



FEMA

**Grant Programs Directorate Information Bulletin**  
**No. 314**  
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**TO:** All State Administrative Agency Heads  
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact  
All State Homeland Security Directors

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**SUBJECT:** Availability of PCII-notated Buffer Zone Plans and Vulnerability Reduction Purchasing Plans

As a part of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) your state has voluntarily submitted Buffer Zone Plans (BZPs) and Vulnerability Reduction Purchasing Plans (VRPPs) to DHS. If requested by SAA's, these BZPs and VRPPs were validated as Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII). This Information Bulletin (IB) serves to notify SAA's that, for those BZPs and VRPPs which were *submitted and validated* as PCII, these documents have been marked as PCII and are now available for SAA's to download from the FEMA Preparedness Portal. The Portal is located at <https://preparednessportal.dhs.gov/>.

All validated and marked PCII documents must be handled and disseminated according to the safeguarding and handling requirements for PCII and are protected from release under the Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and State and local disclosure laws in accordance with the Critical Infrastructure Information Act and its implementing Regulation (Final Rule 6 C.F.R 29.) Non-PCII drafts and copies of the BZPs and VRPPs retained by State and local submitters, however, may be public records subject to disclosure under respective State and local disclosure laws. It is important that the State and local submitters have access to PCII marked copies of the information submitted. The marking includes a unique PCII submission identification number and a cover sheet.

Once downloaded from the FEMA Preparedness Portal, the PCII-marked BZPs and VRPPs should be distributed to the appropriate organizations within your state to replace any unmarked drafts or copies of these documents. These unmarked documents will be required to be handled

in accordance with your State records retention laws. As a reminder, the PCII marked documents must be handled in accordance with the PCII requirements and may only be distributed to individuals authorized to access PCII.

For more information on the Buffer Zone Protection Program or PCII-related matters, please contact Robert Mooney, Buffer Zone Protection Program Manager, at (703) 235-5753 or the PCII Program Office at (202) 360-3023 or [pcii-info@dhs.gov](mailto:pcii-info@dhs.gov).

Should you have any questions regarding this IB, please contact your FEMA Program Analyst or the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at 1-800-368-6498 or [ASKcsid@dhs.gov](mailto:ASKcsid@dhs.gov).