FIRST DRAFT of the 2009 Report to the ICC

Background for ACEHR to consider in developing this report

1. Recall our statutory charge from Public Law 108–360:

"(B) ASSESSMENT- The Advisory Committee shall assess--
(i) trends and developments in the science and engineering of earthquake hazards reduction;
(ii) effectiveness of the Program in carrying out the activities under (a)(2);
(iii) the need to revise the Program; and
(iv) the management, coordination, implementation, and activities of the Program.

(C) REPORT- Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2004 and at least once every 2 years thereafter,

the Advisory Committee shall report to the Director on its findings
of the assessment carried out under subparagraph (B) and its
recommendations for ways to improve the Program.

In developing recommendations, the Committee shall consider the recommendations of the United States Geological Survey Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee."

2. Summary notes from our December Meeting

Summary Notes Prepared by Chris Poland

Possible reports → monthly conference calls?

      Reauthorization letter (2/1/09, Chris)
          LFE leadership
          Add executive summary items
          Add lifeline czar to ICSSC
          DHS et al: DOT, DOE, EPA, USACE
               Not NEHRP agencies—need another committee (call interagency working group)
          Delete designated funding for PBEE?
          Add EERCs

      5/1/09 report
          ① Program status—reinforce recommendations
          ① Refine NIST workforce recommendation (HK)
          ① Response to their response (All)
          ① Comments on management plan
        ② NSF: SBE—Engineering (ML)
        ② Stimulating interdisciplinary collaboration (ML)
        ② Recommend social science projects: building rating system, documenting CAPS, role of economics (HK)
        ③ Identify regulatory framework for lifelines (JH)
        ③ Setting performance goals for infrastructure (TO)
        ③ Centralized data on lessons learned and research—public and private (JB)
        ④ Centers—focus on unique contribution beyond traditional grant and grand-challenge process (TO, JH, PS, ML)
            MAE, MCEER, PEER, SCEC
            University of Delaware, Texas A&M, Boulder Natural Hazards Center
        NEES
        ANSS
        Scenarios (RH)
        Field studies (RE)
        Redo ATC-25 (JH)
        Jobs (ML)

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Proposed to be written as a brief letter report

(Date)

Patrick D. Gallagher
Deputy Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Building 101, Room A1134
100 Bureau Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1000

Reference: Annual Report of the Effectiveness of the NEHRP
              Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction

Dear Dr. Gallagher:

We are pleased to once again report to you and the Interagency Coordinating Committee
on the effectiveness of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) as
stipulated in our Charter and Public Law 108–360. By statue, we are charged to report to
you on trends and developments in science and engineering, the effectiveness of the
Program, the need for revision, our assessment of the management, coordination, and
implementation activities, and offer recommendations for ways to improve the Program.

Last year, our 2008 report provided our first complete assessment of NEHRP and made a
host of recommendations. We recognize that it will take some time to implement those
recommendations and believe that sufficient progress is being made. We are pleased that
the NEHRP Strategic Plan has been completed and is undergoing implementation. We
look forward to receiving the management plan. We received a response to our
recommendations from the NEHRP agencies and present below our response to those
comments. They are offered to reinforce our commitment to all of the recommendations
we made and are offered in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

In reviewing our 2008 report, we remain comfortable with our assessment of the new
trends and developments in earthquake science and engineering and will not repeat that
information in this report. We are working this year to develop more information and
specific additional recommendations related to three of the areas discussed. These areas
include social science research and implementation, lifelines research and
implementation, and the need for long-term funding for multi-disciplinary research. We
intend to submit a comprehensive program report that includes these developing
recommendations in 2010.

We continue to be quite satisfied with the growing effectiveness of the Program and the
revisions that are being instituted. We are pleased that funding for the Program is
growing and becoming more stable, and that staff has been added to the NEHRP office.
We are interested in the composition of the NEHRP office as it expands and offer some
suggestions below related to the workforce needed to effectively lead NEHRP.

The most significant effort this year to improve the Program needs to focus on its reauthorization by the 111th Congress. We have written to you separately about the areas in the Program that we believe should be reflected in the reauthorizing legislation. They include adjustments in some agency responsibilities, incorporation of an interagency working group, enhanced attention to the lifelines that serve the Nation, and directed support for multi-disciplinary research needed to advance earthquake science and engineering. We trust that our suggestions will be instituted both within the legislation and also with the management of the Program.

Response to comments on the 2008 ACEHR Report

FEMA

NIST

NSF

USGS

Management, Coordination, and Implementation

Technical workforce composition in the NEHRP office

Structural Engineer
Geotechnical Engineer
Earth Scientist
Social Scientist
Economist

We look forward to our continued association with the NEHRP. We appreciate your willingness to dialog with us and support our activities by creating an open and collaborative environment. Please contact us if you have any questions or wish to further discuss our suggestions.

Sincerely,

Chris D. Poland, Chair
Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction
National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program