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## PROJECT UPDATES – November 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, all of which are described below in greater detail: hardware acquisition, recruitment, collaboration, research, and outreach.

### Acquisition:

- Proposals to purchase the TexNet hardware have been received by the University of Texas, and proposals are currently being evaluated by representatives from the Bureau.
- We expect that acquisition and deployment of TexNet hardware will be completed throughout 2016.

### 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 January 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 A Research Scientist has been selected to help create and run the Center for Integrated Seismicity Research, and we are negotiating final details on a contract to join UT-Austin. We anticipate that he will begin as a full time employee in January 2016.
  - o The Research Engineering Associate recruitment is on temporary hold until the TexNet Project Manager begins at the Bureau. We anticipate that this recruitment will be completed by early 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 analyses techniques are as close to international standards as possible. We have already made significant contacts with the USGS National Earthquake Information Center and the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (an international organization), also known as IRIS.
- We have initiating contracts with researchers from Southern Methodist University and expect that to be completed soon.
- We have initiated discussions with Texas A&M University regarding their collaboration with TexNet, and those discussions continue.

### 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.).