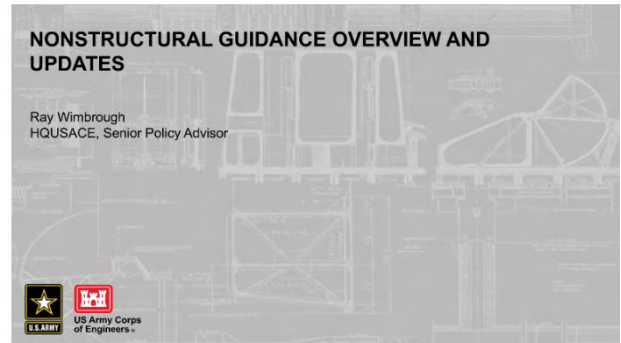


This webinar provided a brief overview of the existing guidance for nonstructural elevations. In addition, presenter Ray Wimbrough (HQUSACE Senior Policy Advisor), provided an update from content presented during the May 2024 PCoP Webinar on interim nonstructural guidance, discussed feedback from the field on implementation, and gave a preview of upcoming floodproofing guidance development.



This summary of the Question/Answer session of the webinar is not a transcription; questions and responses have been edited and reordered for clarity.

Nonstructural Resources:

- [Nonstructural Working Group SharePoint](#)
- [May 2024 PCoP Webinar: An Overview of the Interim Guidance for Nonstructural Project Planning and Implementation](#)

Class 3 Cost Estimates for Nonstructural Plans & Addressing Nonstructural Cost Uncertainty

What types of measures have been proposed in previous studies that successfully developed Class 3 cost estimates?

Feasibility studies that include elevations and floodproofing measures have both achieved Class 3 cost estimates. Districts and teams having trouble developing viable Class 3 cost estimates for nonstructural projects should reach out to the Cost Engineering Community of Practice and the study's Vertical Team to discuss any best practices that may apply (e.g., geotechnical analysis).

Do nonstructural studies require site-specific data to obtain a Class 3 cost estimate, such as as-builts, surveys, or property-by-property geotechnical analysis?

There is no specific guidance for developing nonstructural Class 3 cost estimates that require a precise number of site-specific inspections, it can depend on the type of measures, geographic location, number of structures in the inventory, etc. For example, while site-specific geotechnical analysis is usually required to develop a Class 3 cost estimate, it may be possible to extrapolate data from a few properties to the full set of structures in the study area. The Cost Engineering Community of Practice can support a study team working through this analysis.

How should economists and cost engineers address the increased uncertainty if structures in the nonstructural plan study area are not surveyed individually?

When drafting the feasibility report, the study team can include a discussion of uncertainty and a range of costs. It is not expected that teams look at each individual structure in a large inventory, and as long as teams document the decisions they make and communicate with cost engineering and the vertical team, they should be successful.

When there is a lot of uncertainty in the first-floor elevation in studies with large structure inventories, will a wider net of potential eligible structures need to be considered during implementation to make sure all the structures are captured?

Nonstructural Guidance Overview and Updates Q&A Summary

Study teams should be scoping studies with large potential inventories to include sufficient time and budget to conduct the necessary work to decrease uncertainty, as more field exercises will be required to confirm assumptions in the inventory.

Nonstructural Planning Guidance

How can teams incorporate natural and nature-based features (NNBFs) into nonstructural flood risk management plans?

NNBFs may complement other flood risk management measures in the recommended alternative (including nonstructural flood risk management measures). HQUSACE is currently developing additional prescriptive planning guidance for planning and implementation of NNBFs. Additionally, E&C Division is developing technical guidance to guide the implementation of certain types of NNBFs.

Does the current nonstructural guidance allow for the redevelopment of land that allows for flooding, such as dog parks, golf courses, etc.?

For acquisitions or relocations, abandoned lands should not be “redeveloped.” Redevelopment, even if structures are elevated, will still carry flood risk and is contrary to the purpose of acquisitions and relocations. Open parkland or other areas of passive recreation may be acceptable, as these conditions would allow for maintenance of the lands without increasing flood risk.

Are there success stories for teams of plans involving dry floodproofing of commercial/industrial structures or elevation of critical utilities?

USACE does have success in implementing dry floodproofing and elevations, particularly in LRH. USACE implementation of nonstructural flood risk management projects at a large scale, including dry floodproofing and elevation, has recently entered construction in NAN and MVN; success stories will be documented and rolled out as they happen.

Will the upcoming nonstructural Engineer Regulation address the possibility of transferred risk to wind loading when elevating residential homes in coastal storm risk management projects?

The HQUSACE nonstructural team has recently completed a policy analysis on this topic and is in the process of developing guidance that will be included in the upcoming Engineer Regulation.

How can planners provide feedback on the USACE nonstructural planning process?

Contact the [National Nonstructural Committee](#) to either provide feedback via email or to set up a meeting to discuss questions or assistance needs.