

5.4.2 Earthquake

This section provides a profile, and vulnerability assessment for the earthquake hazard.

5.4.2.1 Hazard Profile

Profile information is provided below (including description, extent, location, previous occurrences and losses, probability of future occurrences, and impacts of climate change).

Description

An earthquake is the sudden movement of the earth's surface caused by the release of stress accumulated within or along the edge of the earth's tectonic plates, a volcanic eruption, or by a manmade explosion (Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], 2013; Shedlock and Pakiser, 1997). Most earthquakes occur at the boundaries where the earth's tectonic plates meet (faults); however, less than 10 percent of earthquakes occur within plate interiors. New York State is in an area where plate interior-related earthquakes occur. As plates continue to move and plate boundaries change over geologic time, weakened boundary regions become part of the interiors of the plates. These zones of weakness within the continents can cause earthquakes from stresses that originate at the edges of the plate or in the deeper crust (Shedlock and Pakiser, 1997).

The location of an earthquake is commonly described by its focal depth and the geographic position of its epicenter. The focal depth of an earthquake is the depth from the earth's surface to the region where an earthquake's energy originates (the focus or hypocenter). The epicenter of an earthquake is the point on the earth's surface directly above the hypocenter (Shedlock and Pakiser, 1997). Earthquakes usually occur without warning and their effects can impact areas a great distance from the epicenter (FEMA, 2001).

According to the U.S. Geological Society (USGS) Earthquake Hazards Program, an earthquake hazard is anything associated with an earthquake that may affect a resident's normal activities. This includes surface faulting, ground shaking, landslides, liquefaction, tectonic deformation, tsunamis, and seiches. A description of each of these is provided below.

- *Surface faulting*: Displacement that reaches the earth's surface during slip along a fault. This commonly occurs with shallow earthquake, which are those with an epicenter less than 20 kilometers.
- *Ground motion (shaking):* The movement of the earth's surface from earthquakes or explosions. Ground motion or shaking is produced by waves generated by sudden slip on a fault or sudden pressure at the explosive source; waves then travel through the earth and along its surface.
- *Landslide*: A movement of surface material down a slope.
- *Liquefaction*: A process by which water-saturated sediment temporarily loses strength and acts as a fluid (similar to wiggling your toes in the wet sand near the water at the beach). This effect can be caused by earthquake shaking.
- *Tectonic Deformation*: A change in the original shape of a material due to stress and strain.
- *Tsunami*: A sea wave of local or distant origin that results from large-scale seafloor displacements associated with large earthquakes, major submarine slides, or exploding volcanic islands.
- *Seiche*: The sloshing of a closed body of water from earthquake shaking (USGS, 2012).

An earthquake's magnitude and intensity are used to describe the size and severity of the event. Magnitude describes the size at the focus of an earthquake and intensity describes the overall severity of shaking felt during the event. The earthquake's magnitude is a measure of the energy released at the source of the earthquake and is expressed by ratings on the Richter scale and/or the moment magnitude scale. The Richter Scale measures magnitude of earthquakes and has no upper limit; however, it is not used to express damage (USGS 2012c). Table 5.4.2-1 presents the Richter scale magnitudes and corresponding earthquake effects.

Table 5.4.2-1. Richter Scale

Source: USGS, 1989

The moment magnitude scale (MMS) is used to describe the size of an earthquake. It is based on the seismic moment and is applicable to all sizes of earthquakes (USGS 2012d). The Richter Scale is not commonly used anymore, as it has been replaced by the MMS which is a more accurate measure of the earthquake size (USGS 2012c). The MMS uses the following classifications of magnitude:

- Great— $M_w \geq 8$
- Major— $M_w = 7.0 7.9$
- Strong— $M_w = 6.0 6.9$
- Moderate— $M_w = 5.0 5.9$
- Light— $M_w = 4.0 4.9$
- Minor— $M_w = 3.0 3.9$
- Micro— $M_w < 3$

The intensity of an earthquake is based on the observed effects of ground shaking on people, buildings, and natural features, and it varies with location. The Modified Mercalli (MMI) scale expresses intensity of an earthquake and describes how strong a shock was felt at a particular location in values. Table 5.4.2-2 summarizes earthquake intensity as expressed by the MMI scale. Table 5.4.2-3 displays the MMI scale and its relationship to the areas peak ground acceleration.

Table 5.4.2-2. Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale

Source(s): USGS 2014

Table 5.4.2-3. Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) and PGA Equivalents

Source: Freeman et al. (Purdue University) 2004

Seismic hazards are often expressed in terms of peak ground acceleration (PGA) and spectral acceleration (SA). USGS defines PGA and SA as the following: PGA is what is experienced by a particle on the ground. Spectral Acceleration (SA) is approximately what is experienced by a building, as modeled by a particle mass on a massless vertical rod having the same natural period of vibration as the building' (USGS, 2012). Both PGA and SA can be measured in *g* (the acceleration due to gravity) or expressed as a percent acceleration force of gravity (%g). PGA and SA hazard maps provide insight into location-specific vulnerabilities (NYS DHSES 2011).

