



**Report on the December 7, 2001 Planning meeting for the  
New England Integrated Sciences and Assessments (NEISA)  
Project Integration and Initial Research  
(NOAA Grant No: 40AANR10189)**

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**OVERVIEW**

On 7 December 2001 we held a planning meeting for the New England Integrated Sciences and Assessments (NEISA). The primary goals were to bring the NEISA team together to discuss progress to date on the project and to plan the future of the NEISA, including broadening the geographical and intellectual scope through the integration of scientists from Cornell University, Rutgers University, University of Delaware and University of Massachusetts. There were 23 participants who attended the workshop, including individuals from UNH, several other institutions in the northeast, and two representatives from NOAA – Office of Global Programs (list of attendees provided in Appendix A).

## **AGENDA**

The agenda (provided below) was set up to first provide an overview of the NOAA funded AIRMAP (Atmospheric Investigation, Regional Modeling, and Prediction; <http://airmap.unh.edu>) research project, upon which the NEISA will rely for data and understanding of New England's changing climate and air quality. Additional background for New England's changing climate was provided by George Hurtt who reviewed the findings of the New England Regional Assessment (<http://www.necci.sr.unh.edu/>) performed as part of the US Global Change Research Program (<http://www.gcrio.org/>).

Roger Pulwarty then provided a detailed overview of the NOAA Office of Global Programs Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program. Integrated assessments (IAs) are useful as they systematize the interdisciplinary nature of the project and provide the framework to address how you answer questions of importance to the region in an integrated way. IAs improve decision making and prioritize investments in basic research to meet societal needs. Integration of scientific endeavors occurs in three forms: between natural science disciplines, between social science disciplines, and through cross-linkages and cross fertilization of these two disciplines. IAs fall at the intersection of physical climate, human actions (social, economic, political) and ecological systems and deal with awareness, participation, access and accessibility. The answers to questions that are addressed by IAs need to be valuable to people and policy makers in the region. IAs are fundamentally a team building process and need to develop and nurture partnerships with people who play key roles in their respective institutions. Two different models for addressing key questions have been used in ongoing RISAs. The effort in the northwest focussed on an issue (climate dynamics) while the effort in the southwest focussed on stakeholders. Evaluation is also an important component of IAs. They need to answer questions such as: How well is the team working? What is the nature of the interaction? How do you know questions are critical?

The remainder of the meeting was filled with presentations accompanied by lively discussion focused on the current efforts and future plans for the NEISA, and the integration of other northeast institutions into the NEISA project. The presentations were broken down by the three climate-society interactions that we are planning to focus on: (1) The effect of air quality and extreme temperatures on human health; (2) Extreme weather events and emergency management; and (3) Climatic variation and New England's ski industry.

Several of the presentations (Talbot, Bradley, Hurtt, Rohall) were given as PowerPoint presentations and these can be viewed online at [http://airmap.unh.edu/neria/NEISA/NEISA\\_dec2001.html](http://airmap.unh.edu/neria/NEISA/NEISA_dec2001.html).

**Planning meeting for the  
New England Integrated Sciences and Assessments (NEISA) project  
Friday December 7, 2001 - Room 301, Morse Hall, UNH, Durham, NH**

**AGENDA**

8:30 AM Coffee / Snacks

9:00 Welcome / Introductions

9:15 Overview of the AIRMAP research program

-air chemistry (Bob Talbot)

-climatology (Barry Keim and James Bradbury)

-outreach (Cameron Wake)

10:00 Overview of New England Regional Assessment of the USGCRP National Assessment

-George Hurtt

10:10 NOAA-OGP Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments

-Roger Pulwarty/Harvey Hill

10:30 BREAK

10:45 The New England Integrated Sciences and Assessments project

-introduction (Cameron Wake)

-asthma and air quality (Tom Kelly/Debra Martin)

-New England ski industry and climate variability (David Rohall, Larry Hamilton)

-Extreme events and emergency management (Barry Keim, Art DeGateano)

11:45 Discussion and identification of working groups for afternoon sessions

12:00 LUNCH (provided)

1:00 PM Break up into Working Groups / discussion of NEISA research foci

2:00 PM changeover between discussion groups

3:00 BREAK

3:15 Report out by each working group/identify action items

4:00 Closing Comments/Next Steps

Roger Pulwarty

Cameron Wake

6:30 Dinner at Blue Mermaid in Portsmouth

## OUTCOMES

While there were several important outcomes from this meeting, two deserve special mention. First, we obtained valuable feedback from Roger Pulwarty and Harvey Hill regarding our current efforts and planned activities with respect to NEISA. This included an overall sense that while the science we were engaged in was solid, the stakeholder involvement aspect required more attention. Especially important was to improve the cross-fertilization of lessons learned via stakeholder interaction among the three NEISA focus topics. How will efforts to develop and nurture stakeholder interactions in one area be transferred to the other two? How will NEISA assemble, evaluate, and communicate these various lessons to improve the overall project? These are key questions that need to be dealt with in order for the NEISA to be successful.

Other comments/questions in the regard included:

- Who does work on the stakeholder side?
- Different projects will likely use different types of stakeholder interaction; need to integrate this learning into entire effort.
- Need to develop comparative methods of evaluation of NEISA.
- Need to track how integration takes place; Somebody needs to be tracking who is doing what.
- separate methods for different NEISA efforts OK; however these efforts should inform entire effort.
- How does project create awareness across the board?
- NEISA needs to articulate what we are doing to integrate across stakeholders.
- Need to connect with extension oriented people – learn from existing expertise.
- NEISA needs to work on tangible relationships with stakeholders and among scientists.
- NEISA should think about concentric circle model (Pulwarty will send more info).
- Organization of Team: advisory group within team; coordinating committee; inner workings
- Look into how other RISAs planned their programs
- Need strong integration across projects and coordination with people doing social aspects of research.
- Need to identify stakeholder representatives; movers and shakers in community and ones who want to integrate efforts and knowledge.

Second, we identified several potential areas for integrating individuals from other institutions in the northeast into the NEISA. Art DeGaetano from the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell can play a key role in both the extreme event/emergency management and air quality/human health studies via his expertise regarding temperature extremes based on a newly developed homogenized historical temperature extreme dataset. Also, NEISA needs to explore the institutional link between NEISA and Regional Climate Center (RCC) with respect to both research and outreach/networking. The RCC already has existing clientele that NEISA could rely

upon. David Robinson is interested in contributing to both the ski are/climate study (via his work on the spatial extent of snowcover) and the extreme event effort. Larry Kalkstein has long worked on the effects of air quality (both physical and chemical) on human health and is interested in acting as a key resource and sounding board for our efforts. Finally, Ray Bradley expressed interest in being involved, but was not sure what role the University of Massachusetts could play. Further discussion will be necessary to sort this out.

## APPENDIX A:

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