

# *UTAH SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION*

**Meeting  
January 8, 1999**

## *MINUTES*

On January 8, 1999, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held at the State Office Building Room 5112, Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Walter Arabasz.

### **Members Present:**

-Walter J. Arabasz	Chair/Seismic Safety Commission-University of Utah Seismograph Stations
-James S. Bailey	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Danny Bauer	Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
-James W. Golden	Structural Engineer Division, Department of Transportation
-Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
-P. W. McDonough	Questar/American Society of Civil Engineers
-Earl R. Morris	Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management/DPS
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Institute of Architects

### **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
Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Construction & Management
	House of Representatives
Randall G. Updike	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)
Steve Pratt	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)

### **CEM Staff Present:**

-Bob Carey	Mitigation & Planning Section, CEM
-Traci Cordova	Mitigation & Planning Section, CEM
-Amisha Stringfellow	Mitigation & Planning Section, CEM
-Judy Watanabe	Mitigation & Planning Section, CEM

**UGS Staff Present:**

- Gary Christensen Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
- T J Madden Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
- Barry Solomon Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey

**Guests Present/Committee Members:**

- Ken Ament Construction Control Corporation
- Steven Bartlett Utah Department of Transportation/Lifelines Standing Committee
- Darlene Batatian Salt Lake County
- Ann Becker U of U Seismograph Stations/Awareness & Education Standing Committee
- Jennifer Brown State Farm Insurance
- Bill Bymaster Simon Bymaster, Inc.
- Carl H. Carpenter, P.E. Private Citizen
- Roger Evans SLC Building Services/Architect and Engineering Company
- Jan Gibbons Davis School District/Awareness & Education Standing Committee
- Pat Lewis Emergency Management Committee
- Karen Mayne Provo Emergency Management
- Lee Siegel Salt Lake Tribune
- David Simon Simon Bymaster, Inc.
- Mike Stever Salt Lake City
- Barry H. Welliver Barry H. Welliver/Engineering & Architecture Standing Committee
- Val Wiltsey Public Education
- Ed Yates KSL-TV

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW.....**

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

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.....**

Jan Gibbons ordered a request to change minutes from the last meeting related to the elementary and secondary schools holding fire drills. With one correction on page 5, paragraph 2, minutes should be replaced with “Elementary schools are required to hold fire drills monthly and secondary schools hold fire drills four times a year.” The program also asks that all schools hold an earthquake drill annually. The earthquake drill should consist of a full-scale evacuation.

**Motion:** *James Golden moves for a motion to approve minutes on the last meeting. Barry Smith seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

➤ **TASK FORCE FOR I-15**.....

Steven Bartlett reported the advancement of the task force for I-15's Strong-Motion Instrumentation, is directed by a motion approved at the July 17, 1998 Commission Meeting. Proposals of the cost of putting a plan together to recommend sites and types locations where strong ground motion instruments would be deployed on I-15 is still under a decision with the Federal Highway Administration for funding possibilities. Also a symposium on the Seismic Retrofitting of Utah Highway bridges is scheduled to take place on January 20-22nd in the Windheim Hotel. They are asking a development in public support for the Seismic Retrofit of Utah bridges. They are going to have several CalTran Engineers here to work on I-15. Hopefully with their expertise and shared knowledge they will be able to bring California's ideas to Utah.

➤ **NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**.....

James S. Bailey's reported that he wants to continue to promote peer review of school construction for seismic consideration even though the State Schools Superintendent, Scott Bean, recently retired. Recommendations from the Engineering and Architecture Standing Committee will be forwarded to the State Office of Education for their review of comments.

Mr. Bailey also reported the UBC Commission Structural Advisory Committee held a meeting to encourage retrofit suggestions on the Gateway Project. This meeting may determine an acceptable methodology for that type of seismic upgrade. The Committee is hoping for future meetings on seismic upgrade because of problems with buildings on the west side that are being converted into condominiums and offices that have no set standard or requirement on making them seismically safe. Three groups can help with recommendations: first is the Engineering and Architectural Committee, which is part of the USSC, second is the Structural Advisory Committee, which is part of the Reform Building Code Commission, and third is the Seismic Committee, under the Structural Engineering Association of Utah. Using all of these resources hopefully the UBC Committee will come to some sort of conclusion and recommendations to foster seismic upgrades in the Gateway area.

➤ **SCHOOL EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS**.....

Jan Gibbons, Davis School District, made a presentation for the USSC Awareness and Education Standing Committee. Members of the committee put together notebooks for each public and private school in the state. The notebooks include materials that can be used to instruct students and staff in earthquake preparedness. Each school will be given the opportunity to receive a certificate if they complete the activities on the enclosed list. These activities include: hold regular fire drills: elementary monthly; secondary four times a year, establish a Safety Committee, hold one earthquake/disaster drill during the year, evaluation

of the drill by the Safety Commission, and non-structural hazard hunt completed by each classroom. The notebooks will be distributed to each of the school districts within the next few weeks. Ms. Gibbons also noted on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Governor's Office there will be a proclamation signed proclaiming April as School Earthquake Disaster Preparedness Month.

