

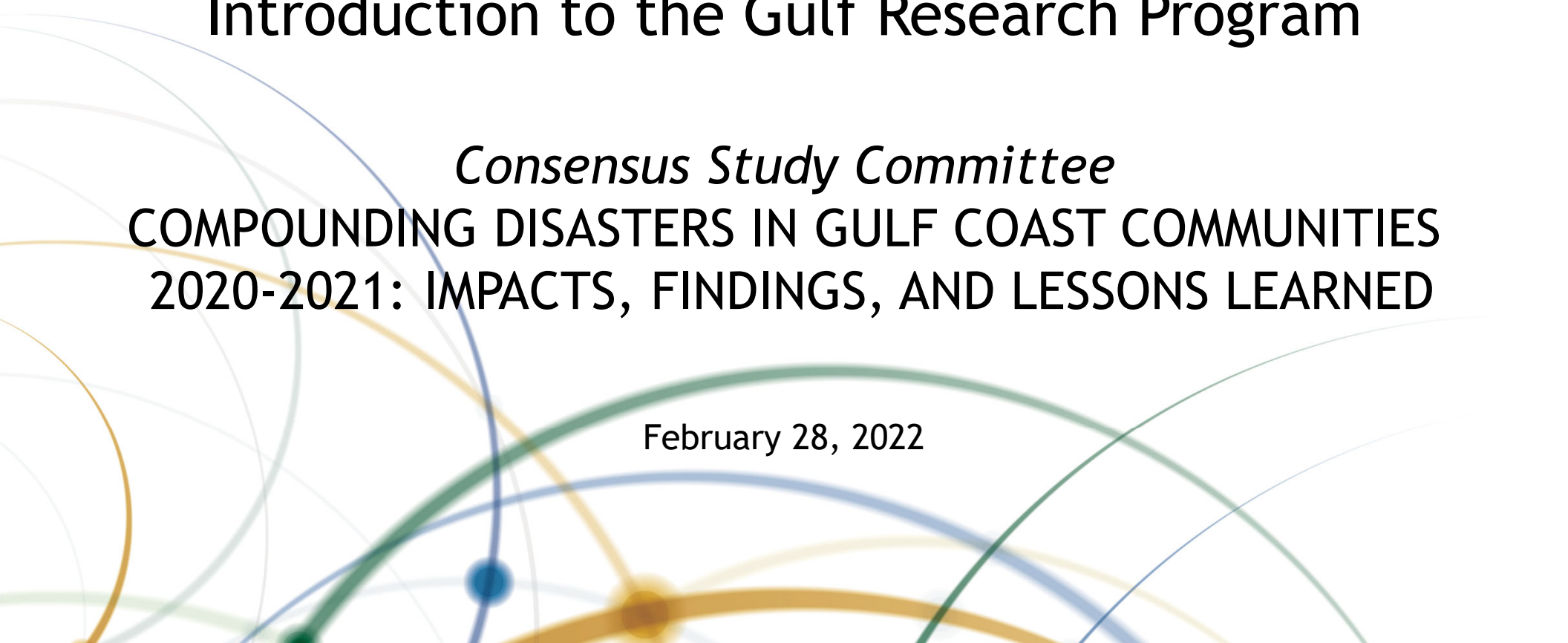
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Introduction to the Gulf Research Program

Consensus Study Committee
**COMPOUNDING DISASTERS IN GULF COAST COMMUNITIES
2020-2021: IMPACTS, FINDINGS, AND LESSONS LEARNED**

February 28, 2022



Let me start by
saying...