More specifically, PGA is a common earthquake measurement that shows three things: the geographic area affected, the probability of an earthquake of each given level of severity, and the strength of ground movement (severity) expressed in terms of percent of acceleration force of gravity (%g). In other words, PGA expresses the severity of an earthquake and is a measure of how hard the earth shakes (or accelerates) in a given geographic area (NYS DHSES 2011).

Since 1948, national maps of earthquake shaking hazards have been produced. These maps provide information essential to creating and updating the seismic design requirements for building codes, insurance rate structures, earthquake loss studies, retrofit priorities, and land use planning for the United States. Scientists frequently revise these maps to reflect new information and knowledge. Buildings, bridges, highways, and utilities built to

Note: PGA Peak Ground Acceleration

meet modern seismic design requirements are typically able to withstand earthquakes better, with less damages and disruption. After thorough review of the studies, professional organizations of engineers update the seismicrisk maps and seismic design requirements contained in building codes (Brown et al., 2001).

The USGS updated the National Seismic Hazard Maps in 2014, which supersede the 2008 and 2002 maps. New seismic, geologic, and geodetic information on earthquake rates and associated ground shaking were incorporated into these revised maps. The 2014 map represents the best available data as determined by the USGS.

The 2014 Seismic Hazard Map shows that Monroe County has a PGA between 0.02g and 0.03g (Figure 5.4.2- 1). This map is based on peak ground acceleration (g) with 10% probability of exceedance in 50 years.

Ten-percent probability of exceedance in 50 years map of peak ground acceleration

Source: USGS, 2014

Note: The black circle indicates the approximate location of Monroe County. The figure indicates that the County has a PGA between 0.02g and 0.03g.

The New York State Geological Survey conducted seismic shear-wave tests of the state's surficial geology (glacial deposits). Based on these test results, the surficial geologic materials of New York State were categorized according to the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program's (NEHRP) Soil Site Classifications (see Table 5.4.2-4.) The NEHRP developed five soil classifications that impact the severity of an earthquake. The soil classification system ranges from A to E, where A represents hard rock that reduces ground motions from an earthquake and E represents soft soils that amplify and magnify ground shaking, increasing building damage and losses.

Figure 5.4.2-2 illustrates the NEHRP soil classifications in Monroe County. Table 5.4.2-5 summarizes the NEHRP soil classifications shown on Figure 5.4.9-3.

Table 5.4.2-6. NEHRP Soil Classifications

Source: NYS DHSES, 2014

Figure 5.4.2-2. NEHRP Soils in New York

Source: NYS DHSES, 2014

Note: The black circle indicates the approximate location of Monroe County. The figure shows that the County's NEHRP soil classifications include B, D, and E soils.

As illustrated in Figure 5.4.2-3, Monroe County is primarily comprised of NEHRP Soil Classes B, D, and E. The majority of the county is Soil Class B.

A probabilistic assessment was conducted for the 100-, 500- and 2,500-year mean return periods (MRP) through a Level 2 analysis using the HAZUS-MH, Version 2.2 (HAZUS-MH) probabilistic model to analyze the earthquake hazard for Monroe County. The Level 2 HAZUS analysis evaluates the statistical likelihood that a specific event will occur and what consequences will occur. A 100-year MRP event is an earthquake with a 1% chance that the mapped ground motion levels (PGA) will be exceeded in any given year. For a 500-year MRP, there is a 0.2% chance the mapped PGA will be exceeded in any given year. For a 2,500-year MRP, there is a 0.04% chance the mapped PGA will be exceeded in any given year

Figure 5.4.2-4 through Figure 5.4.2-6 illustrate the geographic distribution of PGA (*g*) across Monroe County for 100-, 500- and 2,500-year MRP events at the census-tract level.

Figure 5.4.2-3. NEHRP Soils in Monroe County

Source: NYS DHSES, 2008

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Figure 5.4.2-4. Peak Ground Acceleration Modified Mercalli Scale for a 100-Year MRP Earthquake Event

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2 Note: The peak ground acceleration for the 100-year MRP is 0.68 to 2.2 %g.

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2 Note: The peak ground acceleration for the 500-year MRP is 2.1 to 6.5%g.

Figure 5.4.2-6. Peak Ground Acceleration Modified Mercalli Scale for a 2,500-Year MRP Earthquake Event

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

Note: The peak ground acceleration for the 2,500-year MRP is 6.9 to 22.8%g.

As noted in the 2014 NYS HMP, the importance of the earthquake hazard in New York State is often underestimated because other natural hazards (for example, hurricanes and floods) occur more frequently and because major hurricanes and floods have occurred more recently than a major earthquake event (NYS DHSES 2011). However, the potential for earthquakes exists across all of New York State and the entire northeastern United States. The New York City Area Consortium for Earthquake Loss Mitigation (NYCEM) ranks New York State as having the third highest earthquake activity level east of the Mississippi River (Tantala et al., 2003).

Three general regions in New York State have a higher seismic risk than other parts of the state. These regions are: (1) the north and northeast third of the state, which includes the North Country/Adirondack region and a portion of the greater Albany-Saratoga region; (2) the southeast corner, which includes the greater New York City area and western Long Island; and (3) the northwest corner, which includes Buffalo and its surrounding area. Overall, these three regions are the most seismically active areas of the state, with the north-northeast portion having the higher seismic risk, and the northwest corner of the state having the lower seismic risk (NYS DHSES 2014).

Fractures or fracture zones along with rocks on adjacent sides have broken and moved upward, downward, or horizontally are known as faults (Volkert and Witte 2015). Movement can take place at faults and cause an earthquake. There are numerous faults throughout New York State, and Figure 5.4.2-7 illustrates the faults relative to Monroe County (New York State Museum, 2012).

The closest plate boundary to the East Coast is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which is approximately 2,000 miles east of Pennsylvania. Over 200 million years ago, when the continent Pangaea rifted apart forming the Atlantic Ocean, the northeast coast of America was a plate boundary. Being at the plate boundary, many faults were formed in the region. Although these faults are geologically old and are contained in a passive margin, they act as pre-existing planes of weakness and concentrated strain. When a strain exceeds the strength of the ancient fault, it ruptures causing an earthquake (PA DCNR 2007).

Figure 5.4.2-7. Faults in New York State

Source: New York State Museum, 2012 Note: Monroe County is outlined in yellow.

The Lamont-Doherty Cooperative Seismographic Network (LCSN) monitors earthquakes that occur primarily in the northeastern United States. The goals of the monitoring project are to compile a complete earthquake catalog for this region, to assess the earthquake hazards, and to study the causes of the earthquakes in the region. The LCSN operates 40 seismographic stations in the following seven states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. No seismographic stations are located in Monroe County; however, there are several within the vicinity of the county. Figure 5.4-2-8 shows the location of these stations in the western New York State area (LCSN 2014).

Source: LCSN 2012

In addition to the Lamont-Doherty Seismic Stations, the USGS operates a global network of seismic stations to monitor seismic activity. While no seismic stations are located in New York State, nearby stations are positioned in State College, Pennsylvania, and Oak Ridge, Massachusetts. Figure 5-4-2-9 shows locations of USGS seismic stations near New York State.

Note: The red circle indicates the approximate location of Monroe County.

Source: USGS 2015

Note: The red circle indicates the approximate location of Monroe County.

Figure 5.4.2-10 illustrates historic earthquake epicenters across the northeast United States and in New York State between October 1975 and September 2013. There have been multiple earthquakes originating outside New York's borders that have been felt within the state. These quakes have come from Quebec, Canada; and Massachusetts. According to the NYS HMP, such events are considered significant for hazard mitigation planning because they could produce damage within the state in certain situations.

Figure 5.4.2-10. Earthquake Epicenters in the Northeast U.S., October 1975 to September 2013

Previous Occurrences and Losses

Many sources provided historical information on previous occurrences and losses associated with earthquakes throughout New York State. Therefore, with so many sources reviewed for the purpose of this HMP update, loss and impact information for many events could vary depending on the source. According to the NYS Geological Survey and the New York State 2014 HMP update, approximately 36 significant earthquakes affected New York State between 1737 and 2005. Furthermore, between 1973 and 2012, 189 earthquakes were epicentered in New York State. Of those 189 earthquakes, none were officially reported in Monroe County (NYS DHSES 2014). However, two notable earthquakes were felt in western New York on June 23, 2010, and in northern New York on May 17, 2013; both of which originated in Canada with tremors reaching 5.0 or greater magnitudes (NYS DHSES 2014). According to local news reports, these events were felt in Monroe County.

Between 1954 and 2015, New York State was included in one earthquake-related major disaster (DR) or emergency (EM) declaration. Generally, these disasters cover a wide region of the state; therefore, they may have impacted many counties. However, not all counties were included in the disaster declaration. Monroe County was not included in any DRs or EMs (FEMA, 2015).

For this 2017 HMP Update, earthquakes events were summarized from 1857 to 2015. Based on all sources researched, no known earthquake events have occurred within Monroe County and its municipalities between 2008 and 2015, and two earthquakes have impacted Monroe County within that time. Not all sources have been identified or researched; therefore, other events may have occurred throughout the county and region.

Table 5.4.2-7. Earthquake Events in Monroe County, 1857 to 2015

Source(s): FEMA 2014; IRIS 2015; USA Today 2013; Democrat and Chronicle 2010

Note: All magnitudes referenced refer to the Richter Scale, unless otherwise specified.

