



November 10, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: W. Craig Fugate
Administrator

FROM: James Featherstone
Chairman
National Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Recommendation on the revised National Exercise Program

The purpose of this memorandum is to convey the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Advisory Council's (NAC) feedback on the revisions being made to the National Exercise Program.

On Wednesday, November 10, 2010, the Council convened a public teleconference. During this teleconference, the National Advisory Council's Preparedness and Protection Subcommittee provided the following recommendations with regard to the National Exercise Program. The full council voted unanimously to send these recommendations to the Administrator.

Recommendations:

1. The Council agrees with the overall focus and direction of the revisions to the National Exercise Program (NEP) and particularly the emphasis on realism and integrating communities of varying sizes.
2. The Council recommends the NEP embrace fully and whole-heartedly the whole of community concept, including, but not limited to, the public, private, and non-profit segments of the community.
3. FEMA should closely examine the issue of stratification and choose words carefully as certain terms, such as evaluate, may cause concern and reduce involvement at the tribal and local level. The revised NEP is a voluntary program and we can all benefit from participating. Ensure some exercise planning targets regions and small communities and small cities in addition to large cities.
4. There is significant variety within each local government as to its structure and who has emergency management responsibilities. This reality needs to be reflected in the language used in the NEP. For example, use of the term *Mayoral* should be replaced with *local government*.

The Council will provide additional recommendations and feedback based on the questions raised in the NEP issue paper provided by FEMA in the coming months to inform the development of the NEP Implementation Plan, which should be moved forth with the same deliberate speed of the NEP revision process.

The Council appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback.