

Appendix C. Climate Change Adaptation Update

We have over 1,500 offices that include regional offices, field offices, teleservice centers, processing centers, hearing offices, the Appeals Council, and our headquarters in Woodlawn, Maryland. Our operations consist of activities conducted in office space, and transportation to and from that space, and they frequently involve the provision of face-to-face services to the public. Therefore, the reliability of computing and transportation infrastructure is key to our operational resilience. GSA leases all real property we use has the lead in making real property investment decisions on these leases. GSA delegated us the responsibility for managing and operating seven major facilities around the contiguous United States. In addition to our Headquarters campus in Woodlawn, Maryland, the facilities are:

1. Security West (Woodlawn, MD)
2. Frank Hagel Federal Building (Richmond, CA)
3. Harold Washington Social Security Building (Chicago, IL)
4. Mid-Atlantic Social Security Center (Philadelphia, PA)
5. Addabo Federal Building (Jamaica, NY)
6. Wilkes-Barre Data Operations Center (Wilkes-Barre, PA)
7. National Support Center (Frederick, MD).

In terms of built infrastructure, our climate change adaptation planning is confined to these eight delegated facilities.

To understand the risks climate change poses to our operational resilience, in FY 2013 we conducted high-level assessments of the vulnerabilities and risks posed by climate change to our mission as a whole. We based our FY 2014 Climate Change Adaptation Plan on these high-level assessments, and did not consider specific agency locations. To begin the process of understanding site-specific vulnerabilities and risks, in keeping with our FY 2014 Plan, in October 2014 we conducted a survey of our eight delegated facilities. The survey asked facilities about local weather-related problems they have already experienced, issues currently causing concern, and contingency planning the facilities have in place to address threats and hazards. The survey provided valuable insights into past, current, and potential future vulnerabilities. We will incorporate this information into future planning. Another action in the FY 2014 Plan was to review the existing headquarters Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to identify revisions necessary to incorporate climate change considerations. We completed the review and determined our COOP already addresses all threats and hazards.

Moving forward, we will prepare our next Climate Change Adaptation Plan once the next quadrennial National Climate Assessment is issued in 2018 or 2019. Meanwhile, to further improve our understanding of site-specific vulnerabilities, we will conduct climate change vulnerability and risk assessments on each of the delegated facilities. We will also direct all delegated facilities to review their COOPs and assess the need for updates in light of the potential impacts of climate change.