

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
October 22, 2004

Minutes

On October 22, 2004 a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held at the East State Office Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman Barry Welliver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

-Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
-Walter J. Arabasz	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Kerry Baum	Association of Contingency Planners
-Don E. Bush	Utah House of Representatives
-Matt Cassel	American Public Works Association
-Carl Eriksson	Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Todd Jensen	Utah Department of Transportation
-Peter W. McDonough	American Society of Civil Engineers
-Nannette Rolfe	Utah Division of Emergency Services/DPS
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architect
-Barry H. Welliver	Chair, Structural Engineers Association of Utah

Members Not Present:

Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Cathy Howick	Utah Insurance Department
Michael Keene	Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management (Excused)
Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

CEM Staff Present:

-Bob Carey	Operations & Natural Hazards Section, DES
-Amisha Lester	Operations & Natural Hazards Section, DES
-John Rokich	Tech/Haz Section, DES

UGS Staff Present:

-Gary Christenson	Geologic Hazards Program, Utah Geological Survey
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Guests Present/Committee Members:

-Steven Bartlett	U of U
-Shawn Olsen	State Farm Insurance
-Ryan Smith	U of U/College of Architecture
-Mark Walton	State Farm Insurance
-Jane Z. Zhang	State Office of Education

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

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

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Barry Welliver asked for any corrections and comments to the minutes. Walter Arabasz noted on page 3 of the July meeting minutes, Rick Allis made a motion to allow funding for one Commissioner and not several to attend the Nevada Seismic Commission meeting.

Motion: *Walter Arabasz made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted change from the last meeting held on July 9, 2004. Nannette Rolfe seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **INFORMATION AND UPDATE ITEMS**

Barry Welliver reported that the presentation given to the State Building Board in July went very well. The purpose of the presentation was to help develop a stronger link. The presentation will be placed on the USSC website soon.

Barry Welliver, Rick Allis, Bob Carey, and Walter Arabasz reported on the National Earthquake Conference. There is a need for better communication between the western states seismic commissions. A website will be established for commissions to post information about their activities. The Metro Water District received an award for their seismic policy.

Peter McDonough discussed the Lifelines Committee-UDOT seismic policy. Pete stated that Todd Jensen has replaced Dave Nazare due to his promotion at UDOT. Todd Jensen is the State Bridge Engineer with UDOT. The AASHTO Bridge Code subcommittee is comprised of representatives from the DOT's of the 50 states. The subcommittee discusses seismic provisions, updating seismic acceleration maps, technical differences between eastern and western states and changes and updates. Each new bridge built is designed to the AASHTO Bridge Code. FEMA has supported the subcommittee since 1998. Todd Jensen will speak at the next USSC meeting.

Walter Arabasz and Bob Carey gave a brief report on the Scientific Earthquake Study Advisory Council (SESAC) Meeting held in Jackson Hole in September. SESAC is a congressionally mandated advisory committee to the U.S. Geological Survey. Seismic monitoring in the Jackson Hole area was one focus of this particular meeting. Two keynote speakers, Bennett Racey, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of Interior, and the Chip Groat, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, gave presentations at the meeting. Other speakers included Walter Arabasz and Bob Carey.

Barry Welliver gave a presentation on the Utah Facilities Operation Maintenance Association (UFOMA) in Moab. Barry handed out copies of his presentation to the Commission. USSC delivered a message of concern and need to deal with their existing building stock, Utah's earthquake risks and making the schools safe against earthquakes. A copy of the presentation will be placed on the USSC website.

The Commission discussed the Triangle of Life issue. The individual behind the Triangle of Life has stated that people who Drop or Duck, Cover, and Hold will die from the collapse of buildings. After a brief discussion, the Commission decided that the best resolution to this issue would be to get guidance from FEMA. Bob Carey stated that FEMA had been given several opportunities to weight in on this matter and had not done so. Bob indicated that DES was moving forward on the issue and wanted the Commission to be part of the press release. He said that a letter to the State Superintendent of Schools was also needed. After further discussion, two motions were made.

Motion: *Walter Arabasz made a motion that the Commission adopt the following as its working policy: Until advised otherwise by a national safety organization, the Commission – based on provisional guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its own technical judgment – recommends continuation of ‘Duck, Cover and Hold’ as an appropriate earthquake safety measure in Utah. Rick Allis seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.*

Motion: *Walter Arabasz made a motion that given public attention and concern about the relative merits of the “Duck, Cover and Hold” verses the “Triangle of Life” earthquake safety procedures, that the Commission seek written guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for resolving which procedure should be advocated for earthquake safety in Utah. Carl Eriksson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.*

Gary Christenson spoke about the ground-shaking maps. By the January Commission meeting Gary will have a draft of the map for Salt Lake County showing contours of ground motion levels for building codes for use by structural engineers and building officials.

➤ **URM’S-INVENTORY, EDUCATION, & MITIGATION**

Barry Welliver reported on the inventory, education, and mitigation of unreinforced masonry buildings (URM’s) in Utah. Barry gave handouts with his presentation. URM’s within our communities are a danger and should be a high priority for retrofit or demolition. Mandating the retrofit of URM’s and identifying dangerous URM’s are some available options. Beginning an inventory to identify URM’s within the state and going to the legislature with this information is one recommendation made by Barry. After Barry gave his presentation the Commission discussed further options on how to deal with URM’s in Utah. The Commission decided that the E & A Committee should be tasked to develop a strategy to bring to the next Commission meeting. The Commission may also consider going to the Legislature with a plan of action that suggests how to deal with the problem and how much it is going to cost.

➤ **PREPARATION OF THE 2000-2004 PROGRESS REPORT**

Barry Welliver discussed the preparation of the new 2000-2004 Progress Report or a new Strategic Plan. The Commission agreed that help will be needed to put together the new plan. The Commission will discuss this further at another meeting.

The commission adjourned its meeting and re-convened at the DES operations Center.

➤ **PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO REPRESENTATIVE BUSH**

The Commission presented a plaque to Representative Don Bush for his dedicated service to the citizens of Utah through the Utah Seismic Safety Commission. Representative Bush gave 5 years of service to the Commission. Thank you Representative Bush.

➤ **OVERVIEW OF THE STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

Ricy Jones gave a presentation about the Utah Division of Facilities, Construction and Management’s (DFCM) critical business functions. The four core processes are post disaster assessment, management of facilities (infrastructure and operational issues), leasing services for state agencies, and providing industry information and construction services. DFCM’s plan was tested during the 1999 tornado. Several lessons were learned from the tornado, one of which was the need to account for division resources. A software program was developed to create a database of all division resources.

Jim Brown, Operations Chief for DES, spoke about the State Emergency Response Plan. In response to most disasters, there is a core of state agencies that generally respond to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). State agencies will be teamed with their federal counterparts through the National Response Plan (NRP). The NRP has a series of Emergency Support Functions (EFS) in which different federal agencies have been assigned. It is through the EFSs that resources are provided to EOC for dispersal.

Jim discussed DES's role in a disaster as well as the division's communication capabilities. Bob Carey took the group on a tour the EOC, Governor's Policy Room, the Communication Room, and the back generation system.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

DATE: Friday, January 14, 2005
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
PLACE: Corner Café Conference Room
State Office Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon