

# **Utah Seismic Safety Commission**

Meeting  
October 28, 2008  
Minutes

On October 28, 2008, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the State Office Building room B-110, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman Peter McDonough called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

## **Members Present:**

-Peter W. McDonough	Chair, American Society of Civil Engineers
-Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
-Scott Harrison	Division of Homeland Security
-Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Jason Richins	Utah Department of Transportation
-Jake Watson	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
-Sheila Curtis	Utah Insurance Department
-Matt Cassel	American Public Works Association

## **Members Not Present:**

-Evan Curtis	Governor's Office of Budget and Planning
-Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architects
-Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
-Rep. Michael Morley	Utah House of Representatives
-Senator Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
-Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

## **USSC Staff Present:**

-Bob Carey	Mitigation & Natural Hazards Section, DHS
-Karen Vetterli	Mitigation & Natural Hazards Section, DHS
-Chris DuRoss	Geologic Hazards Program, Utah Geological Survey

**Guests Present:**

-Steve Bowman	Geologic Hazards Program, Utah Geological Survey
-Mark Walton	State Farm Insurance Company
-Mark Harris	Reaveley Engineering
-Judy Watanabe	Division of Homeland Security
-Shawn Olsen	State Farm Insurance Company
-Jenefer Youngfield	State Office of Education
-Larry Newton	State Office of Education
-Rep. Larry Wiley	Utah House of Representatives
-Barry Welliver	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Fred Doehring	Utah Department of Transportation
-David Pierson	ARW Engineers

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

Chair Peter McDonough welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance and asked for introductions.

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Peter McDonough asked for any corrections and comments to the minutes.

**Motion:** *Rick Allis made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Commission meeting held on July 11, 2008. Walter Arabasz seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **PRESENTATIONS – School Seismic Safety**

**Peter McDonough** presented a slide presentation on the destruction caused by the magnitude 7.9 earthquake in the Sichuan province of China. The slide presentation showed the enormous devastation of property and loss of life.

**Rep. Larry Wiley** gave an update on the Utah School Seismic Hazard Inventory (2008 HB162). The funding mechanism for this project is basically nonexistent at this time. Funding for this project could come from a grant, outside resources, or some other funding stream. Appropriations from the Legislature this (2009) session are not likely as the Legislature is looking at further funding cutbacks in agency budgets. It was suggested that the Commission keep the bill in front of the Legislature, so that it is not forgotten, with Representative Wiley sponsoring it. Another suggestion was for the Commission to look for matching funding sources that may aid the appropriation process.

Some school districts have completed seismic-hazard evaluations of their building inventories. The completeness of these evaluations and the evaluation criteria have

not been determined. Jake Watson sent out a survey to individual school districts to determine which districts have completed building-inventory evaluations. The group felt that the State Office of Education should be the repository of the school district building inventory data. The State Office of Education will contact districts and generate a list of what seismic improvements have been made and what work still needs to be completed. The Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) should also be contacted for existing school building information.

**Jake Watson** explained the need for a uniform benchmark to be created for the building evaluations and standardized forms for collecting building data. Building evaluations should be performed using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) forms; 154 (simple), 310 (more complex), and 356 (more modern and complex). Buildings built after 1997, (this number comes out of FEMA form 154), were not considered in need of retrofit. If funding becomes available, the date may be changed.

Jennefer Youngfield from the State Office of Education will help gather the building inventories that have already been completed. After the existing building data have been compiled and reviewed, a review of the current house bill will be needed to see if the bill needs restructuring.

Walter Arabasz suggested that the Commission create a long-term game plan. The issue needs to be presented to the Legislature in the form of problems and solutions. More creative ways of raising funds through the schools and school districts is needed, but the funding issue needs to be directed for all districts across the state. It was suggested that the existing buildings committee create a framework with data to present to the Legislature.

➤ **DISCUSSION – USSC Seismic Education Program (Roger Evans, moderator)**

There needs to be more training opportunities for building codes. USSC could be the sponsor for building-code training. Application needs to be made to the Educational Advisory Committee with the Uniform Building Codes Commission for funds. Funds could then be allocated for instructors and training materials. Also, more training needs to be available for HAZUS and ATC-20 (post-earthquake safety evaluation of buildings).

➤ **NEWS & UPDATES**

**Motion:** *Peter McDonough made a motion for the Commission to create a poster for the 2009 annual meeting of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) to show the Commission's accomplishments. Sheila Curtis seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.*

Bob Carey reported on the EERI-sponsored earthquake-scenario workshop that he and Gary Christenson attended in September. The workshop was designed to help the participants create future, more user-friendly scenario documents. We have a Utah-earthquake scenario in place, but it is not published. The University of Utah Seismograph Stations has also created 26 different scenarios.

Peter McDonough announced that the Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering 2009 Conference is holding its international lifeline earthquake engineering conference in a multi-hazard environment in Oakland, California on June 28 – July 1, 2009. This conference is sponsored by the Technical Costs on Lifeline Engineering group.

Chris DuRoss announced that the Utah version of the “Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country” pamphlet is complete. There will be 20,000 to 50,000 high-quality copies printed at this time. There needs to be funding for this project.

**Motion:** *Sheila Curtis made a motion to take \$5,000 out of the commission budget to help pay for printing. Roger Evans seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.*

Envision Utah is a non-profit planning group to help various entities in working through growth issues and helping all communities with needs and wants. The group has diversified into various committees, one of which is the “Disaster Emergency Committee.” The committee is newly formed and would like work with the Commission on various issues. The committee was very interested in the “Roots” document and may be willing to help financially with printing costs.

**Motion:** *Peter McDonough made a motion to adjourn at 4:10 P.M. Motion seconded by Sheila Curtis. Motion was unanimously approved.*

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

**Date:** Thursday, January 8, 2009  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Salt Lake County Emergency Operations Center,  
Operations Room, 3380 S 900 W, Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**