

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators
FEMA Regions I-X

FROM: David I. Maurstad
Assistant Administrator
Mitigation

DATE: 10-JUL-07

SUBJECT: Blue Book Guidance to FEMA Regions and States for New and Updated Enhanced State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans

I am providing you with FEMA's guidance regarding the required three-year updates of Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plans. This guidance will supersede the guidance for Enhanced Plans in the March 2004 version of *Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*, known as the "Blue Book". FEMA regulations require that the State Mitigation Plans be updated and resubmitted to FEMA for approval every three years in order to continue eligibility for non-emergency Stafford Act assistance. We recognize that many States are currently updating their previously approved plans; therefore, I am requesting that you provide the attached guidance to the States in your Region as soon as possible. This guidance will be effective for all Enhanced Plans approved after January 1, 2008.

This revised Blue Book Enhanced Plan Guidance includes an **important new policy** developed as a result of FEMA's experience implementing the Enhanced State Plan requirements since their release in 2002:

(Page 2-2): All Enhanced State Mitigation Plans submitted for FEMA's approval on or after January 1, 2008, must include a current update of their Standard Plan elements. We have established this policy to address the originally unanticipated situation of a State submitting the Enhanced portion of its plan as long as two years after the Standard portion was approved. This situation created two serious problems (a) the substantive problem for FEMA of approving a plan based on a hazard identification, vulnerability assessment and mitigation strategy that could be up to two more years out of date; and (b) the administrative problem of identifying an appropriate timeframe of eligibility and plan expiration date for the State Plan as a whole.

This revised guidance does not include any change to the existing Regional Certification process for States to demonstrate their Program Management Capability (§201.5(b)(2)(iii A-D)). Revisions are currently being drafted and will be shared with FEMA Regional and State staff for review and comment prior to being finalized and released. The final revised guidance will not be effective until a sufficient interval of time after publication to allow States to

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demonstrate their capability under the revised criteria. Until that time, no change will be made to the Program Management Capability requirement or the criteria FEMA uses as the basis for Regional Certification (Page 2-12).

The attached revised Blue Book guidance for new and updated Enhanced State Plans includes revisions to the Introduction, to Part 2 – Enhanced State Mitigation Plans, and to the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Crosswalk in Part 4. The revised Blue Book guidance will also be available in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format in FEMA’s Information Resources Library at www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/guidance.shtm.

Please note that the examples in the guidance have *not* been updated. We plan to update them at a later date, and some of the Regional comments that we did not believe were best addressed in the guidance itself will be incorporated into the revised examples.

This revised Enhanced Plan Guidance, as well as the previously revised Standard Plan Guidance (released on November 6, 2006), reflects the input and comments of FEMA Regional and State mitigation planning staff. To ensure validity, two drafts of this Enhanced Plan Guidance were circulated for review and comment over the past several months. Very few comments on the first draft were received from the States, and the second draft did not differ significantly from the first. Therefore, the second draft was circulated only to FEMA Regional staff.

If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Ms. Terry Baker, Risk Assessment Branch, by telephone at (202) 646-4648.

Thank you for your cooperation in sharing this guidance with States as soon as possible.

Attachments (3)

cc: Mitigation Division Directors