- *DR Disaster Declaration*
- *Emergency Operations Center*
- *FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency*
- *HAZNY Hazards New York*
- *N/A Not Applicable*
- *NWS National Weather Service*
- *State Emergency Management Office*
- *USGS United States Geological Survey*

Probability of Future Events

Earthquake hazard maps illustrate the distribution of earthquake shaking levels that have a certain probability of occurring over a given time period. According to the USGS, in 2014 (the date of the most recent analysis), Monroe County had a PGA of 0.06g to 0.1g for earthquakes with a 10 percent probability of an occurrence within 50 years.

The NYSDPC indicates that the earthquake hazard in New York State is often understated because other natural hazards occur more frequently (such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding) and are much more visible. However, the potential for earthquakes does exist across the entire northeastern United States, including New York State and Monroe County (NYS DHSES 2011).

Earlier in this section, the identified hazards of concern for Monroe County were ranked. NYS DHSES conducts a similar ranking process for hazards that affect the state. The probability of occurrence, or likelihood of the event, is one parameter used for ranking hazards. Based on historical records and input from the Planning Committee, the probability of occurrence for earthquakes in the county is considered "frequent" (likely to occur within 25 years, as presented in Table 5.3-3). With no known incidents having occurred within Monroe County, and few incidents reportedly affecting Monroe County, it is anticipated that the county will experience some direct and indirect impacts from earthquakes that may affect the general building stock and local economy, and may induce secondary hazards such as igniting fires and causing utility failure.

Impacts of Climate Change

Providing projections of future climate change for a specific region is challenging. Shorter-term projections are more closely tied to existing trends making longer-term projections even more challenging. The further out a prediction reaches, the more subject to changing dynamics it becomes. The potential impacts of global climate change on earthquake probability are unknown. Some scientists feel that melting glaciers could induce tectonic activity. As ice melts and water runs off, tremendous amounts of weight are shifted on the earth's crust. As newly freed crust returns to its original, pre-glacier shape, it could cause seismic plates to slip and stimulate volcanic activity according to research into prehistoric earthquakes and volcanic activity. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and USGS scientists found that retreating glaciers in southern Alaska might be opening the way for future earthquakes.

Secondary impacts of earthquakes could be magnified by future climate change. Soils saturated by repetitive storms could experience liquefaction during seismic activity because of increased saturation. Dams storing increased volumes of water from changes in flow rates could fail during seismic events. There are currently no models available to estimate these impacts.

5.4.2.2 Vulnerability Assessment

To understand risk, a community must evaluate what assets are exposed or vulnerable in the identified hazard area. For the earthquake hazard, the entire county has been identified as the exposed hazard area. Therefore, all assets in Monroe County (population, structures, critical facilities, and lifelines), as described in the County Profile (Section 4), are vulnerable. The following section includes an evaluation and estimation of the potential impact of the earthquake hazard on Monroe County, including the following:

- Overview of vulnerability
- Data and methodology used for the evaluation
- Impact on: (1) life, safety, and health of residents; (2) general building stock; (3) critical facilities; (4) economy; and (5) future growth and development
- Effect of climate change on vulnerability
- Change of vulnerability as compared to that presented in the 2011 Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Further data collection that will assist understanding of this hazard over time.

Overview of Vulnerability

Earthquakes usually occur without warning and can impact areas a great distance from their point of origin. The extent of damage depends on the density of population and building and infrastructure construction in the area shaken by the quake. Some areas may be more vulnerable than others based on soil type, the age of the buildings, and building codes in place. Compounding the potential for damage, historically, the Building Officials Code Administration (BOCA) regulations used in the northeast states were developed to address local concerns, including heavy snow loads and wind. Seismic requirements for design criteria are not as stringent as those of the west coast of the United States, which relies on the more seismically focused Uniform Building Code. As such, a smaller earthquake in the northeast can cause more structural damage than if it occurred out west.

The entire population and general building stock inventory of the county is at risk of damage or loss due to impacts of an earthquake. Potential losses associated with the earth shaking were calculated for Monroe County for three probabilistic earthquake events, the 100-year, 500- and 2,500-year mean return periods (MRP). The impacts on population, existing structures, critical facilities, and the economy within Monroe County are presented below, following a summary of the data and methodology used.

Data and Methodology

A probabilistic assessment was conducted for Monroe County for the 100-, 500- and 2,500-year MRPs using HAZUS-MH to analyze the earthquake hazard and provide a range of loss estimates for Monroe County. The probabilistic method uses information from historic earthquakes and inferred faults, locations and magnitudes, and computes the probable ground shaking levels that may be experienced during a recurrence period by the census tract. According to the NYCEM, probabilistic estimates are best for urban planning, land use, zoning and seismic building code regulations (NYCEM, 2003). The default assumption is a Magnitude 7.0 earthquake for all return periods. In addition, an annualized loss run was conducted in HAZUS-MH to estimate the annualized general building stock dollar losses for Monroe County.

