

Quarterly NGA Energy Security Brief – Autumn 2020

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The Latest in Energy Assurance News

2020 Natural Hazards

The 2020 hurricane season is on track to be one of the most active on record. Hurricane Delta, currently in the Gulf of Mexico, is the 26th named storm of the season and is anticipated to be the 10th to make landfall in the continental United States, breaking the previous record of 9 in 1916. To the west, the U.S. is roughly halfway through what is already being called an historic wildfire season. The nation has already seen over 3.3 million acres burn in California alone, with unprecedented fires also raging in Oregon, Washington State, and elsewhere.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there have been 10 distinct natural disasters in the U.S. with economic losses exceeding \$1 billion, resulting in 80 deaths. With an ongoing pandemic resulting in an economic downturn and fiscal constraints, response to these events is more complex. To support governors' efforts to protect their communities, NGA released a new memo, [Planning for Concurrent Emergencies](#), outlining actions for governors to bolster emergency preparedness and address unique planning considerations for natural hazards that may occur in 2020.

If you have any questions about energy assurance planning critical infrastructure resilience, NGA remains available to provide assistance. Please contact Dan Lauf dlauf@nga.org or Alyse Taylor-Anyikire (atanyikire@nga.org) with any questions.

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

FEMA released its **Fiscal Year 2020 Hazard Mitigation Assistance [Notification of Funding Opportunities](#)** in August 2020, part of its [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) grant program. In FY20, this program will distribute up to \$500 million to state, territorial, tribal governments for pre-disaster mitigation, such as public energy and infrastructure projects, nature-based solutions, and adoption and enforcement of building codes. Applications can be submitted from Sept. 30-Jan. 21, 2021. To apply, [click here](#).

In September, NGA hosted a webinar featuring FEMA's Camille Crain and North Carolina Director of Emergency Management Michael Sprayberry to explore the BRIC program and highlight state energy infrastructure resilience solutions. If you missed it, [a recording of the webinar is available here](#).

The Latest with NGA

NARUC Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resilience (EPRR) Task Force

Over the next two years, NGA staff will participate in the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners' (NARUC) EPRR Task Force to inform state emergency preparedness and resilience actions. Of note, NGA is vice-chairing a special subcommittee to examine the national response to COVID-19 as well as participating in subcommittees to develop a black sky playbook and identify resilience financing solutions for states. Please see the press release [here](#) to learn more and contact Dan Lauf (dlauf@nga.org) with any questions or suggestions for this task force.

State Role in National Defense

NGA has embarked on a new, two-year initiative with the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment to develop innovative solutions to pressing and emerging challenges effecting defense communities across the states and territories. This project, [The States' Role in National Defense](#), will include a series of virtual and in person workshops followed by publications on a range of resilience, security, and economic development topics. On October 20-21, NGA will host its second virtual workshop to explore state solutions to address and enhance infrastructure resilience for defense communities and installations. With a heavy focus on energy infrastructure needs, governors' energy policy advisors are invited to attend.

A formal invitation will be shared with governors' advisors shortly.

State Highlights

North Carolina: Resulting from [Executive Order 80](#), signed by Governor Roy Cooper in late 2018, North Carolina recently announced a Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan. The plan aims to anticipate projected climate changes and explores ways to protect critical sectors from these risks. Learn more about the plan [here](#).

South Carolina: Governor McMaster signed legislation in September that among other things will establish a new South Carolina Office of Resilience, led by new Chief Resilience Officer for the state. This appointment continues a trend in statewide resilience governance and gubernatorial resilience leadership. Read more about it [here](#).

Emerging Areas of Focus

State Resilience Governance

Does your state have a designated Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) or a designated resilience lead? With at least eleven governors having established such a role, NGA is exploring how best to support state energy and infrastructure resilience planning and is eager to learn more about governors' needs in resilience planning and lessons learned for those who have gone through the process. Please share any questions or ideas with Dan Lauf (dlauf@nga.org).

Utility Disconnection Moratoriums

Since the pandemic began, more than 30 states having established moratoriums on utility disconnections and billing arrearage collection. As these moratoriums begin to expire, questions remain as to how best governors can ensure the affordability of utilities such as electricity and natural gas while customers face economic challenges and high unemployment. NGA is initiating a new effort this fall to catalog state actions and develop policy and regulatory guidance for governors as they consider ending utility disconnection moratoriums. If you have questions or are in need of policy research or analysis on this topic, please contact Dan Lauf (dlauf@nga.org) and Matt Rogotzke (mrogotzke@nga.org).