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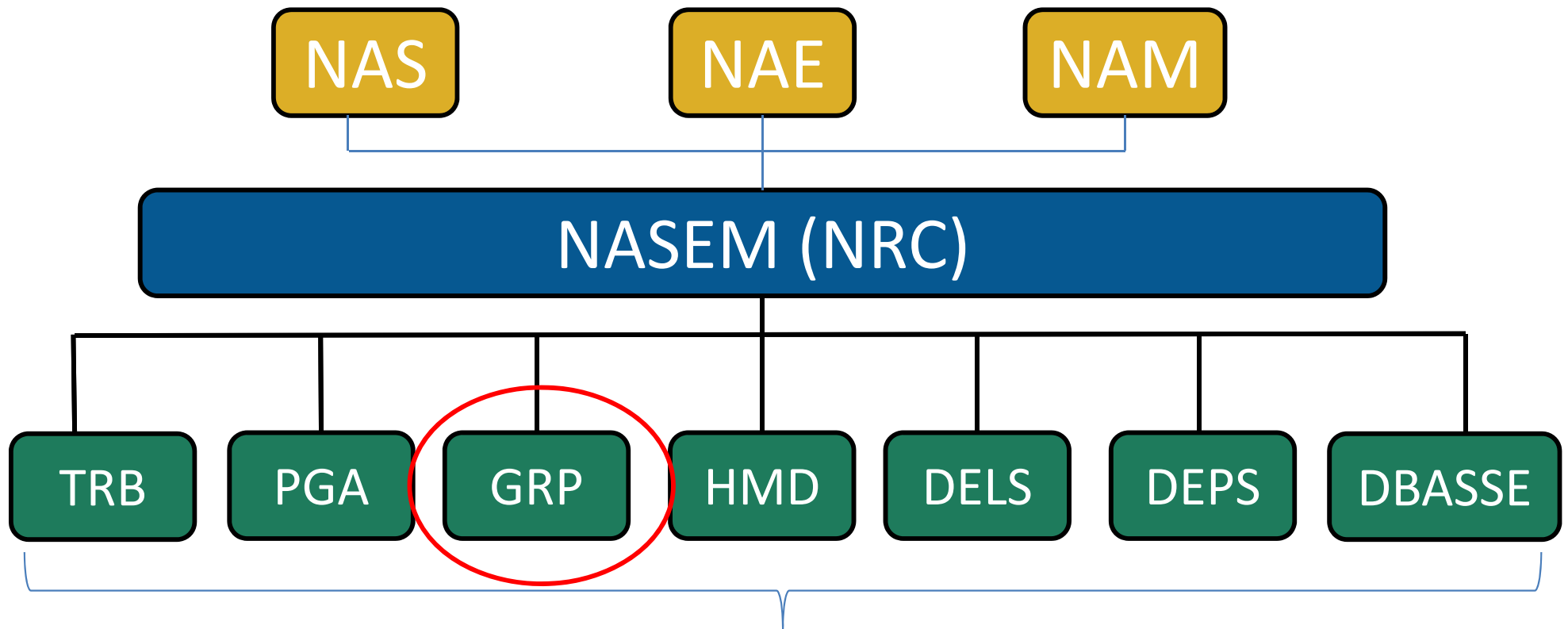
A Little Bit About the GRP

Mandate. Institutional Context. Division Structure. DEI Policy.



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The GRP in the NASEM Context



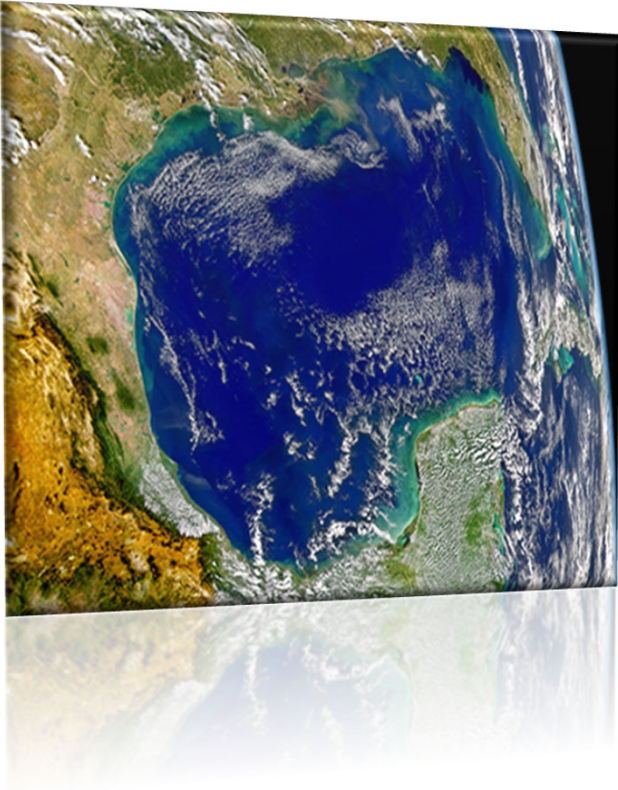
7 Program Divisions

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Gulf Research Program: Our Mandate

- **What:** Stewards of a **\$500 million endowment** from criminal settlement fees from the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill.
- **Charge:** “...establish a **program focused on human health and environmental protection** including issues relating to offshore drilling and hydrocarbon production and transportation in the Gulf of Mexico and on the United States’ outer continental shelf.”
- **Timeframe:** Endowment to be expended completely over **30 years** (2013-2043).
- **Purpose:** **carry out studies, projects, and other activities** in the public interest that enhance offshore safety, environmental protection, and **human health and community resilience**.
- **How:** The manner in which the studies, projects, and other activities are to be conducted will be **determined solely by NAS**.

Where does the GRP Work?



The GRP focuses its work on the Gulf of Mexico and other outer continental shelves of the United States where there is hydrocarbon production, and on their coastal zones. Where appropriate, this work may extend farther inland or into adjacent seas.

