

(5) The geological study of active faults and features can reveal how recently and how frequently major earthquakes have occurred on those faults and how much risk they pose. Such long-term seismic risk assessments are needed in virtually every aspect of earthquake hazards management, whether emergency planning, public regulation, detailed building design, insurance rating, or investment decision.

(6) The vulnerability of buildings, lifelines, public works, and industrial and emergency facilities can be reduced through proper earthquake resistant design and construction practices. The economy and efficacy of such procedures can be substantially increased through research and development.

(7) Programs and practices of departments and agencies of the United States are important to the communities they serve; some functions, such as emergency communications and national defense, and lifelines, such as dams, bridges, and public works, must remain in service during and after an earthquake. Federally owned, operated, and influenced structures and lifelines should serve as models for how to reduce and minimize hazards to the community.

(8) The implementation of earthquake hazards reduction measures would, as an added benefit, also reduce the risk of loss, destruction, and disruption from other natural hazards and manmade hazards, including hurricanes, tornadoes, accidents, explosions, landslides, building and structural cave-ins, and fires.

(9) Reduction of loss, destruction, and disruption from earthquakes will depend on the actions of individuals, and organizations in the private sector and governmental units at Federal, State, and local levels. The current capability to transfer knowledge and information to these sectors is insufficient. Improved mechanisms are needed to translate existing information and research findings into reasonable and usable specifications, criteria, and practices so that individuals, organizations, and governmental units may make informed decisions and take appropriate actions.

(10) Severe earthquakes are a worldwide problem. Since damaging earthquakes occur infrequently in any one nation, international cooperation is desirable for mutual learning from limited experiences.

(11) An effective Federal program in earthquake hazards reduction will require input from and review by persons outside the Federal Government expert in the sciences of earthquake hazards reduction and in the practical application of earthquake hazards reduction measures.

(Pub. L. 95-124, § 2, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1098; Pub. L. 101-614, § 2, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3231.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Pars. (5) to (11). Pub. L. 101-614 added pars. (5) to (7), struck out former pars. (5) and (6), and redesignated former pars. (7) to (10) as (8) to (11), respectively. Prior to amendment, pars. (5) and (6) read as follows:

“(5) An operational earthquake prediction system can produce significant social, economic, legal, and political consequences.

“(6) There is a scientific basis for hypothesizing that major earthquakes may be moderated, in at least some seismic areas, by application of the findings of earthquake control and seismological research.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-360, title I, § 101, Oct. 25, 2004, 118 Stat. 1668, provided that: “This title [amending sections 7703, 7704, and 7706 to 7708 of this title] may be cited as the ‘National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2004.’”

SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-503, title II, § 201, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2304, provided that: “This title [enacting sections 7707 to 7709 of this title, amending sections 7703, 7704, and 7706 of this title, repealing section 7705d of this title, enacting provisions set out as a note under this section, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 7704 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000.’”

SHORT TITLE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-614, § 1, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3231, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 7705a to 7705e, amending this section and sections 7702 to 7705, and 7706 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 7704, 7705b, and 7705e of this title] may be cited as the ‘National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act.’”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 95-124, § 1, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1098, provided: “That this Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977.’”

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of President under Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 delegated, transferred, or reassigned to Secretary of Homeland Security pursuant to sections 1-104 and 4-204 of Ex. Ord. No. 12148, July 20, 1979, 44 F.R. 43239, as amended, set out as a note under section 5195 of this title.

REPORT ON AT-RISK POPULATIONS

Pub. L. 106-503, title II, § 207, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2307, required the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to transmit to Congress a report no later than 1 year after Nov. 13, 2000, describing the elements of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program that specifically addressed the needs of at-risk populations.

