Dewberry's Hazard Mitigation Planning Services

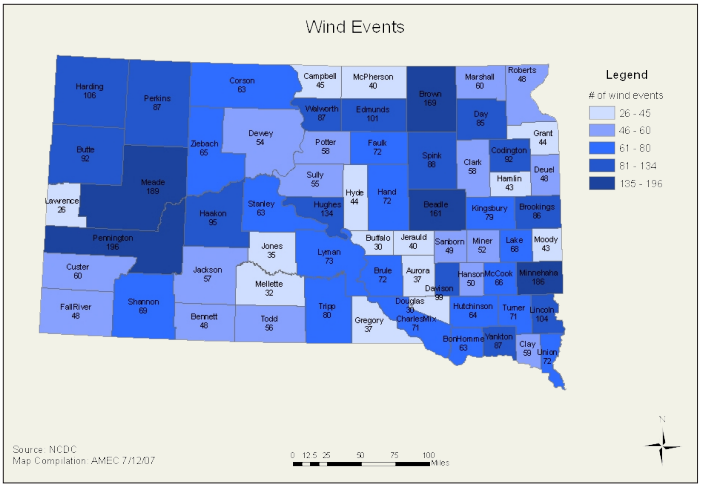
Our hazard mitigation planning team has supported local, state, and tribal governments as well as universities and school districts in meeting the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). In accordance with this act, eligibility for FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding is contingent upon having a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan. Our extensive experience with DMA 2000, related planning requirements, and FEMA's guidance provides each of our clients a superior team capable of developing an approvable hazard mitigation plan. We assist with the formation of steering committees, facilitate public input, develop hazard profiles, develop detailed risk assessments and vulnerability analyses, advise on applicable mitigation strategies, perform benefit/cost analyses, and support governing bodies through the FEMA approval and adoption processes.

We have a long history of working with FEMA and providing emergency management services. Our experience and knowledge of the four emergency management phases—preparedness, mitigation, recovery, and response—gives us a thorough understanding of how hazard mitigation planning relates to each community's emergency management and loss avoidance goals.

Local Governments

Dewberry has completed local plans resulting in 285 communities, from Virginia to California, being eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding.

We completed a hazard mitigation plan for DeKalb County, Atlanta, and its incorporated areas on an accelerated, five-month schedule. We facilitated the review and approval of the plan by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and FEMA Region IV, in a record seven business days. As a result, DeKalb County was the successful recipient of more than $8 million dollars in project funding during the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive grant program cycle following completion of the hazard mitigation plan.



Dewberry's approach to risk assessment utilizes GIS technologies. ▲

State Governments

To date, we have completed, updated, or assisted in the development of six state hazard mitigation plans including Massachusetts, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Dakota.

The State of South Dakota contracted with Dewberry to update the existing State of South Dakota Hazard Mitigation Plan and bring the plan into compliance with the requirements of DMA 2000. We coordinated with the State of South Dakota Office of Emergency Management (SDOEM) and FEMA to develop a State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT) representative of the state's diverse interests. Through regular meetings with the SHMT and SDOEM, we have guided the State of South Dakota through a successful hazard mitigation planning process, which included gathering significant feedback from the public and relevant stakeholders throughout the state. The updated plan was approved and adopted in April 2008.

"Thank you so much for your assistance with this plan!It has been a great experience working with you guys and we sure hope you will be there in a few years to help us out again!" - Jason Bauder, South Dakota Office of Emergency Management

University and Educational Institutions

We have completed 14 hazard mitigation plans enabling 39 institutions to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding. Multi-institutional plans include the Colleges of the Fenway in Boston, Massachusetts, a consortium of six private schools; and the Santa Barbara School Districts, public elementary, junior high, and high schools in Santa Barbara County, California. Our other university mitigation plans include University of North Carolina, Virginia Tech, University of Virginia, Old Dominion University, and University of Mary Washington.

For more information, contact:

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