

1.4 PLAN MAINTENANCE AND MITIGATION PROJECT MONITORING

44 CFR 201.4(c)(5) requires that state mitigation plans have a maintenance process that includes an established method and schedule for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan. The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch Chief is responsible for the maintenance of the SOHMP. The plan is a living document that is reviewed and updated constantly. The plan is revised if conditions under which the plan was developed change, such as new or revised state policy or a major disaster. At a minimum, the plan is revised and resubmitted for approval to the FEMA Region V Administrator every five years in accordance with 44 CFR 201.4(d).

Since the first SOHMP was developed in 2005, the document has been updated and approved by FEMA four times. The 2019 SOHMP update was authored by multiple staff members of the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch, with input from the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT), the Ohio Silver Jackets Team, and Emergency Operations Center Emergency Support Function (ESF) partners. The SHMT meets 2-4 times per year depending on the number of major disasters. The Ohio Silver Jackets Team and the ESF partners meet quarterly and on an as-needed basis. These meetings provide Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch staff the opportunity to solicit and incorporate updated information from partners into the SOHMP.

MONITORING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

44 CFR 201.4 (c) (5) (ii) requires that a state mitigation plan maintenance process include a description of the system used for monitoring implementation of mitigation measures and project closeouts. The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch is responsible for monitoring implementation of mitigation projects under HMGP, PDM, and FMA. Review of implementation progress occurs quarterly with the submission of quarterly reports. These reports are verified by monitoring visits conducted by Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch staff. Details of the extensive monitoring and project closeout process program can be found in the Administrative Plan attached in Appendix H.

FEMA has determined that the SOHMP meets enhanced plan criteria in 44 CFR 201.5. Since the enhanced plan designation results in additional mitigation funds being made available to the state after a disaster, the enhanced plan criteria includes an evaluation of the state's grant management performance. The last FEMA Region V evaluation of Ohio's HMA grant management performance determined that Ohio EMA:

- Effectively use existing mitigation programs to achieve mitigation goals,
- Meets grant application deadlines,
- Maintains the capability to prepare and submit accurate environmental reviews and benefit-cost analyses,
- Submits complete and accurate quarterly progress and financial reports, and
- Completes projects within established performance periods, including financial reconciliation.

SHARPP contains an inventory of mitigation projects completed in the State of Ohio with HMA grant funding: <https://sharpp.dps.ohio.gov/OhioSHARPP/MitigationProjects.aspx>.

The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch also monitors the implementation of mitigation actions identified in Section 3 of this plan. The status of mitigation actions identified in the plan is constantly tracked by the Mitigation Branch. Updates from state agencies with mitigation action items listed in this plan are discussed during meetings of the SHMT, Ohio Silver Jackets, and ESF partner meetings. The final status of mitigation action items identified in the previous version of the SOHMP can be found in Appendix E.