

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
October 13, 2000

Minutes

On October 13, 2000 a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held at the State Office Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by the Chairman Walter Arabasz.

Members Present:

-Rick Allis	Director of Utah Geological Survey
-Walter J. Arabasz	Chair/Seismic Safety Comm.-U of U Seismograph Stations
-Jake Arslanian	American Public Works Association
-Don Bush	Utah House of Representatives
-Vanna Hunter	Utah Insurance Department
-Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
-Peter W. McDonough	Questar/American Society of Civil Engineers
-Earl R. Morris	Utah Division of Emergency Management/DPS
-Dave Nazare	Utah Department of Transportation
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architect
-Anne vonWeller	Utah League of Cities & Towns/Murray City
-Barry H. Welliver	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Suzanne Winters	State Science Advisor, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget

Members Not Present:

Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Construction & Management
Kerry Baum	Association of Contingency Planners
Vacant	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:

-Francis X. Ashland	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
-Gary Christenson	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
-Rich Giraud	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey

Guests Present/Committee Members:

-James S. Bailey	Allen & Bailey Engineers
-Steve Bartlett	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Carl H. Carpenter	Consulting Engineer
-Jan Gibbons	Schools Subcommittee
-James W. Golden	
-John Maser	
-Ryan Pietramali	SLC Project Impact
-Mike Stever	A & E Committee

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**.....

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

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**.....

Motion: *Barry Welliver, Structural Engineers Association of Utah made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on July 7, 2000. Earl Morris seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved*

➤ **INFORMATION UPDATES**.....

Barry Welliver, Structural Engineers Association of Utah, reported on a presentation he made to the Annual Convention of the Utah League of Cities and Towns. A committee of the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) was asked to create a brochure, produced with the help the Commission, to educate building owners, public officials, and others about an existing state parapet ordinance. The brochure was described and handed out at the convention and other functions.

Bob Carey, CEM, reported on the annual meeting of the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC). WSSPC traditionally creates policy on earthquake-related matters for implementation on a regional basis. One topic of local relevance is the creation of a post-earthquake informational clearinghouse here in Utah. Utah has put together a plan and has given it to WSSPC to review. The Commission, through the Schools Subcommittee was recognized and received a WSSPC award for its program, “Effective Drills for Safe Surroundings.”

Walter spoke on *HAZUS 99 Estimated Annualized Earthquake Losses for the United States*, which was released at the WSSPC conference. For at least 2 years, FEMA has been trying to standardize an assessment of earthquake losses nation-wide using the HAZUS methodology for uniformity. A loss estimate can be calculated for each state, thus allowing comparison on a national basis.

Ryan Pietramali, SLC Project Impact, reported on the progress Salt Lake City has made regarding seismic issues. Project Impact set up many committees to deal with various hazards. The earthquake committee is in the process of updating ordinances and also implementing these ordinances. They are also adopting an official map that will deal with surface fault rupture and liquefaction. A HAZUS evaluation is also being worked throughout the Salt Lake valley.

➤ **GEOLOGIC HAZARDS REVIEWS FOR UTAH SCHOOLS** _____

Richard Giraud, Utah Geological Survey, reported on the geologic hazards reviews for Utah schools. These reviews are done by the Utah Geological Survey for the Utah State Office of Education. Each school district receives the *Utah State Office of Education New School Building Construction Inspection Resource Manual* as a guide. The Utah Geological Survey reviews hazard reports for the State Office of Education and recommends whether to approve proposed school sites. They also conduct a screening process for individual school districts by looking at all known hazard maps, geological literature, geologic maps, air photos, and available geological reports.

➤ **ADVOCACY OF A SEED-MONEY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS** _____

Frank Ashland, UGS, reported on the advocacy of a seed-money program for student research in secondary schools related to seismic safety in Utah. One objective is to promote interest in earthquake-related careers. Such a program would also promote earthquake awareness within our community, both indirectly and directly, including opportunities for media coverage. The intent is to encompass research in geosciences, land-use planning, community preparation, architecture, engineering, and governmental relations.

Ashland asked the Commission to consider granting a small annual sum of perhaps \$1000 dollars per year to enable the program. Supplementary funds would be solicited from other organizations. The Awareness and Education Committee, in coordination with the State Office of Education, would create a panel to review applications from high school students and teachers on an annual basis, or as needed.

Motion: Walter made a motion that USSC allocate, from the current fiscal year funds, \$1000 dollars to the A & E Committee to inaugurate a research grant program aimed at encouraging secondary school students, with a teacher sponsor, in pursuing projects relating to earthquake awareness and safety in Utah. Earl Morris seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

➤ **COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION PLANS**

Walter — Following up on the funding situation for Strong Motion Urban Monitoring Instrumentation in Utah: By September 30, 2000, 20 new Strong Motion Stations were installed and were being recorded in real time in the Ogden to Provo corridor. Funding for 20 more stations is expected during 2001.

Walter — USSC has been charged by the legislature in the 1994 statute to: review earthquake-related hazards and risks to the State of Utah and its inhabitants; prepare recommendations to identify and mitigate these hazards and risks; prioritize recommendations and present them to state and local governments; act as a source of information for individuals and groups concerned with earthquake safety; prepare a strategic seismic planning document (done in 1995); and periodically update the planning document and monitor progress toward achieving the goal of loss reduction. The next task for the Commission is produce an updated report for the legislature on Earthquake Safety in Utah. A draft version of the report was distributed, and a plan was made to complete it before the next USSC meeting.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

DATE: Friday, January 12, 2001
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

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