➤ **UPDATE LIFELINES**.....

James W. Golden, Department of Transportation, reported that they are still gathering information from the major utility companies to be able to plot out GIS data onto a map. Then will eventually publish a GIS Data Base and maps that would help people plan better strategies to prevent damage during a seismic event.

➤ **FAULT INVESTIGATION OF THE SALT PALACE**.....

Ken Ament, the construction manager for the Salt Palace expansion project, presented the problems with recent expansion on the Salt Palace concerning the discovery of a possible fault on the site. No evidence of a seismic concern was found during the 12 routine geotechnical studies of the '98 expansion. The water table was consistent across the site and they found nothing other than alluvial deposits and Bonneville clays. With no evidence of a fault line on the site they proceeded on. They put an early bid package out to take out the old parking structure and a second bid package out for excavation. Trenching 23 ft. down, an apparent tectonic fault was found. The State, Salt Lake County, and Utah Geological Survey were all notified of this new discovery. After studying a little further, a liquefaction feature was found. Dr. Schleeman from San Diego was sent to identify the features found by trenching and concluded that it was in fact a tectonic fault. They ceased excavation and called a press conference to inform the public.

David Simon, from Bymaster, presented the location of trenches and what exactly was found on the site. Evidence of liquefaction and an event that pulled in an east and west motion which formed a graben.

Darlene Batatian, Salt Lake County Geologist, commented on certain investigations on sites in the downtown area. The evidence of this fault raises questions on some construction reviews at other sites in the downtown area. She warned developers on having thorough construction reviews before any building takes place.

➤ **“IMPACT OF PROJECT IMPACT”**.....

Mike Stever, Salt Lake City Emergency Program Manager, presented the background on Project Impact. The primary focus of Project Impact is to develop disaster resistant communities. Salt Lake City will receive \$300,000 for mitigation purposes and wants to focus on partnership building and to take those partnerships and make them work. Hazard Mitigation within the community has three main goals: first is the hard projects, such as floodplain management, second is regulations for seismic retrofitting, third is public awareness. By working on these three main goals, they hope to develop a better disaster-resistant community.

➤ **UPDATING INFORMATION ITEMS**.....

Senator Peter C. Knudson, Utah State Senate, presented information on reconstituting the Commission make-up. A problem exists when some members of the committee do not attend regularly, making it difficult to have a quorum vote. Senator Knudson offered this solution to the problem. He stated that if members miss two consecutive meetings then they are not considered in the make-up of the Commission thus reducing the number on the Commission to 11 from 13. Then only six members would have to be present for a quorum.

**Motion:** *Peter C. Knudson made a motion to the members of USSC Commission Members. If the Commission members miss more than two consecutive commission meetings, this then allows the commission to no longer count those two positions being required to constitute a vote. James W. Golden seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

Earl Morris, Director, Comprehensive Emergency Management, presented information on CEM’s funding situation. If Utah Legislature funds CEM for \$222,700, this would meet the requirements for the Federal match money on State and Local assistance. This would essentially provide full funding for CEM, which will equate into well over \$1 Million for State and Local assistance programs. The Fiscal Analyst will most likely not support this fund, so CEM’s game plan is to go to the Legislative Body and ask for funding.

**Motion:** *Walter J. Arabasz made motion for the Commission to the legislative appropriation committee supporting the Governors request for funding to continue CEMS’s emergency management functions. Barry Smith seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.*

➤ **“USSC” WEB PAGE**.....

Walter J. Arabasz presented a case study of the reestablishment of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission. This web page is a mechanism used for gathering information and coherent communication of Commission activities, which focus' on assessing earthquake-related problems and offering solutions to the public. The creation of the web page has been put together to serve both technical and nontechnical users.

Barry H. Welliver, chairman of the web page for the Structural Engineers Association of Utah, presented new ideas from his stand point and also his feelings on the information driven on the web. The web page is a rallying point and a focal point. The USSC web page is to be on line within the next two months and is yet to have an address.

➤ **NEW BUSINESS**.....

Ann Becker, U of U Seismograph Stations/Awareness and Education Standing Committee, reported two things from the Awareness and Education meeting: one is the A & ESC won't coordinate the Annual USSC Conference and two the Education Subcommittee understands that there is a problem with delivering the earthquake displays. She asks the Commission to write a letter to CEM and to the U of U Seismograph Stations asking them to resolve the differences on scheduling the deliveries. Walter responded to this request saying that his department and CEM will find a solution to this problem.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**.....

**DATE:           Friday, April 9, 1999**  
**TIME:           9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**  
**PLACE:         State Office Building 1112**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**.....

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

