The New York City Area Consortium for Earthquake Loss Reduction (NYCEM) held a meeting of its Executive Committee on January 11, 2000 to discuss planning and technical direction for Year 2 activities. Reports given by Klaus Jacob (LDEO) and Guy Nordenson (Princeton University), principal investigators on the New York City pilot study, recapped progress on developing earthquake loss estimations for Manhattan below 59th Street. Year 2 activities will focus on further refinements for the pilot study area and establishing a framework to extend the study area throughout Manhattan and the surrounding boroughs. Similar studies for northern New Jersey will also be assimilated into the regional framework.

An important element of the Year 2 activities will be to promote use and application of the study among New York City area stakeholders and end users. Area engineers, public agency officials, emergency responders and utility managers will be encouraged to use the FEMA-NIBS loss estimation software, HAZUS, and the regional data to evaluate their own systems and contingencies, and to contribute to the future development of the regional study. Information about NYCEM, as well as technical summaries, may be found at the new NYCEM website, http://www.nycem.org.