



ISSUE FORUM 3: “UPDATE IT NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCHERS AND EQUIPMENT SITES”

FORUM GOALS

As NEESgrid continues to evolve, there is an on-going need to (re)assess the needs of the primary clients of these software tools: the experimental and analytical researchers, and the equipment sites. This session will provide an opportunity:

- to share researcher and equipment site perspectives regarding experience to date;
- to discuss and provide priorities, direction and timelines for NEESit focus and effort

SESSION COORDINATION

Session Moderator: **John Bobbitt**, POSC, NEES BOD Member
NEESinc Facilitator: **Jay Berger**, NEESinc Experimental Site Operations Manager

PANELISTS & PERSPECTIVE

Dan Wilson: UCD Geotechnical Equipment Site, Data Sharing & Archive Committee Member
Lelli Van den Einde: NEESit Assistant Director of Operations
Bahram Shahrooz: U Cincinnati, Structural Researcher & Potential non-NEES-ES NEESpop Site
Robert Nigbor: UCLA Field Equipment Site & Researcher, Retired NEES Director
Cherri Pancake: NACSE Director, NEES IT Committee Chair, NEESit Usability Subcontractor
Jerome Hajjar: UMN Structural Equipment Site & Researcher, IT Committee Member and Data Sharing & Archiving Committee Member

STRATEGIES FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Each Equipment Site and NEES research project is different, but all data need to end up in a common repository. NEESit should **standardize the way (i.e., metadata) that NEES Researchers describe their experiments and test results**, providing appropriate archiving tools.
2. NEES research projects have already begun to collect data. NEESit should **focus on directly helping Researchers and Equipment Sites upload their experimental data** into the central data repository.
3. Currently, the Site Specifications DataBase (SSDB) mainly serves as a mechanism for maintaining reporting info for NEESinc and NSF. NEESit should **ensure that the SSDB serves Researcher needs and is integrated** with the central data repository.
4. Software and IT services always take more time than planned. NEESit should **embrace a strategy of “Basic Services First” that focuses on the functionality of critical services**, leaving enhancements and options for later (as time and budget allow).
5. Customer satisfaction is critical to the success of NEES projects. NEESit should **be proactive in gathering feedback and suggestions from Researchers as well as Equipment Sites**.
6. Each Researcher has to learn and fine-tune experimental practices through personal experience. NEESit should **create a shared knowledge base maintaining a historical record of lessons learned and other useful information** from NEES projects.
7. To promote adoption of new software and to motivate users NEESit should **provide on-site training programs, expand the range of equipment compatible with NEESgrid, and significantly improve documentation** over the next year.
8. It's hard to test out NEES software and tools when there's no data. NEESit should **bundle some reference data and video along with the NEES software**, specifically to help Researchers and Equipment Sites install and practice using NEES tools.



9. An important part of NEES is the ability for remote researchers to collaborate in experimental design, participate in live experiments, or replay past experiments. NEESit should **combine the most important planning, telepresence, and experiment replay features into a single, cohesive tool for remote collaborators.**

POLICY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE ITC MEETING ON SATURDAY:

- Continual software changes impose a burden on Researchers and Equipment Sites. A Working Group should be charged with **examining how the NEESit code evolution process can be re-structured** to lighten that burden.

INITIAL E-POLLING QUESTIONS (Additional questions may be developed on the spot)

None planned at this time