



Updating FEMA's Policy on Tribal Hazard Mitigation Planning

FEMA is updating its policy that guides how Agency officials interpret regulatory requirements in their review and approval of tribal mitigation plans. This updated policy, titled the "Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide," will supersede FEMA's current [Tribal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance](#) (Guidance), issued in 2010. The goal of this update is to simplify the Guidance, address key policy questions, and improve alignment with similar FEMA policies on state and local mitigation planning.

Background on Hazard Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation activities are most effective when implemented consistent with risk reduction priorities developed under a comprehensive, long-term mitigation plan. Hazard mitigation planning enables Indian tribal governments to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters, and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. A FEMA-approved mitigation plan is a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects. The [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](#) (Public Law 93-288), as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, provides the legal basis for this requirement. The Code of Federal Regulations ([44 CFR Part 201](#)) establishes FEMA's responsibilities around mitigation planning, as well as specific requirements applicable to Indian tribal governments. FEMA's Guidance assists Agency officials in interpreting those regulatory requirements in their review and approval of tribal mitigation plans. FEMA is now developing an updated Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide to supersede that policy.

Why FEMA is Updating the Policy

FEMA is creating an updated Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide to simplify the Guidance, address key policy questions, and better align with similar FEMA policies on state and local mitigation planning. The underlying regulatory requirements for tribal mitigation planning in [44 CFR Part 201](#) have not changed. The result of the update will be a document that is easier to use, with fewer redundancies, more clarity regarding FEMA plan reviewers' expectations, and a simplified plan review tool. FEMA expects the updated policy to facilitate Indian tribal governments' development and adoption of mitigation plans.

Outreach and Consultation Period

Consistent with FEMA's [Tribal Consultation Policy](#), the Agency is seeking Indian tribal governments' feedback early in the policy update process. During a two-month period in the spring of 2016, FEMA will engage tribal leaders or their designees through face-to-face meetings, conferences, conference calls, and webinars to seek discussion and input on questions highlighted in a short *Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide: Key Concepts* document. Tribal officials can also submit comments via e-mail or postal mail. FEMA will consider the feedback received in revising the policy, and seek a second round of comment through a Federal Register notice later in 2016. FEMA anticipates release of the final policy in 2017. A one-year transition period will follow, allowing Indian tribal governments to become familiar with the new policy before it goes into effect.

"Key Concepts" Document for Comment

- For more information and to access a copy of the *Key Concepts* document, please visit FEMA's Tribal Affairs website: www.fema.gov/fema-tribal-affairs
- FEMA will accept comments through July 8, 2016