

# **Utah Seismic Safety Commission**

Meeting  
January 8, 2009  
Minutes

On January 8, 2009, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in the Salt Lake County Emergency Operations Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman Peter McDonough called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

## **Members Present:**

-Peter W. McDonough	Chair, American Society of Civil Engineers
-Walter Arabasz	University of Utah Seismograph Stations
-Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Jake Watson	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Sheila Curtis	Utah Insurance Department
-Evan Curtis	Governor's Office of Budget and Planning
-Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
-Fred Doehring	Utah Department of Transportation

## **Members Not Present:**

-Scott Harrison	Division of Homeland Security
-Jason Richins	Utah Department of Transportation
-Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
-Matt Cassel	American Public Works Association
-Michelle Jones	Association of Contingency Planners
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architects
-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
-Jenefer Youngfield	State Office of Education
-Barry Welliver	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Craig Swenson	Westinghouse Western Zirconium
-Jim Higbee	Utah Department of Transportation-Geotech
-Francis Ashland	Utah Geological Survey
-Steven Bartlett	University of Utah

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

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

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Motion: Roger Evans made a motion to approve the minutes. Fred Doehring seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.***

Change in October minutes; Fred Doehring was the representative member for the Department of Transportation in October meeting.

➤ **PRESENTATIONS**

**Update on school seismic issue.** Jennefer Youngfield from the State Office of Education has been gathering reports from the school districts. Problems exist because the evaluation process differs from one engineering firm to another. The Obama Education Committee has asked for information from Utah on what money is needed to update buildings. The reports were generated for maintenance, upgrades on technology, and school buildings. Included in this report were figures for school seismic upgrades. If the projects are funded, the funding would not be sufficient to complete all the upgrades. There are standards that need to be met when building or remodeling schools. The State Office of Education has been requested to create a coherent plan for these standards referring to House Bill 163. It is suggested that the commission appoint and create a sub-committee for this issue

➤ **NEWS & UPDATES**

**2000-2007 Progress Report.** Gary Christensen has finalized the Progress Report, which will go to the UGS editorial department for final editing. The report may not be finished for the 2009 legislative session. Once completed, the normal procedure is to present it to the Government Operations Interim Committee, as part of the Commission's statutory responsibilities.

**Earthquake Preparedness Month.** The Putting Down Roots handbook is scheduled for printing to coincide with Earthquake Preparedness month, which is April. The handbook will be delivered to policy makers, legislatures, organizations, and the general public. Chris DuRoss discussed what information is contained in the handbook, which will be available at the Division of Natural Resources bookstore and available for downloading from the USSC website (ussc.utah.gov). The booklet will also be available from various county locations and from Emergency Managers. Approximately 50,000 copies are expected to be available. Bob Carey is delivering a proclamation to the Governor and Lt. Governor for signature. Bob asked if earthquake month should be a month long or a weeklong. The Commission decided that earthquake month should take place for a month, with a different focus for each week. Bob will contact the Division of Homeland Security public information officer for input.

**Walter Arabasz** announced April 17<sup>th</sup> as the opening date for the University's Department of Geology and Geophysics new building.

**Chris DuRoss** is supervising the update to the USSC website.

Dan Jones helped "Be Ready Utah" do a poll of emergency plans of citizens and companies. The idea was to see if the citizens of Utah were ready with a plan in place. Bob Carey will get a copy of the report for the committee to look at and determine if there are any target groups needing help.

**Walter Arabasz** discussed how important Commission members' attendance has become and the need to appoint a designee with authorization. There is a need to check on members' attendance and if necessary, request a replacement. Also, Walter discussed the different documents published by the Commission and the need to show the Commission's progress and activities.

**Steve Bartlett** with the University of Utah presented an ongoing study on the evaluation of seismic vulnerability of I-15 in Salt Lake Valley. The study included the risks from earthquake damage to the roadway systems. A HAZUS run was performed to establish damage estimates.

**Doug Bausch** attended a workshop through the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and presented a field report on the Eastern Sichuan, China earthquake. The workshop presented information on the Taiwan earthquake, which resulted in significant damage to schools throughout the epicentral region. Buildings in the epicentral area that were built before 1980 were a total loss. The mitigation program started with outreach and education.

#### **UPDATES:**

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) annual meeting will be held in Salt Lake City on February 11-14, 2009.

**Motion:** *Pete McDonough made a motion to pay the EERI registration fee for six Commission members. Jake Watson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.*

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) lifelines conference will be held June 28 to July 1, 2009 in Oakland, California.

**Motion:** *Pete McDonough made a motion to pay \$500.00 apiece toward the ASCE registration fee for three graduate students from Brigham Young University, the University of Utah, and Utah State University to attend. Sheila Curtis seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.*

**Bob Carey** raised the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council (NESC). The Commission agreed that a joint meeting would be worthwhile, and Bob agreed to contact the NESC.

**Motion:** *Peter McDonough made a motion to adjourn at 12:15 P.M. Motion seconded by Sheila Curtis. Motion was unanimously approved.*

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

**Date:** May 20, 2009  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Wells, NV

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**