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## PROJECT UPDATES – December 2015

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**Summary** – Since Governor Abbott signed HB 2 into law on June 22, 2015, project personnel at the Bureau and across UT-Austin have been working diligently on creating the foundation for a successful program. Effort thus far has focused on several main areas - hardware acquisition, recruitment, collaboration, research, and outreach - all of which are described below in greater detail.

### Acquisition:

- Proposals to purchase the TexNet hardware have been received by the University of Texas, and a company has been preselected based on their bid. The preselected proposal is currently in technical review and the company is being independently verified for performance history.
- We expect that acquisition and deployment of TexNet hardware will be completed throughout 2016.
- Deployment locations of permanent and transportable seismic stations are in decision review.

### Recruitment:

- The Bureau has initiated recruitments to help lead and operate TexNet. The recruitment status is as follows:
  - o The Project Manager that will oversee installation, deployment and operation of the network has been determined. Dr. Alex Savvaidis has signed the offer letter to join UT-Austin, beginning in February 2016. Dr. Savvaidis is currently a Senior Research Seismologist, operating the largest seismic monitoring program in Greece, with over 100 real-time stations. He brings a wealth of practical knowledge to Texas.
  - o The Research Scientists that will help create and run the Center for Integrated Seismicity Research (CISR) has been determined. Dr. Peter Hennings has signed the offer letter to join UT-Austin, beginning in February 2016. Dr. Hennings is a consulting professor at Stanford University and the former manager of Geomechanics at Conoco-Phillips. He brings substantial research experience to the team.
  - o As part of the subcontract with Southern Methodist University (SMU), a postdoctoral fellow will be hired at SMU. Initial review of applications begins January 2016.

### Collaboration:

- Bureau and TexNet researchers are continuing to reach out to several scientific organizations to bring top talent to the project and to ensure that our data collection and analysis techniques appropriately incorporate international standards. TexNet has been featured in researchers' presentations to the North Texas earthquake community, to relevant scientists at central and southern US seismic network operators, and by presentations given by Bureau Director Scott Tinker across the country.
- The subcontract between UT-Austin and SMU begins January 1, 2016.

### Research:

- TexNet researchers have developed a research program that includes seismological interpretation, structural geology to identify faults, earthquake engineering to identify risk to infrastructure, communication to better inform the public, and surveys to assess public attitudes. The research program is now being implemented.

### Outreach:

- Numerous presentations and discussions with different stakeholder groups, including elected officials, industry, and scientific organizations (U.S. Geological Survey, Association of American State Geologists, Permian Basin Petroleum Association, RPSEA, etc.), have taken place.