

Advanced National Seismic System

Participation Policy

This document establishes the policy of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Earthquake Hazards Program (EHP) governing participation in the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS).

The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act (P.L. 95–124 as amended) gives the USGS the Federal responsibility for providing notifications of earthquakes and its reauthorization in 2000 established the ANSS to modernize and expand the Nation's seismic monitoring infrastructure to provide accurate and timely data and information products for seismic events, including their effects on buildings and structures, employing modern monitoring methods and technologies.

1. The ANSS is a national system for the purpose of recording and reporting seismic activity within the United States and its Commonwealth and unincorporated Territories. The principal participants and elements of the ANSS are:
 - regional seismic networks operated by the USGS and state and university partners, and their associated operation and analysis centers;
 - the EHP's National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC);
 - the EHP's National Network ("backbone");
 - the EHP's National Strong-Motion Project (NSMP), supporting free field, structural, and geotechnical monitoring;
 - data management and distribution centers;
 - portable seismograph systems maintained by USGS science centers and ANSS partners;
 - the EHP's ANSS Depot, managed by the USGS Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory
2. Regional seismic networks covering broad areas and with established data analysis centers are designated as **Tier 1 networks**; other networks with smaller scope of coverage and operations are **Tier 2 networks**.
3. Any regional seismic network receiving USGS financial support via a cooperative agreement is a participant in the ANSS. USGS financial support is not a necessary condition for a regional seismic network to be a participant in the ANSS.
4. The USGS shall seek the advice of the ANSS Steering Committee when a regional seismic network requests to become a new participant in the ANSS; however, the USGS reserves the right to make the final decision on these matters.
5. All ANSS participants are required to follow this and other ANSS policies and the derivative standards, procedures, and specifications as they pertain to each participant's scope of operations and authority under the ANSS.
6. As a national system, the ANSS improves and is enhanced through the cooperation and interaction of its participants. It is the EHP's intent to engage all ANSS participants in the development and propagation of standards, procedures, and technology. During significant earthquakes and earthquake sequences, EHP will assist regional seismic networks, subject to the availability of limited staff and funds.