



October 30, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Bibbidi - Bobbidi BOO

Even with Halloween this weekend, it turns out that there's no magic spell in the cards for a more cooperative Washington. This week frustrations spilled to the forefront, with public letters back and forth from [Speaker Pelosi](#) and [Secretary Mnuchin](#) blaming the other for the impasse in negotiations (although Senate Majority Leader McConnell effectively ruled out the possibility of a successful package weeks ago).

It is still being reported that there is hope for a lame-duck bill once election tensions die down, but the scope of the package would likely depend on the election's outcome (both houses are out of session until after the election). And, just for good measure, we're slowly approaching the December 11 government funding deadline. It may well be that any COVID relief measures passed would ride on a pending bill.

With the number of significant hazard events in recent weeks and the election on Tuesday, we know you all remain exceptionally busy. If there is any way NEMA staff can support you, please let us know.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

ASTHO Blog: State Public Health Authorities and COVID-19 Legal Challenges

Our friends at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) drafted an explainer of several legal challenges currently faced in states around the emergency powers invoked by governors and health officials to order physical distancing measures. Common issues faced include: challenges to the underlying legal authority of state executives to respond to public health crises; claims that "public health" falls outside state emergency powers; COVID-19 not qualifying as an emergency per state law; and judicial deference to landmark legal cases including *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*.

[Read the blog here.](#)

EESI Policy Recommendations for Coastal Community Resilience

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute published a report detailing policy recommendations for improving coastal community resilience in the face of natural hazards and climate change. The report is divided into six sections: community at the forefront; land use and development; cultural heritage; climate adaptation and resilience data; disaster preparedness; and financing adaptation and resilience. Including 30 specific coastal resilience policy recommendations, this document may be useful when developing BRIC applications.

View their [coastal resilience briefing series](#) and the [full report here](#).

NOAA Signs Agreement with Google on AI for Environmental Monitoring and Weather Prediction

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Satellite and Information Service (NESDIS) signed an agreement with Google to explore the benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to enhance NOAA's use of satellite and environmental data. The three-year agreement will pilot specific AI and ML projects related to environmental monitoring, weather forecasting, climate research, and technical innovation. The goal is to then operationalize successful pilots to enhance prediction capabilities, particularly in relation to severe weather events.

More information about [NESDIS is available here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

The New Yorker: [What Should Crisis Leadership Look Like?](#)

MarketWatch: [How the U.S. Could Be Smarter About Insuring Against Extreme Weather-Related Disasters](#)

Pikes Peak Courier: [FEMA Funds 'Beyond the Virus' Study](#)

nemaweb.org



Copyright NEMA 2019. All rights reserved.