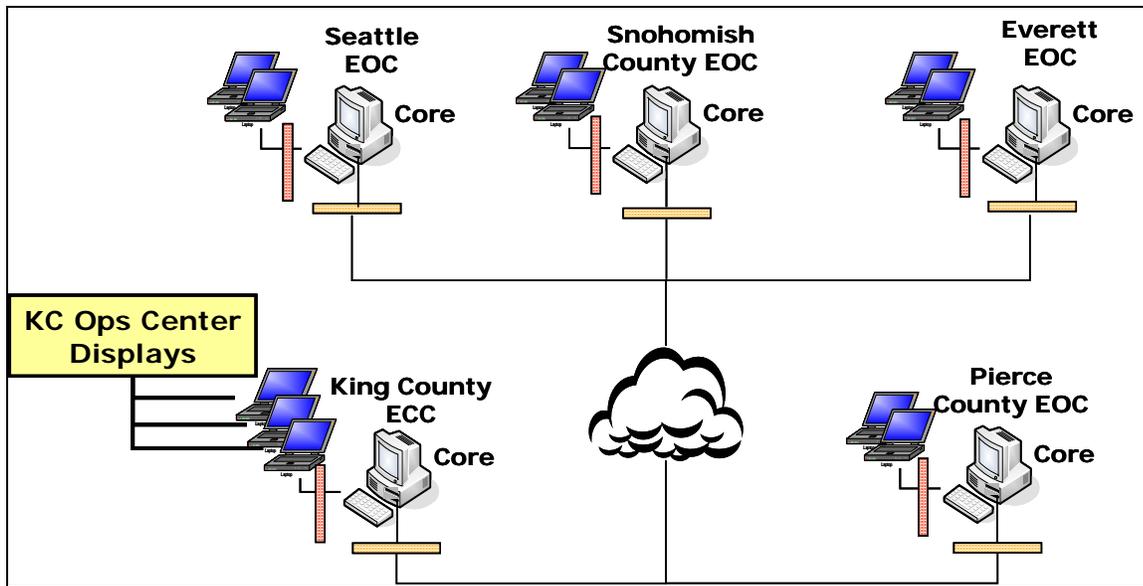

Interconnection of EOCs Demonstrated in Seattle

One of the projects being implemented under the Regional Technology Integration (RTI) Program is developing and deploying an integrated set of prototype functions to improve interconnectivity among Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in the Seattle Urban Area. These EOCs must be able to quickly and accurately share time-critical information to effectively respond to emergencies. The prototype system was demonstrated on October 19 at the King County EOC for EOC directors and invited guests.

The demonstration featured the simulation of three incidents, one in each of King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Team members at the King County EOC could view the Common Operating Picture of each of these incidents as they were simulated by the different sites.



Key to the success of the demonstration was the reconfiguration of the King County firewall to admit the necessary traffic. Computers also had to run Google Earth™ and a project-designed application that allowed the EOC software to interact with Google Earth. Using Google Earth helps solve the problem identified earlier that various EOCs in the region use differing types of geographic information systems (GIS) that do not connect easily.

Comments from users and observers were positive. Emergency managers noted that the system may get its first real applications in the spring as a tool to help the counties manage flooding events that accompany snow melt in the Cascades. The system will be tested one final time before full deployment as part of the “Sound Shake” exercise in March.

response and coordination. The demonstration will be conducted in several cities across the nation.

On the West Coast, PNNL will be evaluating Seattle, Los Angeles, and Anaheim as potential host cities for a full-scale pilot designed to fully integrate emergency systems. Argonne National Laboratory will also be evaluating Chicago, New York, and the Washington D.C. area. Both national laboratories will work with regional responder groups to develop notification and operations procedures. PNNL has begun meeting with Seattle area officials, and meetings are scheduled for Los Angeles and Anaheim.

Once completed, the integrated system will allow each city to

- Rapidly share decisions made in detection, crisis management, and response, and share the views of impact areas with available video camera systems and impact assessment tools
- Easily share critical information (e.g., matching the chemical identified at an attack site with hospital resources) using existing, advanced communication standards-compliant software applications and standards-based messages and protocols
- Improve overall emergency preparedness by enhancing response at appropriate levels depending on the nature of the event through rapid transfer of data and decisions to responders critically in need of that data and in the time frame needed for additional critical decision making.

Upcoming Events

December 4

IBRD Regional Coordination Meeting
Sheraton Hotel, Seattle

December 11

Seattle/King Co Pan Flu Leadership Group Meeting
PNNL Seattle Office

December 12

2010 Olympics Security Planning Meeting
Camp Murray

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy

Around the Region in Homeland Security is a monthly report from the Northwest Regional Technology Center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The goal of the NWRTC is to bring together major stakeholders from across the region that have a vested interest in homeland security issues and provide a collaborative environment that addresses Northwest regional homeland security requirements, needs, and challenges. For more

information, contact Director Steve Stein at steve.stein@pnl.gov or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Mary Peterson at mary.peterson@pnl.gov or 509-372-4655, or see the website at <http://nwrtc/pnl.gov>.