

**National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP)
Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction (ACEHR)
November 18, 2024 Virtual Meeting Summary**

Attendees (listed alphabetically by category)

ACEHR Members

Lucy Arendt, Chair	St. Norbert College
Jeffrey Briggs	Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
Robert Carey	Utah Division of Emergency Management
David Cocke	Structural Focus
Rachel Davidson	University of Delaware
Michael Hamburger	ACEHR ex-officio as SESAC Chair
Thomas Heausler	Consulting Structural Engineer
Tara Hutchinson	University of California, San Diego
Anne Meltzer	Lehigh University
Danielle Mieler	City of Alameda
Jonathan Stewart	University of California, Los Angeles

NEHRP Agency Representatives

Luciana Astiz	National Science Foundation
William Blanton	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Tanya Brown-Giammanco	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Joannie Chin	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Tina Faecke (DFO)	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Jonathon Foster	Federal Emergency Management Agency
John “Jay” Harris	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gavin Hayes	United States Geological Survey
Steven McCabe	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Joy Pauschke	National Science Foundation
Siamak Sattar	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Mai (Mike) Tong	Federal Emergency Management Agency

Registered Guests

Linda Rowan	Congressional Research Service
Laurie Baise	Tufts University

I. Welcome

As Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for ACEHR (or Committee), Ms. Tina Faecke called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), took roll call for the Committee members, and reported that nobody registered to speak during the public input period. Faecke announced the meeting will be recorded and reminded the Committee members to submit their questions/comments into Slido (<https://www.slido.com/>). The meeting was turned over to the ACEHR Chair, Dr. Lucy Arendt, who reviewed the two primary meeting goals of reviewing the cumulative list of ACEHR recommendations and discussing the draft outline for the 2025 biennial report.

II. 2025 ACEHR Biennial Report Discussion

Arendt led a discussion on the list of cumulative recommendations to confirm whether or not the 22 draft categories fundamentally make sense. A comment was made suggesting the “Building

Code Improvement” and “Infrastructure Standards” categories overlap. A Committee member suggested expanding the second category as “Infrastructure Standards and Lifelines”. It was also noted that “multi-hazard” and “earthquake scenario” categories could be combined.

Clarification from the NEHRP agencies was requested by the Committee for distinguishing the differences between the “fully implemented” and “partially implemented” as well as “N/A” and “Out of scope” progress status designations. The agencies explained the recommendation progress steps as 1-under consideration; 2-in planning; 3-partially implemented (long-term); 4-fully implemented. “Not applicable” recommendations are activities no longer considered by the agencies for whatever reason (lack of resources or management decisions), and “out of scope” status refers to recommendations not within ACEHR’s scope or roles and responsibilities for assessing the Program. It was recommended to avoid using an “ongoing” status. Clarification was requested for “in-planning” and “under consideration”. Those identified as “under consideration” are current activities being considered by the agencies. The “in-planning” status is a step further trying to implement the recommendation. Dr. Jay Harris suggested that any assessments involving legislative purposes and beyond agency control should not be considered as a formal recommendation. The Committee agreed the status identifiers should be defined by the agencies.

Arendt asked for volunteers to initially review the list of cumulative recommendations and decide:

- which recommendations should be archived or sunset;
- which fully implemented recommendations should be revisited periodically or brought forward in addition to requesting regular updates from the agencies;
- identify and prioritize condensed list of recommendations for the biennial report; and
- any suggestions for revised or combined categories.

Arendt, Mr. David Cocke, Dr. Ann Bostrom, and Dr. Jonathan Stewart volunteered to review the cumulative list and will provide their initial thoughts to other subject-matter experts, Ms. Danielle Mieler, Mr. Jeffrey Briggs, and Mr. Robert Carey by January 24 for feedback by January 31.

Dr. Michael Hamburger provided a quick informal update on the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC). The annual SESAC report was submitted, pending a formal response. Personnel issues remain an ongoing problem at USGS with long delays in hiring. Demands on monitoring the Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) systems have increased. Issues continue addressing seismic hazards in Central and Eastern U.S. and induced seismicity. A decrease in proposals for the external grants funding program is a major focus for SESAC and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is undertaking a combined review of the internal and external grants.

Arendt summarized the ACEHR biennial report process and anticipated timeline prior to reviewing the draft outline/framework. Once the cumulative list of agency activities is shared during the February/March 2025 meeting, ACEHR will summarize those Program activities in the “NEHRP Achievements” section of the report. Arendt recommends highlighting NEHRP (not individual agency) collaborative and synergistic efforts and include the agency activity lists

as an appendix to the report. The Committee agreed with her suggestion of highlighting Program efforts instead of integrating everything as done previously.

Any new recommendations will be identified as “programmatic” or “procedural”. ACEHR may want to highlight functional recovery in the ACEHR report considering whether functional recovery will be considered as a chapter in the NEHRP Provisions by the Provisional Update Committee (PUC).

Bostrom suggested Artificial Intelligence (digital twins), and the intersection of climate change with other hazards as potential new emerging topics. Arendt clarified the emerging topics section is to foreground topics on the horizon for the NEHRP agencies. ACEHR may see these issues as a possible future recommendation.

Dr. Thomas Heausler, Dr. Tara Hutchinson, Dr. Rachel Davidson, and Dr. Anne Melzer volunteered to revisit the emerging topics from the past three ACEHR reports and provide their initial thoughts to Dr. Douglas Wiens by January 24 if any topics should be brought forward or if there are any new emerging topics. Wiens will provide feedback to the subgroup by January 31.

By January 31, Faecke will email the draft bullet points from both subgroups on ACEHR cumulative recommendations and emerging topics to ACEHR and Program Coordination Working Group members.

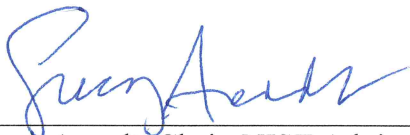
III. Closing Remarks

Arendt expressed her appreciation to the Committee members for their engagement, participation, and commitment to review the cumulative list of previous recommendations, develop bullet points, or draft text for the biennial report prior to the next full meeting.

IV. Adjournment

Faecke thanked everyone for their participation and officially adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm ET.

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge this meeting summary is accurate and complete.



Dr. Lucy Arendt, Chair, NIST Advisory Committee on
Earthquake Hazards Reduction (ACEHR)

Date: 2/10/2025