Ground shaking is the primary cause of earthquake damage to manmade structures, and soft soils amplify ground shaking. One contributor to the site amplification is the velocity at which the rock or soil transmits shear waves (S-waves). The NEHRP developed five soil classifications defined by their shear-wave velocity that impact the severity of an earthquake. The soil classification system ranges from A to E, where A represents hard rock that reduces ground motions from an earthquake and E represents soft soils that amplify and magnify ground shaking,

increasing building damage and losses. Monroe County is comprised of NEHRP Soil Classes A through E, or very hard rock to soft soils. Table 5.4.9-2 illustrates the NEHRP soil classifications in Monroe County. According to NYCEM, soft soils (NEHRP Soil Classes D and E) can amplify ground shaking to damaging levels even in a moderate earthquake (NYCEM, 2003).

Data from the local soil map was entered into HAZUS-MH 2.2 to replace default soil conditions. These data updates allowed for a Level 2 earthquake analysis. Groundwater was set at a depth of 5 feet (default setting). Damage and loss due to liquefaction, landslide, or surface fault rupture were not included in this analysis.

In addition to the probabilistic scenarios mentioned, a loss run was conducted in HAZUS MH 2.2 to estimate the annualized general building stock dollar losses for the county. The loss methodology combines the estimated losses associated with ground shaking for eight return periods: 100, 250, 500, 750, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000, and 2,500-year, which are based on values from the USGS seismic probabilistic curves. Annualized losses are useful for mitigation planning because they provide a baseline upon which to (1) compare the risk of one hazard across multiple jurisdictions and (2) compare the degree of risk of all hazards for each participating jurisdiction.

As noted in the HAZUS-MH Earthquake User Manual '*Uncertainties are inherent in any loss estimation methodology. They arise in part from incomplete scientific knowledge concerning earthquakes and their effects upon buildings and facilities. They also result from the approximations and simplifications that are necessary for comprehensive analyses. Incomplete or inaccurate inventories of the built environment, demographics and economic parameters add to the uncertainty. These factors can result in a range of uncertainly in loss estimates produced by the HAZUS Earthquake Model, possibly at best a factor of two or more*.' However, HAZUS' potential loss estimates are acceptable for the purposes of this HMP.

The occupancy classes available in HAZUS-MH were condensed into the following categories (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, religious, government, and educational) to facilitate the analysis and the presentation of results. Residential loss estimates address both multi-family and single family dwellings. Impacts to critical facilities and utilities were also evaluated.

All exposure and loss estimates discussed in the assessment below are for Monroe County. HAZUS-MH 2.2 generates results at the census-tract level. The boundaries of the census tracts are not always coincident with the town and village boundaries in Monroe County. The results in the tables below are presented for the census tracts with the associated towns and villages listed for each tract. Figure 5.4.2-11 shows the spatial relationship between the census tracts and the town and village boundaries.

Figure 5.4.2-11. Hazus-MH Census Tracts in Monroe County

Source: Hazus-MH 2.2

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Impact on Life, Health and Safety

Overall, the entire population of Monroe County is exposed to the earthquake hazard event. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Monroe County had a population of 744,344 people. The impact of an earthquake on life, health, and safety is dependent upon the severity of the event. Risk to public safety and loss of life from an earthquake in the county is minimal. However, a higher risk would occur in for those inside buildings, due to structural damage, or people walking below building ornamentation and chimneys that may be loose and fall as a result of the earthquake.

Populations considered most vulnerable are located in the built environment, particularly near unreinforced masonry construction. In addition, the vulnerable population includes the elderly (persons over the age of 65) and individuals living below the census poverty threshold. These socially vulnerable populations are most susceptible, based on a number of factors including their physical and financial ability to react or respond during a hazard, and the location and construction quality of their housing.

An exposure analysis was performed using the NEHRP soils data and the 2010 Census population data. The sum of the population by census block within the NEHRP Class D and E soil types were calculated and summarized in Table 5.4.2-8 below. Overall, approximately 5-percent of the county's population is located on NEHRP Class D and E soils.

Table 5.4.2-8. Approximate Population within NEHRP 'D" and 'E' Soils

Table 5.4.2-8. Approximate Population within NEHRP 'D" and 'E' Soils

Sources: NYS DHSES 2008; U.S. Census 2010

Notes: C City

T Town

V Village

Residents may be displaced or require temporary to long-term sheltering. The number of people requiring shelter is generally less than the number displaced as some displaced persons use hotels or stay with family or friends following a disaster event. Table 5.4.2-9 and Table 5.4.2-10 estimate the number of households displaced, and population that may require short-term sheltering as a result of the 100-, 500- and 2,500-year MRP earthquake events.

Table 5.4.2-9. Summary of Estimated Sheltering Needs for Monroe County

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

Table 5.4.2-10. Estimated Displaced Households and Population Seeking Short-Term Shelter from the 500- and 2,500-year MRP Events per Census Tract

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2 $Notes:$ *T Town*

V Village

According to the 1999-2003 NYCEM Summary Report (*Earthquake Risks and Mitigation in the New York / New Jersey / Connecticut Region*), a strong correlation exists between structural building damage and the number of injuries and casualties from an earthquake event. Further, the time of day also exposes different sectors of the community to the hazard. For example, HAZUS considers the residential occupancy at its maximum at 2:00 a.m., where the educational, commercial and industrial sectors are at their maximum at 2:00 p.m., and peak commute time is at 5:00 p.m. Whether directly impacted or indirectly impacted, the entire population will be affected to some degree. Business interruption could keep people from working, road closures could isolate populations, and loss of utilities could impact populations that suffered no direct damage from an event itself.

For the 100-year event, it is projected that three injuries would occur at 2:00 a.m., four injuries at 2:00 p.m., and three injuries at 5:00 p.m. Table 5.4.2-11 and Table 5.4.2-12 summarize the county-wide injuries and casualties estimated for the 500- and 2,500-year MRP earthquake events, respectively.

Table 5.4.2-11. Estimated Number of Injuries and Casualties from the 500-Year MRP Earthquake Event

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

Table 5.4.2-12. Estimated Number of Injuries and Casualties from the 2,500-Year MRP Earthquake Event

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

Impact on General Building Stock

After considering the population exposed to the earthquake hazard, the value of general building stock exposed to and damaged by 100-, 500- and 2,500-year MRP earthquake events was evaluated. In addition, annualized losses were calculated using HAZUS-MH. The entire county's general building stock is considered at risk and exposed to this hazard.

As stated earlier, soft soils (NEHRP Soil Classes D and E) can amplify ground shaking to damaging levels even in a moderate earthquake (NYCEM, 2003). Therefore, buildings located on NEHRP Soil Classes D and E have an increased risk of damages from an earthquake. Table 5.4.2-13 summarizes the number and replacement cost value of buildings in Monroe County on the approximately located NEHRP Soil Classes D and E.

Table 5.4.2-13. Number and Replacement Cost Value of Buildings Located on NEHRP 'D' and 'E' Soils

Sources: NYS DHSES 2008, U.S. Census 2010

Note: RCV is the estimated replacement cost value of both structure and contents.

C City

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The HAZUS-MH model estimates the value of the exposed building stock and the loss (in terms of damage to the exposed stock). Refer to the County Profile (Section 4) for general building stock data replacement value statistics (structure and contents).

For this HMP Update, a HAZUS-MH probabilistic model was run to estimate annualized dollar losses for Monroe County. Annualized losses are useful for mitigation planning because they provide a baseline upon which to (1) compare the risk of one hazard across multiple jurisdictions and (2) compare the degree of risk of all hazards for each participating jurisdiction. Annualized loss does not, however, predict what losses will occur

in any particular year. The estimated annualized losses are approximately \$4.3 million per year (building and contents) for the County.

According to NYCEM, where earthquake risks and mitigation were evaluated in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut region, most damage and loss caused by an earthquake is directly or indirectly the result of ground shaking (NYCEM, 2003). NYCEM indicates there is a strong correlation between PGA and the damage a building might experience. The HAZUS-MH model is based on the best available earthquake science and aligns with these statements. HAZUS-MH methodology and model were used to analyze the earthquake hazard for the general building stock for Monroe County. See Figure 5.4.2-4 through Figure 5.4.2-6 illustrating the geographic distribution of PGA (%g) across the County for 100-, 500- and 2,500-year MRP events at the censustract level.

In addition, according to NYCEM, a building's construction determines how well it can withstand the force of an earthquake. The NYCEM report indicates that un-reinforced masonry buildings are most at risk during an earthquake because the walls are prone to collapse outward, whereas steel and wood buildings absorb more of the earthquake's energy. Additional attributes that contribute to a building's capability to withstand an earthquake's force include its age, number of stories, and quality of construction. HAZUS-MH considers building construction and the age of buildings as part of the analysis. Because the default general building stock was used for this HAZUS-MH analysis, the default building ages and building types already incorporated into the inventory were used.

Potential building damage was evaluated by HAZUS-MH across the following damage categories (none, slight, moderate, extensive, and complete). Table 5.4.2-14 provides definitions of these five categories of damage for a light wood-framed building; definitions for other building types are included in HAZUS-MH technical manual documentation.

Damage Category	Description
Slight	Small plaster or gypsum-board cracks at corners of door and window openings and wall-ceiling intersections; small cracks in masonry chimneys and masonry veneer.
Moderate	Large plaster or gypsum-board cracks at corners of door and window openings; small diagonal cracks across shear wall panels exhibited by small cracks in stucco and gypsum wall panels; large cracks in brick chimneys; toppling of tall masonry chimneys.
Extensive	Large diagonal cracks across shear wall panels or large cracks at plywood joints; permanent lateral movement of floors and roof; toppling of most brick chimneys; cracks in foundations; splitting of wood sill plates and/or slippage of structure over foundations; partial collapse of room-over-garage or other soft-story configurations.
Complete	Structure may have large permanent lateral displacement, may collapse, or be in imminent danger of collapse due to cripple wall failure or the failure of the lateral load resisting system; some structures may slip and fall off the foundations; large foundation cracks.

