



FEMA



Local Mitigation Plan Review Process

Since 2004, FEMA and States reviewed nearly 4,000 mitigation plans that included more than 23,000 jurisdictions. Based on lessons learned over time and input from State, local, and Tribal stakeholders, FEMA is changing the way mitigation plans are reviewed. New tools, guidance, training, and outreach materials are being developed to enhance the plan review process.

You Asked -- We Listened.

FEMA developed the new process during FY11 with insightful feedback from internal and external stakeholders, including all FEMA HQ and Regional offices, State Hazard Mitigation Officers, local government officials, National Emergency Managers Association (NEMA), Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the National Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA).

The *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide* and *Plan Review Tool* contain several significant changes from the current local mitigation planning guidance:

- Stronger emphasis on Mitigation Strategy requirements;
- Simplified guidance only includes the regulatory requirements;
- New Guiding Principles and Intent statements support regulatory requirements;
- Plan Review Tool replaces the existing Crosswalk in a new format that is easier to use; and
- Plan Review Tool communicates implementation of the plan as well as improvements to the plan.

Effective Date

The revised *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide* and *Tool* will be rolled-out to stakeholders starting in October 2011. Implementation will be phased over the course of a year to allow stakeholders at the state and local level to prepare for the change. Many communities are presently in the process of developing local mitigation plans, and all communities currently reference the *Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance* (June, 2008) and the corresponding Local Mitigation Plan Review Crosswalk. In FY12, new guidance will also be released for local plan developers. During this time, it is important to remember that the mitigation planning regulations have not changed, so the basic plan requirements remain unchanged.

Training State and FEMA Plan Reviewers

FEMA will make available several training initiatives in October 2011 for State and FEMA staff that complete mitigation plan reviews. These training sessions will be held through online webinars over the course of two weeks. The sessions will be recorded and a final session will be posted to the FEMA website for download by additional stakeholders that were unable to attend the live webinars.

Plan Review Process Goals

- Increase the focus on risk reduction and plan implementation
- Simplify the plan review process to use less FEMA, State, local, and Tribal time and resources
- Improve consistency of plan reviews
- Promote alignment with intent of the law and regulations
- Foster responsiveness to communities

Have questions? Contact us:
Mitigation_Planning@accenture.com

RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together