OFFSHORE ENERGY SAFETY	HEALTH & RESILIENCE	ENVIRONMENT	DATA	EDUCATION
Consensus Study Series on Monitoring the Gulf for Progress and Change—all three panels up and running				
	Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in GRP Programming			
		Gulf Scholars Program		
	Infrastructure Investments in the Gulf of Mexico Region			
	Enhancing Community Resilience (EnCoRe) Initiative			
	Lower Mississippi River Delta Birdsfoot			
		Gulf Futures		
		Legacy Infrastructure		
		Energy Transitions		

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The GRP takes issues of equity and justice very seriously. We are committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work, and exercising these principles in our staffing, granting, board appointments, and fellowships.

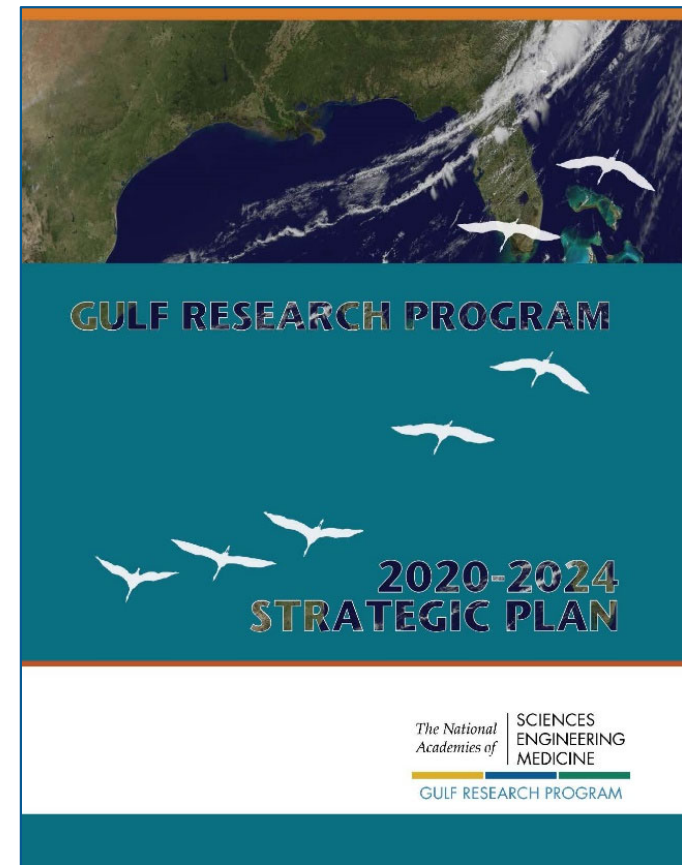
“I am also asking the leaders of each of our programs to brainstorm with staff and external advisors as to how they can reposition their programs better to address issues of equity and justice. Have they unintentionally been reinforcing the status quo? How can they reduce barriers to and promote inclusion and equity?”

*Statement by Marcia McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences
July 11, 2020*

GRP Strategic Plan

Vision: A more safe, resilient, and sustainable future for the Gulf and all those who call the region home.

Mission: “Develop, translate, and apply science, engineering, and medical knowledge to enhance offshore energy safety, environmental protection and stewardship, and human health and community resilience in the Gulf region in ways that empower its citizens.”



Statement of Task

COMPOUNDING DISASTERS IN GULF COAST COMMUNITIES, 2020-2021:
IMPACTS, FINDINGS, AND LESSONS LEARNED



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Statement of Task

A committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will document the impact and lessons-learned from multiple, compounding disasters that occurred across the Gulf coast region in 2020 - 2021.

Within this two-year time period, Gulf coast communities experienced numerous billion-dollar extreme weather disasters, widespread energy infrastructure failures and the COVID-19 pandemic. These events occurred against a backdrop of persistent social and economic inequities, resulting in disproportionate impacts of these events on poor and underserved communities, particularly Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. The increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events driven by climate change will continue to compound these effects and threatens to diminish the resilience capacity of communities throughout the Gulf region.

Statement of Task (continued)

This committee will:

- **Describe** the major disasters that occurred in the Gulf region during the two-year time period and, to the extent known, their impacts on community markers such as local economies, government functions, industry, the education system, human health, social structure, etc.
- **Discuss** how these effects were compounded due to the sequencing of events as well as the factors that may have amplified these impacts (e.g., poverty, health disparities, economic and governance constraints, obsolete or inadequate infrastructure, etc.).
- **Identify** lessons learned from and needs exposed in how communities dealt with multiple, compounding disasters within a two-year time period.
- **Provide findings** on what factors enabled or could enable communities to successfully plan for, respond to, recovery from, and mitigate the impacts of multiple, compounding disasters.