Table 5.4.2-14. Example of Structural Damage State Definitions for a Light Wood-Framed Building

Source: HAZUS-MH Technical Manual

Table 5.4.2-15 through Table 5.4.2-18 summarize the damage estimated for the 100-, 500- and 2,500-year MRP earthquake events. Damage loss estimates include structural and non-structural damage to the building and loss of contents.

Table 5.4.2-15. Estimated Buildings Damaged by General Occupancy for 100-year and 500-year MRP Earthquake Events

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

Table 5.4.2-16. Estimated Buildings Damaged by General Occupancy for 2, 500-year MRP Earthquake Events

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

Table 5.4.2-17. Estimated Replacement Cost Value (Building and Contents) Damaged by the 100-, 500-, and 2,500-Year MRP Earthquake Events

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

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V Village

**Total Damages is the sum of damages for all occupancy classes (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, educational, religious, and government).*

Table 5.4.2-18. Estimated Value (Building and Contents) Damaged by the 100-, 500- and 2,500-Year MRP Earthquake Events (Continued)

 \mathbf{E}

Section 5.4.2: Risk Assessment – Earthquake

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2 $Notes:$ *T Town V Village*

HAZUS-MH 2.2 estimated approximately \$16 million in damages as a resulted of the 100-year earthquake event. It is also estimated that there would be approximately \$284 million in damages to buildings in the county during a 500-year earthquake event. This includes structural damage, non-structural damage and loss of contents, representing less than 1 percent of the total replacement value for general building stock in Monroe County. For a 2,500-year MRP earthquake event, HAZUS-MH estimates greater than \$3 billion, 1.2- percent of the total general building stock replacement value. Residential and commercial buildings account for most of the damage for earthquake events.

Earthquakes can cause secondary hazard events such as fires. No fires are anticipated as a result of the 100-, 500- or 2,500-year MRP events.

Impact on Critical Facilities

After considering the general building stock exposed to, and damaged by, 100-, 500- and 2,500-year MRP earthquake events, critical facilities were evaluated. All critical facilities (essential facilities, transportation systems, lifeline utility systems, high-potential loss facilities, and user-defined facilities) in Monroe County are considered exposed and vulnerable to the earthquake hazard. Refer to subsection "Critical Facilities" in Section 4 (County Profile) of this Plan for a complete inventory of critical facilities in Monroe County. The following tables summarize the number of critical facilities by type located on NEHRP soil classes D and E.

Table 5.4.2-19. Number of Critical Facilities Located in the NEHRP Soil Class D and E

Table 5.4.2-19. Number of Critical Facilities Located in the NEHRP Soil Class D and E

Source: NYS DHSES, 2008, Monroe County

Notes: C City

T Town

V Village

Table 5.4.2-20. Number of Critical Facilities Located in the NEHRP Soil Class D and E Continued

Table 5.4.2-20. Number of Critical Facilities Located in the NEHRP Soil Class D and E Continued

Source: NYS DHSES, 2008, Monroe County

Notes: C

T Town

V Village

HAZUS-MH 2.2 estimates the probability that critical facilities may sustain damage as a result of 100-, 500- and 2,500-year MRP earthquake events. Additionally, HAZUS-MH estimates percent functionality for each facility days after the event. As a result of a 100-Year MRP event, HAZUS-MH 2.2 estimates that emergency facilities (police, fire, EMS and medical facilities), schools, utilities and specific facilities identified by Monroe County as critical will be nearly 100 percent functional. Therefore, the impact to critical facilities is not significant for the 100-year event. Table 5.4.2-21 through Table 5.4.2-22 list the percent probability of critical facilities sustaining the damage category as defined by the column heading and percent functionality after the event for the 500- and 2,500-year MRP earthquake events.

Table 5.4.2-21. Estimated Damage and Loss of Functionality for Critical Facilities and Utilities for the 500-Year MRP Earthquake Event

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

Notes: C City

T Town

V Village

Table 5.4.2-22. Estimated Damage and Loss of Functionality for Critical Facilities and Utilities for the 2,500-Year MRP Earthquake Event

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

Impact on Economy

Earthquakes also impact the economy, including: loss of business function, damage to inventory, relocation costs, wage loss, and rental loss due to the repair and replacement of buildings. A Level 2 HAZUS-MH analysis estimates the total economic loss associated with each earthquake scenario, which includes building- and lifelinerelated losses (transportation and utility) based on the available inventory (facility [or GIS point] data only). Direct building losses are the estimated costs to repair or replace the damage caused to the building. This is reported in the "Impact on General Building Stock" section discussed earlier. Lifeline-related losses include the direct repair cost to transportation and utility systems and are reported in terms of the probability of reaching or exceeding a specified level of damage when subjected to a given level of ground motion. Additionally, economic loss includes business interruption losses associated with the inability to operate a business due to the damage sustained during the earthquake as well as temporary living expenses for those displaced. These losses are discussed below.

