

S17.: Process to Monitor, Evaluate, and Update the Commonwealth of Kentucky Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018

Agency and Office Responsible for Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Commonwealth of Kentucky Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018

The University of Kentucky Hazard Mitigation Grants Program Office (UK-HMGP) and Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) are the office and the agency, respectively, ultimately responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the Commonwealth of Kentucky Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 (CK-EHMP 2018).

Specifically, UK-HMGP will maintain primary responsibility both for monitoring (i.e., tracking the relevance and implementation of the CK-EHMP 2018 over time to include all elements of the CK-EHMP) and for updating the CK-EHMP 2018.

However, KYEM will maintain primary responsibility for scheduling the monitoring and updating of the CK-EHMP. This is described below.

Evaluation (i.e., assessment of the effectiveness of the CK-EHMP 2018 at achieving the Commonwealth of Kentucky's goals and objectives articulated within it) is, again primarily, the joint responsibility both of KYEM and UK-HMGP. This sharing of roles is logical within the organized and specializing framework by which KYEM and UK-HMGP manage FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA), Public Assistance (PA), and Individual Assistance (IA) programs: KYEM is primarily responsible for the implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), for PA, for IA, and for the mitigation that results from PA and IA (e.g., 406 Mitigation). Consequently, the use of HMGP, PA C-G, 406 Mitigation, etc. to achieve the mitigation goals and actions outlined in the CK-EHMP 2018 is best evaluated by KYEM. UK-HMGP is primarily responsible for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and commonwealth-wide mitigation planning programs of FEMA. Consequently, pursuing FEMA's goals and priorities as articulated and unique to each (generally annual) nationwide PDM allocation, relieving the Commonwealth and FEMA's National Flood Insurance Fund (NFIF) of Repetitive-Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive-Loss (SRL) properties toward the underlying reason for existence of the FMA program, ensuring that all local governments are covered under a multi-hazard mitigation plan, expanding mitigation planning, integrating mitigation planning as defined through other federal programs, and managing the CK-EHMP are best evaluated by UK-HMGP.

Naturally, Kentucky's Division of Water (KDOW) shares a role in evaluating the CK-EHMP 2018: In its role as Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) with FEMA to administer FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (RiskMAP) initiative and its subsequent role in managing and expanding Community Rating System (CRS) participation and compliance, KDOW is instrumental in evaluating the CK-EHMP 2018. Still, the role of evaluation primarily rests with KYEM and UK-HMGP: FEMA HMA integrates with NFIP, RiskMAP, and CRS. Mitigation projects and the goals that underlie them frequently and purposefully address NFIP-insured structures and seek to relieve the NFIP's National Flood Insurance Fund. RiskMAP and CRS are linked deliberately with local multi-hazard mitigation planning: RiskMAP contributes Areas of Mitigation Interest (AOMIs) that enhance vulnerability descriptions and the Commonwealth promotes the use of and, to the extent possible, the integration of the multi-hazard CRS Floodplain Management Plan (510 FMP) that is labeled as a 510 activity under the CRS Coordinator's Manual.

Schedule for Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Commonwealth of Kentucky Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018

As mentioned above, the schedule for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the Commonwealth of Kentucky Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 (CK-EHMP 2018) is the primary responsibility of Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM). Scheduling becomes KYEM's responsibility due to its management of the Kentucky Mitigation Council (KYMC) described in the Planning Process of the CK-EHMP 2018.

It is obvious the relevance and value added to the monitoring, evaluating, and updating of the CK-EHMP offered by the KYMC: A state hazard mitigation plan reflects the integration required by multiple agencies, regional bodies, legislation, et al. required to implement mitigation actions that by their very definition are comprised of a broad array of projects, tasks, and quotidian activities administered by numerous said agencies, regional bodies, and through legislation. The KYMC provides a milieu within which regularly to discuss evaluation of mitigation actions pursued by its members and subsequently monitor the CK-EHMP 2018 toward its eventual update (in 2023).

Currently, the KYMC meets quarterly within a given year. The intent is to devote time at each quarterly meeting of the KYMC to discuss the CK-EHMP, its goals, its actions, and the subsequent evaluation of said goals and actions.

At the time of this writing (September 2018), it is expected that the mitigation strategy of the CK-EHMP 2018 will expand. (It is not generally expected that priorities will change given that a state's actions are highly administrative and coordinative in practice.) While the Commonwealth of Kentucky convincingly can illustrate fundamental and broad coordination and integration in implementing FEMA's and other agencies' mitigation programs, the broadening of stakeholders involved mitigation is quickening, new integrative relationships are being formed or changed, and it is thusly expected that expansion of mitigation actions will result over the years. Again, the KYMC and its quarterly meetings will act as a primary focal point for such action expansion and integration.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky views FEMA's "Special Consideration" in its State Mitigation Plan Review Guide as especially prurient to the monitoring, evaluation, and update of the CK-EHMP 2018: It is intended that as mitigation actions expand and/or change, the CK-EHMP 2018 will be amended and will use "annexes" to document any changes in preparation for its update in 2023.

S18.: Systems for Monitoring Implementation and Reviewing Progress

System for Tracking the Implementation of Mitigation Activities and Projects Identified in the Mitigation Strategy

Again, the primary system for tracking the implementation of mitigation activities and projects identified in the mitigation strategy of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 (CK-EHMP 2018) involves the reliance upon Kentucky Emergency Management's (KYEM's) Kentucky Mitigation Council (KYMC) described in the Planning Process. The KYMC hosts multiple commonwealth and federal agencies and supplies networks to additional stakeholders (e.g., to Silver Jackets) to mitigation activity. The KYMC meets quarterly within a given year and it is intended that each meeting will devote significant time to tracking the implementation of mitigation activities and projects identified in the mitigation strategy. The KYMC is especially relevant in implementing those mitigation activities not relegated to FEMA.

