

August 26, 2022



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Time to Catch Our Breath

In on-going efforts this week, NEMA staff continued to join in on discussions in regard to the STORM Act, and how the legislation that rolls out revolving loan funds for mitigation will be implemented at the state level. Leadership from NEMA's Resilience Committee is meeting with FEMA programmatic staff this afternoon so hopefully more details will be available in next week's update. FEMA is hoping for at least a soft roll-out of the program sometime soon.

No legislation is moving as Congress remains in recess, but discussions remain ongoing regarding Resilient America (increasing the BRIC set-aside and associated issues). If a logjam at the Member-level cannot be resolved, the future of this bill could waffle. Also churning below the recess calm is the Appropriations process. Despite indications that House and Senate majorities want a deal while they remain control before the mid-terms, all indications point to at least short-term solution before a final agreement is reached.

On Wednesday, after receiving recommendations from the Homeland Security Advisory Council, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas terminated the Disinformation Governance Board and rescinded its charter. The conclusion of the Board was simply the need to counter disinformation that threatens the homeland, and provide the public with accurate information in response, and that it is critical to fulfilling the Department's missions.

The Disinformation Governance Board was met with immediate skepticism and quickly became a hotly contested political point. The full press release of the termination can be found [here](#).

Hearings the Week of August 29, 2022

No hearings.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Chairs Maloney and Lynch Call for Media Platforms to Monitor Violent Threats

Recently, Rep. Maloney (D-NY), Chairwoman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, and Rep. Lynch (D-MA), Chairman of the National Security Subcommittee, sent letters to social media companies Meta, Twitter, TikTok, Truth Social, Rumble, Gettr, Telegram, and Gab, requesting information on how these companies are responding to a spike in online threats against law enforcement officers since the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted a court-authorized search at former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club last week.

You can find the letters sent to each media platform, as well as additional information, in the Committee [press release](#).

DOE Announces \$45M for Next-Generation Cyber Tools to Protect the Power Grid

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced \$45 million to create, accelerate, and test technology that will protect our electric grid from cyber-attacks to seamlessly help deploy clean and cheap energy to Americans. Cyber threats to American energy systems can shut down critical energy infrastructure and disrupt energy supply, the economy, and the health of American consumers. Combined with the additional grid upgrades funded in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, the United States will have an opportunity to build greater cyber defenses into our energy sector. This funding will support up to 15 research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) projects that will focus on developing new cybersecurity tools and technologies designed to reduce cyber risks for energy delivery infrastructure. Building strong and secure energy infrastructure across the country is a key component of reaching President Biden's goal of a net-zero carbon economy by 2050.

More information on this funding and the priority project areas can be found on the [DOE website](#).

CISA Insight on Preparing Critical Infrastructure for Post-Quantum Cryptography

This week, CISA released a new CISA Insight, *Preparing Critical Infrastructure for Post-Quantum Cryptography*, which provides critical infrastructure and government network owners and operators an overview of the potential impacts from quantum computing to National Critical Functions (NCFs) and the recommended actions they should take now to begin preparing for the transition. This CISA Insight incorporates findings from an assessment conducted on quantum vulnerabilities to the NCFs to understand the urgent vulnerabilities and NCFs that are most important to address first and the three NCF areas to prioritize for public-private engagement and collaboration.

More information on this material can be found [here](#).

FEMA Requests Input on HMA Guidance

On Wednesday, FEMA published a notice in the Federal Register requesting public comment on updates to its Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide. The agency remains focused on reducing barriers so communities who need resilience funding the most can access its grant programs more easily. As part of August being Disaster Resilience Month, the guide has been updated to be more equitable, reduce complexity and address climate resilience.

The updated guide provides helpful information for state, local, tribal and territorial governments seeking to successfully navigate the application and grant lifecycle processes. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs provide funding for actions that address risks to and reduce disaster suffering from events like wildfires, drought, extreme heat, hurricanes, earthquakes and flooding.

More information on the public comment period, which will be until September 23, 2022, can be found [here](#).

OIG Report Recommends Improvements to Mitigate Cyber Risk

On Monday, DHS OIG released a report, *DHS Can Better Mitigate the Risks Associated with Malware, Ransomware, and Phishing Attacks*, which contained 10 recommendations aimed at improving the Department's mitigation of risk related to malware, ransomware, and phishing attacks. Threats of cyberattacks have increased during the past two decades. We conducted this audit to determine whether DHS and its components have implemented effective controls to protect DHS' sensitive data from malware, ransomware, and phishing attacks.

A full copy of the report including the recommendations can be found [here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

E&E News: [Hundreds of Thousands Drop Flood Insurance As Rates Rise](#)

HSToday: [OIG Wants More Progress from CISA on Cyber Threat Information Sharing](#)

Governing: [Faster, Faster! Trends in U.S. Cyber Incident Notification Laws](#)

Forbes: [30 Years Later - The Overlooked Lesson From Hurricane Andrew](#)

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