



Rant, Rave, Cuss and Discuss: Letters to the Chief

Dear Chief,

Why did we switch from netEOP to the Super System?

Thanks,
SW Kansas Planning Workshop

Dear Readers,

Why we switched from netEOP is a very frequent question asked of my office. On its face it looks like “The State” changed their minds again and have given little thought to how it affects our county customers. My hope from this article is I change your mind and show why we reached the decision to switch based on sound logic and a county inclusive process.

The decision to switch systems was not an easy task but given the facts, we felt it was the most appropriate decision to make based on the following factors:

1. netEOP had switched to “Net Planner” and was phasing out any significant improvements to netEOP. netEOP suggested we switched from netEOP to the new “Net Planner” system. Given the **numerous** complaints from county emergency managers I have fielded over the years about netEOP, I felt it unwise to simply switch systems without requesting bids for a similar system.
2. In March of 2009, the county representatives on the Commission of Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR) asked KDEM plans to think about providing the COOP planning part of the Bold Planning System to counties. The Bold Planning System is what the state agencies were using and had rated it very highly. As such we followed the suggestions of the CEPR and purchased the COOP planning component of the Bold Planning System. See March 5th and June 4th 2009 CEPR minutes at <http://www.kansastag.gov/KDEM.asp?PageID=216>
3. Because of lack of use, in 2009 KDEM cancelled the “mitigationplan.com” planning system because only two counties had information in it and it cost KDEM \$50,000 a year.
4. The total cost of the systems broke down as follows: netEOP- \$19,200, Bold Planning System- \$40,000, Mitigation-plan.com- \$50,000; for a combined total of \$109,200. This cost was for three (3) independent systems which didn't “link” to one another and created significant training/maintenance burdens.

To ensure KDEM had an open process KDEM invited county emergency managers from each region to attend “information gathering” presentations from multiple vendors which offered a consolidated system interfacing the various plans. Following these presentations the group thought it wise to develop a scope of work (SOW) for a consolidated system and place an request for proposal (RFP) out for bid.

Following the bidding process, the group reconvened to evaluate the proposals and make a decision on switching systems. The outcome was the selection of the Bold Planning Solutions “Super System”. This decision was made based on the following factors:

1. Bold Planning Solutions offered the lowest bid. The bid came in at \$0 (ZERO) for the activation of the “SuperSystem” with an annual maintenance fee of \$60,000 (\$50,000 less than the sustainment of the previous systems.)
2. Bold Planning Solutions met, and in many cases, exceeded the requirements set in the RFP.
3. Bold Planning Solutions agreed to modify the system when requirements, directives, and standards of the plans change at **NO** additional cost.
4. Bold Planning Solutions had/has a track record of continuous improvements to the system and offers those to users at no additional costs.

I hope this explanation of the decision making process helps demonstrate the switch to the “Super System” was not a “flavor of the week” decision. Instead it was rooted with the goal of increasing planning efficiency, lessening costs, and increasing planning capability. As a compliment to this letter, please see the article “Assisting Counties : Making the “SuperSystem” Super”, which covers what KDEM has done to assist populating the SuperSystem planning tool.

Thanks,
Brandt Haehn
KDEM Planning and Mitigation Branch Director

