportunity.
  - a. Strategic Plan has three goals, 14 objectives and 9 strategic priorities
    - i. Goal A: Improve understanding
    - ii. Goal B: Development cost-effective measures to reduce impacts
    - iii. Goal C Improve resilience
4. We see the NEHRP program withering due to the reallocation of funds to other activities. Because this program is small, there is no congressional line item, and it is not really about Congress. It looks to be decisions that are made at the agency level.
  - a. Anecdotal evidence – Money goes in but not out
5. We see a major opportunity for NEHRP through your agencies to make a significant impact. Every dollar added pays back 4 to 10 times.
  - a. Have a national safety issue. No casualties please
  - b. Have a trillion dollars construction expenditure each year
  - c. Have a 2 trillion dollar price tag for infrastructure
  - d. Need resilient cities to not lose global position
  - e. Need to minimize the cost to achieve resilience
    - i. New appreciation for what communities do naturally
    - ii. New technology, both tools and materials
    - iii. Sufficient staff, sufficient green cards
    - iv. Understand how little we need to do

Impressions, continued

6. Earthquake professionals in 2003 estimated the cost and extent of the program to “secure society against catastrophic earthquake losses” It’s the opportunity, 330 million per year for 20 years

Possible Conclusions and Recommendations (in process)

1. Three categories, maintain, add immediately, and future
2. Maintain essential elements
  - a. Promote adoption of mitigation measures 9
  - b. Develop Scenario earthquakes 8
  - c. Technology transfer—implementation 2,3
  - d. Develop improved and effective mitigation measures 2
  - e. Fully utilize NEES 2,3
  - f. Improve understanding of earthquake process x
  - g. Monitoring 1
  - h. LFE 5
  - i. Linkage of science-engineering and policy 4
  - j. All but 6,7 lifelines and advanced technologies
3. Immediate (some related to ACI)
  - a. Fund NIST in FY08
  - b. Fund FEMA to appropriated amount in FY08
  - c. Enhance curiosity-based research to expand workforce
  - d. Fully fund ANSS 1
  - e. Lifelines elements and systems 7
  - f. Develop local enactment program 9
  - g. Incentives for building owners 4
  - h. Financial, long-term contracts (insurance) 6
  - i. Grants to states, et al 9
  - j. Engage business—look at successes 4
  - k. Restore Project Impact 9
  - l. Need to be tailored to each state (seismic safety councils) 9
  - m. HAZUS—development of next generation 2
4. Future (supplemental)
  - a. Lifelines 7
  - b. Multi-hazards x
  - c. Performance and risk basis 3

## Possible Conclusions and Recommendations (in process), continued

### 5. My Take on Strategic Priorities (to be debated)

#### Improve resilience

- a. Increase consideration of social-economic issues related to hazard mitigation implementation
- b. Facilitate improved earthquake mitigation at state and local levels
- c. Develop and conduct earthquake scenarios for effective earthquake risk mitigation

#### Improve understanding

- d. Fully Implement ANSS
- e. Develop a Post – Earthquake Information management system
- f. Develop earthquake resistant lifeline components and systems
- g. Improved techniques for evaluating and rehabilitating existing buildings

#### Develop cost effective measures

- h. Further develop Performance Based Seismic Design
- i. Develop advanced risk mitigation technologies and practices

### Our Next Steps

- a. We meet next week to review the Annual Report, the Strategic Plan and to write our report.
- b. Focus on priority and opportunity
- c. I imagine there will be some words about the ground that has been lost in some of our major programs due to funding reallocations and some suggestions for the 09 and 10 budgets.