

**National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program
Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland
May 21, 2008**

Conference Call Meeting Summary

Advisory Committee Members:

Chris D. Poland, Chair	Degenkolb Engineers
Walter J. Arabasz	University of Utah
Jonathan D. Bray	University of California, Berkeley
Richard K. Eisner	Fritz Institute
Ronald O. Hamburger	Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc.
James R. Harris	J.R. Harris and Company
Howard Kunreuther	University of Pennsylvania
Thomas D. O'Rourke	Cornell University
Anne R. vonWeller	Chief Building Official, Murray City, Utah
Yumei Wang	Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
Sharon L. Wood	University of Texas at Austin

NEHRP ICC Member-Agency Representatives and NIST Support:

Shyam Sunder	NIST, Building and Fire Research Laboratory Director, ACEHR Designated Federal Official
Jack Hayes	NIST, NEHRP Director
Tina Faecke	NIST, NEHRP Secretariat
Ugo Morelli	NEHRP Secretariat
William Leith	USGS
Michael Blanpied	USGS
Francoise Arsenault	BRI Consulting

Guests:

Claret Mary Heider	National Institute of Building Sciences
Kelly Park	Greenhorne & O'Mara
Brent Woodworth	IBM Crisis Response Team

Summary of Discussion

I. Goal for the Meeting

Chris Poland, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction (ACEHR), welcomed attendees. He stated that the goal for the meeting is to complete the first annual report from ACEHR to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Poland added that he would like the Director of NIST to have the report by the end of the week.

II. Review and Finalize ACEHR Annual Report

A. Recommendations for NEHRP Agencies

Poland stated that ACEHR would review the report recommendations to the NEHRP agencies first to obtain member approval and then complete revisions to the Appendix and to the body of the report.

The authors of the NEHRP agency sections in Chapter 2 summarized the comments received to the recommendations since the first draft was completed during the April 10-11 ACEHR meeting. The following changes were agreed to by the members for the recommendations to the NEHRP agencies:

- **FEMA Recommendations:** Delete the period between the first and second sentence in Recommendation 2.
- **NIST Recommendations:** No additional changes.
- **NSF Recommendations:** Change “Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate” in Recommendation 1 to “Social, Behavioral, and Economic Studies Directorate.”
- **USGS Recommendations:** Delete the first sentence of Recommendation 3.
- **Management, Coordination, and Implementation Recommendation:** Rephrase the second part of the sentence as follows: “...including the organization and deployment of reconnaissance teams and sponsoring the publication of discipline-oriented interactive media that archive collected data.”

With the incorporation of these changes, the members voted unanimously to approve the ACEHR recommendations to the NEHRP agencies.

B. Appendix – Trends and Developments in Science and Engineering

The authors of the Appendix sections summarized comments received to each section. The members agreed to the following changes to the Appendix:

- **Section A:** Social Sciences. No additional changes.

- **Section B:** Earth Science. No additional changes.
- **Section C:** Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering. No additional changes.
- **Section D:** Structural Earthquake Engineering. Add “and government officials” following “trained engineers” to the second to last sentence in the third paragraph in D.1, General. In D.2, Achievements, delete “hindering their ability to effectively mitigate the risks” in the second paragraph. Also change “afforded” to “provided” in the second paragraph. In D.3, Issues and Challenges, change “building structures” to “buildings and structures” in the first bullet.
- **Section E:** Lifelines Earthquake Engineering. In E.2, Achievements, change “temblor” to “earthquake” in the first paragraph. In E.3, Issues and Challenges, delete “of high priority” in the second sentence of first paragraph. Also in E.3, change “terminated” to “removed” in the first bullet, rephrase the first bullet for clarity, and use the conditional voice in the remaining bullets to align with the tone of the rest of the annual report.
- **Section F:** Disaster Response. No additional changes.

C. Introduction

There was only one change to the first paragraph of the Introduction: insert “at least” before “...once every 2 years thereafter,...”

D. Program Effectiveness and Needs

In addition to the changes to the recommendations to the NEHRP agencies approved by ACEHR (see Section II.A above), the members agreed on the following changes to the Program Effectiveness and Needs chapter:

- **Section 2.1:** Federal Emergency Management Agency. In the first full paragraph, change “bridge” to “transfer.”
- **Section 2.2:** National Institute of Standards and Technology. No additional changes.
- **Section 2.3:** National Science Foundation. In the first full paragraph, insert “unsolicited proposals, now referred to as” before “curiosity-based research.”
- **Section 2.4:** U.S. Geological Survey: Insert “Without additional funding, ANSS will not achieve its directive to build a national seismic monitoring system” to the end of the second full paragraph.

E. Management, Coordination, and Implementation of NEHRP

In addition to the change to the recommendation approved by ACEHR (see Section II.A above), the members agreed to a number of changes to the sentence beginning “ACEHR is deeply concerned about the.....” The members agreed to rewrite the sentence as follows: “ACEHR is deeply concerned about the withering of appropriated funds for NEHRP. Currently at \$120 to

\$125 million per year, NEHRP funding has been essentially flat or increasing below inflation levels for the past 30 years.”

F. Executive Summary

In addition to the changes to the recommendations to the NEHRP agencies approved by ACEHR (see Section II.A above), the members agreed on the following changes to the Executive Summary:

- Shorten the paragraphs in the Executive Summary.
- Insert the rewritten sentence from the Management, Coordination, and Implementation of NEHRP section (see II.E above) into the first full paragraph under Management, Coordination, and Implementation in the Executive Summary and make this the first paragraph of the Executive Summary.
- Change “secure” to “protect” in the first paragraph.
- Change “recover” to “recovery” in the second paragraph.
- Change the last sentence of the second paragraph to “Through ANSS, the USGS provides critical information for emergency response, earthquake engineering, and a better understanding of the physics of earthquakes.”
- Change the first sentence of the last paragraph in the Executive Summary to “Each dollar spent on NEHRP can save up to 10 times that amount in avoided losses.” Also consider editing the last sentence of the Executive Summary for clarity.
- Consistently refer to “the NEHRP” or “NEHRP.”
- Check acronyms.

At the conclusion of the discussion of the Executive Summary, the members voted unanimously to accept the report as final.

III. Public Comments

Poland opened the discussion for public comment. No comments were offered,

IV. Closing Comments/Adjournment

Poland thanked the members for their participation and for their hard work in finalizing the first annual report from ACEHR to the NIST Director in a timely manner. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.