Additionally, it is relevant to remind of the structure of the CK-EHMP 2018's mitigation strategy to its mitigation goals: Each goal is tied directly to a set of actions that generally fall under a classification that meets its corresponding goal. One of the CK-EHMP 2018 goals, then, is tied to a list of actions that represent the continued categorization of local multi-hazard mitigation plan actions. The implied philosophy that local governments' actions can guide or influence the Commonwealth's actions further implies that the tracking of these specific mitigation actions will be the responsibility of the parties responsible for administering and managing local governments' mitigation actions. Consequently, the quotidian activities of Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) and its implementation of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Public Assistance (PA), and Individual Assistance (IA), and the subsequent 406 Mitigation programs and of the University of Kentucky Hazard Mitigation Grants Program Office (UK-HMGP) and its implementation of Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and mitigation planning programs act as de facto tracking mechanisms for the implementation of mitigation activities and project identified in the CK-EHMP 2018 mitigation strategy.

Finally, Kentucky's legislatively-anchored Area Development Districts (ADDs) are instrumental in tracking mitigation activity, especially activity not funded directly by FEMA. As described especially in the State Mitigation Capabilities section, ADDs both apply directly for federal and commonwealth grants on behalf of the local communities that they represent and contract with federal and commonwealth agencies (through the Joint Funding Administration and using Area Development Funds, both administered by Kentucky Department for Local Government and containing budgetary allocations by Kentucky's General Assembly) to conduct projects and regional planning initiatives that generally affect mitigation in some way. That the ADDs remain active in their missions for the communities they represent ensure that mitigation activity toward the Commonwealth's mitigation goals always is being pursued. For the purposes of the CK-EHMP 2018, the Commonwealth of Kentucky establishes formal and informal relationships with the ADDs in their pursuit of mitigation activity through the Kentucky Mitigation Council (KYMC) and through the mitigation planning technical assistance and oversight provided by the University of Kentucky's Hazard Mitigation Grants Program Office (UK-HMGP).

Tracking System Must Include:

A Schedule

Tracking of Mitigation Activity will occur quarterly.

Agency Responsible for Coordination

Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) will be responsible for coordination through its Kentucky Mitigation Council (KYMC) and its contractual relationship with the University of Kentucky Hazard Mitigation Grants Program Office (UK-HMGP).

Role of Agencies Identified in the Mitigation Strategy

Again, the Kentucky Mitigation Council (KYMC) will be the primary vehicle by which to elicit feedback from agencies identified in the mitigation strategy and subsequently to evaluate and track their roles in implementing identified actions. The KYMC also integrates formally with Silver Jackets and with the Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers (KAMM), both described earlier in the CK-EHMP 2018. Further, it is intended through the aforementioned CK-EHMP 2018 monitoring, evaluation, and updating process that the quantity of mitigation actions will increase over time and reflect broader agency/office participation in mitigation. The KYMC, then, acts as vehicle both for expansion of mitigation activity and as ensuring that mitigation activity identified by its membership (and by members in Silver Jackets and KAMM) is tracked.

System for Reviewing Progress on Achieving the Goals of the Mitigation Strategy

Again, the Kentucky Mitigation Council (KYMC) provides the system for reviewing progress on achieving the goals of the mitigation strategy. Given its membership composition that includes representation by most of Kentucky's executive-branch agencies, by the Area Development Districts, by local governments, by universities, and by regional entities like the Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers (KAMM) and Silver Jackets, collecting and evaluating feedback on the Commonwealth's progress toward long-term goals for resiliency is assured. And, again, the KYMC meets quarterly.

The University of Kentucky Hazard Mitigation Grants Program Office (UK-HMGP) and its housing of the Commonwealth's hazard mitigation planner will record elicited feedback from the KYMC and other relevant meetings (e.g., Silver Jackets, Area Development District, and Kentucky Association of Mitigation Manager meetings). This recording will include examples of implemented mitigation activity that will serve as evidence of progress toward long-term goals for resiliency and included in the update to the Commonwealth of Kentucky Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 (CK-EHMP 2018).

Criteria for evaluating progress will involve feedback's progress toward mitigation actions articulated in the mitigation strategy. Necessarily, much of the mitigation strategy reflects administrative and coordinative activity by the Commonwealth of Kentucky toward long-term goals for resiliency. In other words, many actions are intended never to be "completed" in a strict sense. So, examples of those actions progressing asymptotically count as criteria for evaluating progress. Similarly, even amongst those mitigation actions that can be evaluated through completion, completion will occur amidst a matrix of individual actions. For example, the action of pursuing acquisition and demolition projects toward the long-term goal for resiliency of reducing Repetitive-Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive-Loss (SRL) properties as defined by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) can be met by evidencing that, indeed, acquisition and demolition projects have been implemented and completed by jurisdictions within Kentucky. But, the overall action of pursuing acquisition and demolition projects will never truly be "completed." So, again, examples of, in this case, actions being completed act also as criteria for evaluating progress.

The process used to evaluate progress primarily will rely upon FEMA's "Special Consideration" example to annex changes to the CK-EHMP 2018 and amend it as necessary upon feedback that prompts such amendment.