

**National Construction Safety Team (NCST) Advisory Committee  
(Committee) Meeting  
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)  
Gaithersburg, Maryland (via teleconference)  
July 2, 2015**

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**Meeting Summary**

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**Committee Member Attendees:**

Jeremy Isenberg, Chair	Stanford University
Ron J. Coleman	Fireforceone (retired)
Paul A. Croce	FM Global (retired)
Susan L. Cutter*	University of South Carolina
Carlos Fernandez-Pello*	University of California, Berkeley
Anne S. Kiremidjian	Stanford University
R. Shankar Nair	exp US Services Inc.
James R. Quiter*	Arup
Sarah A. Rice	The Preview Group, Inc.

\* not in attendance

**NIST Attendees:**

Jason Averill	Division Chief, Materials and Structural Systems Division, EL and Alternate Designated Federal Officer
Long Phan	Acting Director, Disaster and Failure Studies Program, EL
Benjamin Davis	Management & Program Analyst

## **Summary of Discussions**

### **I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Isenberg called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the Committee of the purpose of the meeting, to review the draft 2015 National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee (NCSTAC) Annual Report to Congress ([http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/ncst/upload/2015NCST\\_ReportToCongress.pdf](http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/ncst/upload/2015NCST_ReportToCongress.pdf)). His expectation is for moderate edits.

Jason Averill informed the group that Dr. Carlos Fernandez-Pello's and Dr. Susan Cutter's terms on the Committee would be coming to an end in October 2015.

### **II. Committee Review of Draft Annual Report**

Dr. Isenberg asked for overall comments before reviewing each individual paragraph; the group was overall satisfied with the general structure of the draft report.

Dr. Isenberg reviewed the first several paragraphs of the draft report with the Committee, and it was approved without comments or issues. The paragraph covering the NIST Disaster Data Repository generated a significant discussion. Dr. Isenberg noted the potential usefulness of the repository of data on disasters. The committee discussed whether users would be pre-qualified for access to the database. The committee suggested that pre-qualifications should be constructed in a manner to allow NIST to evolve the requirements as needed. The committee asked "Who at NIST is in charge of determining pre-qualifications for access to the repository?"

Jason Averill responded that the program would need to work with the NIST legal office regarding pre-qualifications for adding users to the repository.

Dr. Isenberg suggested that the NIST should not distinguish between who can add and view data in the repository.

The Committee suggested adding the following phrase to the last sentence of the Disaster Data Repository paragraph: "and urges NIST to address the development of such pre-qualifications."

Dr. Isenberg reviewed the Disaster Investigations paragraph with the Committee, and they agreed to advise Congress that the criteria for deployment of the NCST should be expanded so that teams can collect data from more events than is currently within the scope of the legislation. The Committee decided to add stronger language to the paragraph in order to get feedback on what was studied, and to elaborate on the last sentence regarding the Washington landslide, as it was out of the NCST's scope to investigate. The following sentence was added to the same paragraph, and approved by the Committee: "A report from NIST on the ramifications of such an expansion would be appropriate at our next face to face meeting."

After concluding the review of the draft report, Dr. Isenberg provided the following actions for next steps:

1. NIST will send the updated report to Dr. Isenberg for review and approval along with the addresses of the members of Congress who are required to receive the letter.
2. Dr. Isenberg will then send the updated report to the Committee for signature and provide to Benjamin Davis within two weeks.

3. NIST will create poll to identify a time all members are available for the next meeting. The Committee identified September as the best month for availability for the next meeting.

### **III. Public Comment Period**

Dr. Isenberg opened the floor for the public comment period. There were no comments or attendees from the public.

### **IV. Final Remarks and Adjournment**

Dr. Isenberg thanked all for their attendance and input. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.