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## Comment Submitted by Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

Posted by the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** on Apr 13, 2026[Docket \(/docket/FEMA-2025-0278\)](/docket/FEMA-2025-0278) / [Document \(FEMA-2025-0278-0001\)](/document/FEMA-2025-0278-0001) (/document/FEMA-2025-0278-0001) / [Comment](#)

Comment

Draft Comment for Docket FEMA-2025-0278 (OMB Control No. 1660-0131)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)/Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) Unified Reporting Tool (URT). Overall, the URT is a usable system that follows a logical flow. However, there are several recurring system and process challenges that significantly affect the user experience, data quality, and the ability of states to fully leverage the THIRA/SPR process.

### 1. System Time-Out and Login Issues

The most persistent frustration involves the system timing out while users are actively working in the URT. Users often do not realize the system has logged them out until attempting to save progress or transition to another section, resulting in lost work. This issue may be related in part to the URT automatically opening multiple browser windows during login, but regardless of the cause, the unexpected time-outs interrupt workflow and reduce efficiency. A more predictable and visible session-timeout warning would greatly improve usability.

### 2. SPR Output Format Challenges

While POETE elements are entered in a logical and structured manner, the generated SPR pre-submission output is difficult to read and track. Each POETE element is placed in a single column that often spans multiple pages. Reviewing gaps and approaches requires constant page-turning to follow the information flow. A more user-friendly, consolidated, or horizontally aligned output format would substantially improve readability and review.

### 3. Lack of Transparency on How Data Is Used at the Federal Level

Despite the THIRA/SPR being required for grant eligibility, it is unclear how the data submitted through the URT is used by FEMA and federal partners. The annual National Preparedness Report is highly generalized and does not provide actionable insights for states or regions. States would benefit from more detailed information on how their submissions inform national or regional preparedness activities, how state-level data contributes to federal decisions, and how states can use this information to improve their own planning efforts. States should receive an explanation of how their data was used.

### 4. Lack of Common Approaches and Insufficient Guidance

There are no nationwide nor standardized approaches for completing the SPR or entering POETE details into the URT. If the SPR is being used by the FEMA Review Council or the federal government, in general, to inform future grant eligibility, it is essential that states understand how to provide consistent, accurate, and meaningful data that appropriately reflects their needs. Requests for assistance and clarification on data entry expectations have not yielded actionable guidance, leaving states uncertain about best practices.

Compounding this challenge is the reduction in FEMA-led training opportunities. Both regional and national training sessions are needed to ensure consistent data entry and interpretation across jurisdictions. Without this shared foundation, states may unintentionally report data in ways that are not aligned with national expectations.

### 5. After Action Calls and Unresolved Issues

The After-Action calls offer an avenue for feedback, but many recurring concerns—such as usability issues, data-entry questions, and lack of training—remain unresolved year after year. Some concerns have been resolved, like issues related to rich-text formatting, random characters generated in the URT, and spacing issues. Updates to the URT often occur without advance notice or documentation explaining what has changed, which complicates planning and increases the risk of errors. System updates should occur outside of the typical THIRA/SPR submission window, ideally between January and May.

### 6. Key Needs / Summary

From a state perspective, the most important improvements include:

- A more stable URT platform that does not log users out unexpectedly.
- A more readable SPR output format for internal review and planning.
- Greater transparency on how state data is used at regional and national levels.
- Regular and accessible regional and national training opportunities.

Give Feedback

- Clear guidance on expected data-entry approaches to ensure national consistency.
- Advance notice and documentation for any URT system updates.

These changes would improve detail and data quality, reduce burden, and strengthen the value of the THIRA/SPR process for both states and the federal government.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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