Type A vs. Type B Studies

Type A: the committee is asked to provide **formal advice** and **recommendations** to the GRP or a federal agency to take specific action around one or a small set of issues

Type B: the committee is asked to produce a scientific **consensus** on one or a small set of issues. The Committee is asked to produce **findings and conclusions** around that set of issues.

This is a Type B Study



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What is the GRP asking from the Study Committee?

- Contribute
- Think
- Ask
- Write
- Ask (again)
- Share
- Engage

How Will GRP Use This Report?

1. Document this period of time: what happened, in what order, what collective impacts occurred, how bad was it
2. Put this time period in context and contribute to our historical record
3. Help the GRP make appropriate connections between and among the events in this time period
4. Identify what, if any, elements of one event made a subsequent event more intense, harder to recover from, or easier
5. Give us a framework for understanding, defining, and recognizing compounding disasters and compounding effects
6. Widely, depending on how the committee chooses to design products, other than a written report, from your findings

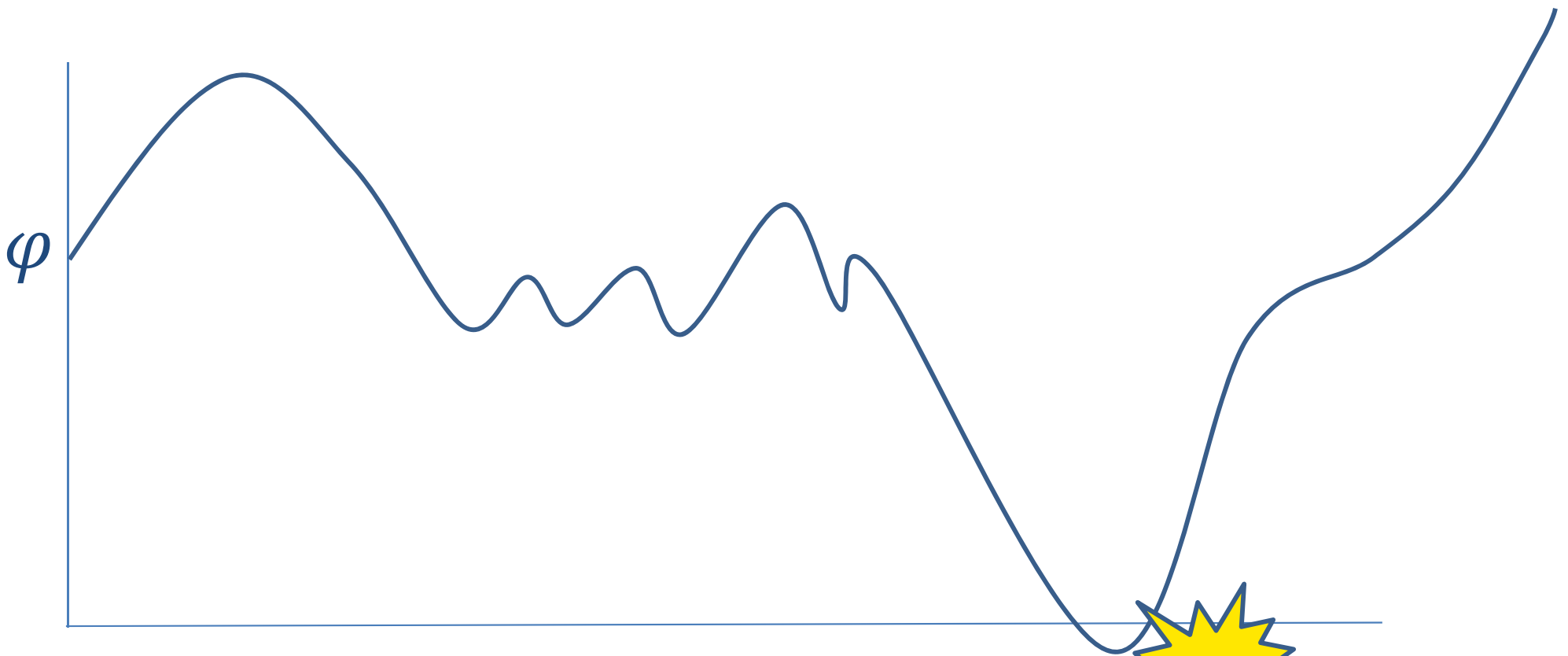
Opportunities for this Committee

- Produce a much-needed seminal document about what are compounding disasters and how they can unfold
- Strengthen the dialogue around compounding disasters among key agencies, organizations and other stakeholders
- Frame this and related issues for not just the Gulf of Mexico region, but for the nation.

Not In Our Charge

- Formal advice or specific recommendations for GRP programs and activities
- Formal advice or specific recommendations to federal, state, or local units of government
- Findings on issues outside of the Statement of Task
- Some or even much of the issues that come up in your interesting discussions

The Phi of Studies



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Questions?



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