

September 9, 2022



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Nothing Being Said, But a lot of Talking

Congress is that of a duck on a pond at the moment – with all the action seemingly going on under the water. We are still waiting to hear about the specifics to the continuing resolution (CR), which NEMA staff understands will come into play next week. Current headlines are showing negotiations on provisions relating to fossil fuel permitting between Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D—NY) and Joe Manchin (D—WV) and how to include them in the CR after the Majority Leader promised those provisions outside of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Aside from that, NEMA staff is continuing to broker a deal on the many layers of the Resilient America Act. There still seems to be a general agreement among involved associations, but the path to the finish is not necessarily as visible at the moment, with some political barriers to hurdle at the member level.

### Hearings the Week of September 12, 2022

#### [The Role of Public Relations Firms in Preventing Action on Climate Change](#)

House Committee on Natural Resources  
Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 10am ET

#### [Social Media's Impact on Homeland Security](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 10am ET

*More News from the Nation's Capital...*

### NHSC to Hold Webinar Series in September

All this month, the National Homeland Security Consortium (NHSC), administered by NEMA, will be sponsoring a series of three webinars in the month of September. The webinars will be as follows:

- September 15; 3pm Eastern: [Federal Role in Disaster Management; Where are we and where are we going?](#)
- September 20; 2pm Eastern: [State & Local Cybersecurity - Opportunities in the digital present and data-driven future](#)
- September 29; 2pm Eastern: [Politics in Homeland Security; Understanding What's Behind the Curtain](#)

Additional information can be found on the respective registration websites and will be provided the week of the webinar by email.

### GAO Report on New Office of the National Cyber Director

This week, GAO released a report on the newly established Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD). ONCD was established in 2021 by Congress to lead the Nation's cybersecurity efforts. The Office plans to coordinate the federal defense from and response to cyberattacks. The Office noted that it's currently developing its national strategy and getting feedback from other federal agencies. A brief overview of these developments, current path, and what is next for the newly established office can be found [here](#).

### FEMA Publishes New Climate Resilience Page

This week, FEMA went live with a new climate resilience page – highlighting all the aspects of resilience building into a success storytelling page for stakeholders to learn and adopt from. The page explores how communities are planning ahead with mitigation projects and building back stronger after disasters. The goal of the page is to inspire people to look for ways that they can make their community more resilient. This includes actions you can take as an individual, tribe, emergency manager, community leader, local government official and more.

The page will be updated as new projects are completed. If you have a video, photo or blog story you want to submit for consideration, [email FEMA](#). This new webpage can be accessed [here](#).

### DHS Establishes First-Ever Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council

On Wednesday, DHS announced the establishment of the first ever Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC). The Council will enable Tribal leaders to advise the Secretary of DHS on homeland security policies and practices that affect Indian Country and indigenous communities, including emergency management, law enforcement, cybersecurity, domestic terrorism and targeted violence, and border security.

DHS will begin accepting nominations for a period of 30 days. Individuals will be considered for membership based on their qualifications to serve as representatives of a Tribal Nation or tribal organization. Interested individuals may submit their nomination packages via first class mail or e-mail submissions to [TribalHSAC@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:TribalHSAC@hq.dhs.gov) until 11:59 p.m. ET, on October 10, 2022. All information on the THSAC can be found in the DHS [press release](#).

### OIG Release Findings on CISA/FEMA Coordination on Energy Resilience

Last Friday, DHS OIG released a report highlighting recommendations to CISA and FEMA on how they can improve energy sector resilience. Specifically, the agencies could improve their effectiveness by implementing the U.S. Government Accountability Office's leading practices and other key mechanisms for collaboration, such as:

- Ensuring Energy Sector efforts are mutually reinforcing;
- Establishing compatible Energy Sector policies, procedures, and other means to operate across agency boundaries; and
- Updating and monitoring written Energy Sector agreements regularly.

The findings continued, saying CISA and FEMA have not focused on these areas because they have been working on other priorities for their respective missions. Nonetheless, it is imperative that CISA and FEMA coordinate efficiently and effectively to reduce the likelihood of power outages and, in the case of an incident, to restore and stabilize infrastructure-related services in affected areas. The report made three recommendations for collaboration between the two agencies including updating key guidance in support of the energy sector, developing adaptive framework to ensure coordination, and updates to the Pathfinder Initiative. These recommendations can be found in the report [here](#).

### Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation Portal Launched

On Thursday, the Biden Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Department of Interior (DOI) jointly launched a new Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation portal. The new website aims to help communities across the nation understand the real-time climate-related hazards in their area, analyze projected long-term exposure to those hazards, and identify federal funds to support climate resilience projects for their communities.

The Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA) portal, an easily accessible and interactive geospatial website, will help federal, state, local and tribal governments as well as non-profit organizations learn about climate hazards impacting their communities.

You can find the new portal [here](#).

*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

HSToday: [Changing Patterns of Violence in the U.S. Pose New Challenges to Surface Transportation](#)

Route Fifty: [Cybersecurity Grants Are Coming. Are You Ready?](#)

The New Yorker: [The Terrifying Choices Created by Wildfires](#)

HSToday: [DHS Advises Critical Infrastructure Sectors to Harden Physical EMP Protection](#)

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