For the 100-year event, HAZUS-MH 2.2 estimates \$19.2 million in income loss (wage, rental, relocation and capital-related losses) and capital stock losses (structural, non-structural, content and inventory losses. It is significant to note that for the 500-year event, HAZUS-MH 2.2 estimates the County will incur nearly \$39.3 million in income losses (wage, rental, relocation and capital-related losses) in addition to the 500–year event structural, non-structural, content and inventory losses (\$323 million).

For the 2,500-year event, HAZUS-MH 2.2 estimates the county will incur approximately \$353 million in income losses, mainly to the residential and commercial occupancy classes associated with wage, rental, relocation and capital-related losses. In addition, the 2,500-year event structural, non-structural, content, and inventory losses equate to greater than an estimated \$3.7 billion.

The HAZUS-MH analysis conducted did not compute any damage estimates for roadway segments and railroad tracks; however, it is assumed these features may experience damage due to ground failure and regional transportation and distribution of these materials will be interrupted as a result of an earthquake event. Losses to the community that result from damage to lifelines can be much greater than the cost of repair (FEMA 2012).

Earthquake events can significantly impact road bridges, which often provide the only access to certain neighborhoods. Since softer soils can generally follow floodplain boundaries, bridges that cross watercourses should be considered vulnerable. A key factor in the degree of vulnerability will be the age of the facility or infrastructure, which will help indicate to which standards the facility was built. HAZUS-MH estimates the longterm economic impacts to the county for 15-years after the earthquake event. In terms of the transportation infrastructure, HAZUS-MH estimates \$60.7 million in direct repair costs to highway bridges as a result of a 2,500-year event; it also estimates less than \$3 million for the 500-year event and no damages for the 100-year event.

HAZUS-MH 2.2 also estimates the volume of debris that may be generated as a result of an earthquake event to enable the study region to prepare and rapidly and efficiently manage debris removal and disposal. Debris estimates are divided into two categories: (1) reinforced concrete and steel that require special equipment to break it up before it can be transported, and (2) brick, wood and other debris that can be loaded directly onto trucks with bulldozers (HAZUS-MH Earthquake User's Manual).

For the 100-year MRP event, HAZUS-MH 2.2 estimates over 8,000 tons of brick and wood debris and approximately 5 tons of concrete and steel debris will be generated. For the 500-year MRP event, HAZUS-MH 2.2 estimates nearly 80,000 tons of debris will be generated. For the 2,500-year MRP event, HAZUS-MH 2.2 estimates approximately 575,000 tons of debris will be generated.

Table 5.4.2-23. Estimated Debris Generated by the 100-, 500-, and 2,500-year MRP Earthquake Events

Source: HAZUS-MH 2.2

Notes: C City

T Town

V Village

Future Growth and Development

As discussed in Section 4, areas targeted for future growth and development have been identified across the county. It is anticipated that the human exposure and vulnerability to earthquake impacts in newly developed areas will be similar to those that currently exist within the county. Current building codes require seismic

provisions that should render new construction less vulnerable to seismic impacts than older, existing construction that may have been built using lower construction standards.

Effect of Climate Change on Vulnerability

Providing projections of future climate change for a specific region is challenging. Shorter-term projections are more closely tied to existing trends making longer-term projections even more challenging. The further out a prediction reaches, the more subject to changing dynamics it becomes. The potential impacts of global climate change on earthquake probability are unknown. Some scientists feel that melting glaciers could induce tectonic activity. As ice melts and water runs off, tremendous amounts of weight are shifted on the earth's crust. As newly freed crust returns to its original, pre-glacier shape, it could cause seismic plates to slip and stimulate volcanic activity according to research into prehistoric earthquakes and volcanic activity. NASA and USGS scientists found that retreating glaciers in southern Alaska might be opening the way for future earthquakes.

Secondary impacts of earthquakes could be magnified by future climate change. Soils saturated by repetitive storms could experience liquefaction during seismic activity because of increased saturation. Dams storing increased volumes of water from changes in the climate could fail during seismic events. There are currently no models available to estimate these impacts.

Change of Vulnerability

The 2011 HMP summarized past events and indicated Monroe's earthquake vulnerability compared to the other counties in New York State. A HAZUS-MH analysis was not conducted as part of the 2011 HMP, which incorporated updated population data and an updated general building stock into the HAZUS-MH model. The county's vulnerability to an earthquake event remains unchanged since the previous HMP.

Additional Data and Next Steps

Monroe County can identify un-reinforced masonry critical facilities and privately owned buildings (i.e., residences) using local knowledge and/or pictometry/orthophotos. These buildings may not withstand earthquakes of certain magnitudes and plans to provide emergency response/recovery efforts for these properties can be set in place. Further mitigation actions include training of county and municipal personnel to provide post-hazard event rapid visual damage assessments, increase of county and local debris management and logistic capabilities, and revised regulations to prevent additional construction of non-reinforced masonry buildings.

