

# UTAH SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Meeting  
April 8, 1998

## *MINUTES*

On April 8, 1998, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held at Bridgerland Applied Technology Center, 325 West 1100 South, Brigham City, Utah. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Walter Arabasz.

### **Members Present:**

-Walter J. Arabasz	Chair/Seismic Safety Commission-University of Utah Seismograph Stations
-James Bailey	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Lorayne M. Frank	Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management
-James W. Golden	Structural Engineer Division, Department of Transportation
-Peter C. Knudson	Utah House of Representatives
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Institute of Architects
-Suzanne Winters	Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
-Les Youd	BYU Civil Engineering Department

### **Members Not Present:**

M. Lee Allison	Utah Geological Survey
Kenneth Bullock	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Craig L. Dearden	Utah Department of Public Safety
Bill Juszczak	Utah Division of Facilities Construction & Management
Sen. Craig A. Peterson	Utah State Senate
Randall G. Updike	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Russ Wilder	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)

### **CEM Staff Present:**

Bob Fowler	Operations & Field Coordination Bureau, CEM
Bob Carey	Mitigation & Planning Section, CEM

### **UGS Staff Present:**

- Gary E. Christenson Utah Geological Survey
- Janine Jarva Utah Geological Survey
- Barry Solomon Utah Geological Survey

**Guests Present/Committee Members:**

- Lee Allen Box Elder County Commissioner
- Duane Archibald Garland City
- Ann Becker U of U Seismograph Stations/Awareness & Education Standing Committee
- Denton Beecher Box Elder County Emergency Services Director
- Steve Bench Tremonton City
- Thair H. Blackburn Rickburn Architects and Engineering/Architecture Standing Committee
- Jennifer Brown State Farm Insurance
- Jim Buchanan Brigham City Fire/Ambulance
- Ellen Cook Box Elder News Journal
- Duane Fillmore Geologist & Educator
- Max A. Gregersen Centry and Engineering/Architecture Standing Committee
- Gary A. Harrop North Ogden Mayor
- Ann Holmgren Bear River City
- Leon Jensen Box Elder Sheriff's Dept.
- Jeff Johnson Brigham City Police Dept. & Pleasant View CERT
- Sue Nava University of Utah Seismograph Stations
- H. Paul Orme Honeyville City Mayor
- Deedee O'Brien U of U/Awareness & Education Standing Committee
- Jess Palmer Brigham City Police Department
- James Patterson Hypercomp Engineering
- Rich Saskal Ogden Standard Examiner
- Lee Siegel Salt Lake Tribune
- Ed Skrobiszewski Perry City resident
- Ray Strong UTA - Mt. Ogden Division
- Don Tingey Brigham City
- Tony Tolliver State Farm Insurance
- Joni Whitear State Farm Insurance
- Lynn Yeates Box Elder County Sheriff's Department

**WELCOME / INTRODUCTION .....**

Chairman Walter Arabasz welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES .....**

**MOTION: The minutes from the meeting held on January 9, 1998, were unanimously approved with no corrections.**

**☐ DANGER OF BIG ONE - WASATCH FAULT'S BRIGHAM CITY SEGMENT ...**

Gary Christenson, Utah Geological Survey, presented the geologic record of large, catastrophic earthquakes (magnitude 6.5-7.5) along the Brigham City segment of the Wasatch fault and their implications for the future. Chairman Walter Arabasz followed with a discussion of the threat of moderate-size (magnitude 5.5-6.5) but more frequent earthquakes, based on historical seismicity. Dr. Arabasz pointed out that there is an average recurrence interval for such earthquakes on the Brigham City segment of 20-30 years and it has been 23 years since the last one in 1975. Therefore, it is likely that public officials in this region will have to deal with one of these earthquakes in the next decade, and such an earthquake has a high damage potential if it occurs under a populated area.

**☐ GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES .....**

Dr. Arabasz reported on a brainstorming session held in February, with the Chairs of all the Standing Committees of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission. Its purpose was to identify strategies for USSC action in 1998, especially those relating to growth and development issues. Actions and issues with strong advocates included:

- ▲ Earthquake safety in schools, including (i) earthquake-safe design and construction and (ii) an aggressive prepared-school program.
- ▲ Addressing dangers associated with collocation of lifelines (e.g., transportation, electric power, gas, telecommunications, water) in areas subject to earthquake hazards.
- ▲ New instrumentation to meet earthquake information needs.
- ▲ Real-estate disclosure of earthquake hazards.
- ▲ Addressing dangers in re-using unreinforced masonry buildings for high-occupancy dwellings without seismic retrofit.
- ▲ Overarching need for a general campaign of earthquake awareness and education. Deedee O'Brien, Awareness and Education Standing Committee, presented the draft of a "Plan for Prepared School" campaign for the USSC's consideration and endorsement. The Standing Committee plans to send an emergency preparedness survey to all public and private

school principles in Utah. The Commission agreed to consider the definition of a “prepared school” at their next quarterly meeting.

Chairman Arabasz reported that he, Larry Newton (Utah Office of Education), and Ron Dunn (Chair of the Engineering and Architecture Standing Committee) would meet with Scott Bean (Superintendent of Public Instruction), sometime in the month of May, to discuss the Engineering and Architecture Standing Committee’s proposal for ensuring effective seismic review in new school construction.

Lorayne Frank, Utah Comprehensive Emergency Management Director, asked to make a presentation on “Project Impact” at the next USSC meeting. Ms. Frank would like the support of the Commission for a pilot project using this FEMA initiative in a local community, such as Brigham City. The pilot project could then be used as a model for other local Utah communities.

**PUBLIC FORUM** .....

Gary

**STAFF REPORT**

SALT LAKE CITY SPECIAL FAULT STUDIES UPDATE

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

1998 USSC CONFERENCE

**ASSIGNMENTS**

- ◆ *University of Utah Seismograph Stations*, for their earthquake education efforts in schools.
- ◆ *Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management*, for their 1996 booklet on how to reinforce vulnerable brick homes.
- ◆ *Utah Geological Survey*, for their brochures and maps, increasing public awareness of Utah’s hazards.

**NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:**       **July 17, 1998**

Utah Seismic Safety Commission  
Meeting - Minutes  
April 8, 1998  
Page 5

**TIME: 9:00 a. m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**PLACE: State Office Building #1110  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

**☐ ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon