

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
October 15, 1999

Minutes

On October 15, 1999, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held at the State Office Building Room 2112, Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by the Chairman Walter Arabasz.

Members Present:

-Walter J. Arabasz	Chair/Seismic Safety Comm.-U of U Seismograph Stations
-James S. Bailey	Allen and Bailey Engineers/Structural Engineers Assoc.
-Don Bush	Utah House of Representatives
-Earl R. Morris	Utah Division of Emergency Management/DPS
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Construction & Management
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architects

Members Not Present:

M. Lee Allison	Utah Geological Survey
Danny Bauer	Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Kenneth Bullock	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Craig L. Dearden	Utah Department of Public Safety
James W. Golden	Utah Department of Transportation
Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Peter W. McDonough	Questar/American Society of Civil Engineers
Steve Pratt	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Randall G. Updike	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

CEM Staff Present:

-Bob Carey	Liaison, Operations & Plans Section, CEM
-Amisha Stringfellow	Liaison, Operations & Plans Section, CEM

UGS Staff Present:

-Gary Christensen	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
-Tim Madden	Public Information Officer, Utah Geological Survey
-Barry Solomon	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey

Guests Present/Committee Members:

-Steven Bartlett	Utah Department of Transportation
-Carl H. Carpenter	Consulting Engineer
-Carl Eriksson	Engineering & Architecture Committee
-Roger Evans	Salt Lake City Building Services
-Jeff Fotherlingham	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Brian Law	Davis County Emer. Services/Emer. Prep. Standing Comm.
-Sue Nava	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Lorraine Nelms	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Lee Siegel	Salt Lake Tribune
-Mike Stever	Salt Lake Emergency Management
-Anne Vonweller	Murray City
-Kevin Wedman	BJY Incorporated
-Barry H. Welliver	Engineering & Architectural Committee
-Les Youd	Brigham Young University

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**.....

Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) Chairman Walter Arabasz welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**.....

Motion: *Representative Don Bush made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on July 9, 1999. Earl Morris seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **INFORMATION UPDATES**.....

Barry Soloman, UGS, reported on the status for a new director for Utah Geological Survey. The position will not be filled until January of next year. There is a bit of a budget shortfall and this is a way of making up for that shortfall. The position will be advertised once again here shortly.

James Bailey, Structural Engineers Association of Utah, reported on the status of existing building codes. Walter Arabasz, Barry Soloman, and James all made it to the UBC Commission Meeting in August to present their proposal for to the commission to accept the UBEC 2000 document. They said that they would take it under advisement and study it further with the intent of passing the law.

Barry Welliver has been gracious enough to form an adhoc committee with all the interested parties to study this new ordinance and make any adjustments as needed. This Committee has developed a brochure for public information on Seismic Safety of Existing Buildings. The earliest possible date for the International Uniform Building Code to take effect will be January 1, 2001.

Walter Arabasz spoke on the Seismic Instrumentation Initiative and reported that the information remains the same as the last minutes. The authorization of funding for an advanced National Seismic System has yet to be passed by both Houses of Congress. However, the reauthorization bill for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program has been introduced in the Senate under “Earth, Wind, and Fire” bill. The possible \$400,000 pilot funding for Real Time Seismic Monitoring in the Salt Lake City or Wasatch Front urban corridor area still appear to be in the pending status.

Bob Carey, CEM, reported on the HAZUS Data Users Group. There was an initial meeting in July to test the waters for interest in HAZUS and developing a Data Users Group. A tentative date for the first training was in August, but due to unforeseen causes, a tornado, the training was cancelled. Training will wait until the new iteration of HAZUS to be released.

Bob also spoke about updates to the Emergency Management Standing Committee and the Awareness & Education Committee. The Emergency Management Standing Committee agreed to be dissolved and to take active members and move them to the A & E Committee. The interests of the two committees were very similar and it was thought to be natural to combine both.

Bob Carey □ The status for the USSC intern and the web site are still pending. The funding is there to support the intern, but it’s just a matter of finding someone with the writing capability and web site development capabilities. If we are not able to find someone through the U of U, then we will go elsewhere. Chris Kramer is still the point of contact for the web site, but is currently involved with department responsibilities. The web site will also be the responsibility of the intern to maintain.

Barry Soloman, UGS, reported on the guidelines regarding USSC soliciting/accepting of funding. The USSC is recommended to look for a legislative sponsor for a bill that would enable to specifically raise funds from the private sector.

➤ **GOALS & STRATEGIES OF THE DIVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR EARTHQUAKE SAFETY IN UTAH**_____

Earl Morris, CEM, discussed Emergency Management's goals for earthquake safety in Utah. Emergency Management will continue to be a very active part of the Commission. With the existing staff and funding resources at CEM, Earl feels that earthquake safety in Utah is major focus. CEM will continue to support earthquake education workshops, the earthquake displays, HAZUS development, the Prepared Schools Project, the spring WSSPC conference, and the financial contribution for the intern. Earl gave a commitment to be more actively involved in the earthquake and seismic issue and to use more resources into making this a better program.

➤ **WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**_____

Gary Christensen, UGS, reported on the September 1999 Annual Meeting of the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC). WSSPC is looking at developing clearinghouses for postearthquake response. The clearinghouses include geologists, engineers, and emergency managers that would come together as a group and brief each other about their observations from the disaster area. WSSPC is hoping for interstate cooperation and agreements to allow WSSPC members an opportunity to gain experience in response to earthquakes through the clearinghouses. Emergency Management will be hosting a WSSPC conference here in Salt Lake sometime in the later part of April or the first of May.

➤ **FIFTH U.S. CONFERENCE ON LIFELINE EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING**_____

Peter McDonough, American Society of Civil Engineers, reported that the August 1999 Fifth U.S. Conference on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering was very successful. There were approximately 300 attendees and 5 sessions that were dedicated to transportation issues. In the Utah section of the newsletter for the American Society of Civil Engineers called "Civil Source", there apparently will be several paragraphs about the USSC based on the minutes the last meeting.

➤ **ACTIVITIES/PERSPECTIVES OF THE DIVISION OF FACILITIES, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT**_____

Matthias Mueller, Division of Facilities, Construction, and Management (DFCM), spoke on the activities/perspectives of DFCM relating to earthquake safety in Utah. DFCM has seismic safety code standards, which they are required to enforce. Along with these standards is the 1997 Uniform Building Code, the 1996 edition of the National Electrical Code, the 1997 edition of the International Plumbing Code, and the 1998 edition of the International Mechanical Code. They also have what is called the DFCM designed criteria. All of these codes are applied to the design of every

new state facility. The five stages of design are programming, planning, development, design development, and construction. To ensure seismic construction compliance, DFCM has their own team of licensed inspectors that inspect a project during construction for compliance with the codes. It has been found that 51% of all state owned buildings in Utah comply with the Uniform Building Code, the other 49% are unknown.

DFCM has also developed an emergency operation plan for those facilities that are managed by DFCM's facilities management department. In a disaster event, this plan will instruct direct personnel on what valves would need to be turned off, what people need to be contacted, a chain of command, and so forth. DFCM has also prepared an emergency response staff assignment booklet, and the Division of Facilities, Construction, and Management Disaster Response Contingency Plan.

➤ **ACTIVITIES/PERSPECTIVES OF AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**_____

Barry Smith, American Institute of Architects, reported on the activities/perspectives on the American Institute of Architects (AIA) relating to earthquake safety in Utah. The last thing that the AIA did that directly related to seismic issues was in 1995 after the Kobe earthquake. The chief structural engineer from the Portland Cement Association (PCA) gave a presentation on the events of the earthquake. The AIA Utah Society feels that it would be very timely to invite, once again, an engineer to present what can happen to structures under earthquake forces at their next chapter meeting.

➤ **OBSERVATIONS OF RECENT TURKISH EARTHQUAKES**_____

Dr. Les Youd, Brigham Young University, presented his observations of the recent Turkish earthquake and its relevance to seismic issues in Utah. Les was asked to lead the EERI Team to Turkey for their observations of the earthquake. A clearinghouse took place every night after being out on the field. The clearinghouse briefing allowed team members to comment on what they had observed and organize the next day's itinerary. See attached for report.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**_____

DATE: Friday, January 14, 1999
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: State Office Building Room 1112
Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**_____

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.