§ 7702. Congressional statement of purpose

It is the purpose of the Congress in this chapter to reduce the risks of life and property from future earthquakes in the United States through the establishment and maintenance of an effective earthquake hazards reduction program. The objectives of such program shall include—

(1) the education of the public, including State and local officials, as to earthquake phenomena, the identification of locations and structures which are especially susceptible to earthquake damage, ways to reduce the adverse consequences of an earthquake, and related matters;

(2) the development of technologically and economically feasible design and construction methods and procedures to make new and existing structures, in areas of seismic risk, earthquake resistant, giving priority to the development of such methods and procedures for power generating plants, dams, hospitals, schools, public utilities and other lifelines,

public safety structures, high occupancy buildings, and other structures which are especially needed in time of disaster;

(3) the implementation to the greatest extent practicable, in all areas of high or moderate seismic risk, of a system (including personnel, technology, and procedures) for predicting damaging earthquakes and for identifying, evaluating, and accurately characterizing seismic hazards;

(4) the development, publication, and promotion, in conjunction with State and local officials and professional organizations, of model building codes and other means to encourage consideration of information about seismic risk in making decisions about land-use policy and construction activity;

(5) the development, in areas of seismic risk, of improved understanding of, and capability with respect to, earthquake-related issues, including methods of mitigating the risks from earthquakes, planning to prevent such risks, disseminating warnings of earthquakes, organization emergency services, and planning for reconstruction and redevelopment after an earthquake;

(6) the development of ways to increase the use of existing scientific and engineering knowledge to mitigate earthquake hazards; and

(7) the development of ways to assure the availability of affordable earthquake insurance.

(Pub. L. 95-124, § 3, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1099; Pub. L. 101-614, § 3, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3231.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Pub. L. 101-614 inserted sentence at end, listing objectives of program.

§ 7703. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) The term “includes” and variants thereof should be read as if the phrase “but is not limited to” were also set forth.

(2) The term “Program” means the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program established under section 7704 of this title.

(3) The term “seismic” and variants thereof mean having to do with, or caused by earthquakes.

(4) The term “State” means each of the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(5) The term “United States” means, when used in a geographical sense, all of the States as defined in paragraph (4).

(6) The term “lifelines” means public works and utilities, including transportation facilities and infrastructure, oil and gas pipelines, electrical power and communication facilities and infrastructure, and water supply and sewage treatment facilities.

(7) The term “Program agencies” means the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the

United States Geological Survey, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(8) The term “Interagency Coordinating Committee” means the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction established under section 7704(a) of this title.

(9) The term “Advisory Committee” means the Advisory Committee established under section 7704(a)(5) of this title.

(Pub. L. 95-124, § 4, Oct. 7, 1977, 91 Stat. 1099; Pub. L. 101-614, § 4, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3232; Pub. L. 106-503, title II, § 209, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2308; Pub. L. 108-360, title I, § 102, Oct. 25, 2004, 118 Stat. 1668.)

AMENDMENTS

2004—Pars. (8), (9). Pub. L. 108-360 added pars. (8) and (9).

2000—Par. (6). Pub. L. 106-503 inserted “and infrastructure” after “communication facilities”.

1990—Par. (2). Pub. L. 101-614, § 4(1), amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “The term ‘program’ means the earthquake hazards reduction program established under section 7704 of this title.”

Pars. (6), (7). Pub. L. 101-614, § 4(2), added pars. (6) and (7).

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of all functions, personnel, assets, components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management relating thereto, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, see section 315(a)(1) of Title 6, Domestic Security.

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see former section 313(1) and sections 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§ 7704. National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program

(a) Establishment

(1) In general

There is established the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

(2) Program activities

The activities of the Program shall be designed to—

(A) develop effective measures for earthquake hazards reduction;

(B) promote the adoption of earthquake hazards reduction measures by Federal, State, and local governments, national standards and model code organizations, architects and engineers, building owners, and others with a role in planning and constructing buildings, structures, and lifelines through—

(i) grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and technical assistance;

(ii) development of standards, guidelines, and voluntary consensus codes for earth-