

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
October 26, 2007
Minutes

On October 26, 2007 a quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was held in room 1112, State Office Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman Pete McDonough called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

-Rick Allis	Utah Geological Survey
-Walter Arabasz	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Laura Ault	Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
-Kerry Baum	Association of Contingency Planners
-Roger Evans	Utah League of Cities & Towns
-Peter W. McDonough	Chair, American Society of Civil Engineers
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Const. & Management
-Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Inst. of Architects
-Jake Watson	Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU)
-Boyd Wheeler	Utah Department of Transportation

Members Not Present:

Doug Bausch	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Matt Cassel	American Public Works Association
Sheila Curtis	Utah Insurance Department
Jeff Graviet	Division of Homeland Security
Senator Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Representative Morley	Utah House of Representatives
Mark Petersen	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

DHS Staff Present:

-Bob Carey	Division of Homeland Security (DHS)
-Amisha Lester	Division of Homeland Security (DHS)

UGS Staff Present:

-Gary Christenson	Geologic Hazards Program, Utah Geological Survey (UGS)
-Chris DuRoss	Geologic Hazards Program, UGS

Guests Present:

-Steven Bartlett	U of U
-Relu Burlacu	U of U Seismograph Stations
-Kevin Franke	Kleinfelder
-Chris Herrod	Utah House of Representatives
-Jim Higbee	UDOT
-Bret Lingwall	U of U
-Scott Matheson	Utah Mine Safety Commission
-Terry Meier	ACH Foam Tech.
-Jim Stritikus	V.A. Medical Center
-Rachel Terry	Fabian & Clendenin
-Gary Wallace	Safe All From Earthquake "SAFE"
-Barry Welliver	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Justin Wiley	International Code Council
-Jane Zhang	Utah Office of Education

➤ **WELCOME/OVERVIEW**

Chair Pete McDonough welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance and asked for introductions.

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Pete McDonough asked for any corrections and comments to the minutes.

Motion: *Roger Evans made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on July 13, 2007. Rick Allis seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.*

➤ **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Roger Evans and Jake Watson gave an update of the Utah School Seismic Hazard Inventory bill. Roger and Jake had previously met with the Utah Office of Education and presented minor revisions to the draft legislation, which will be introduced in the 2008 legislative session. Following the 2008 legislative session, the group may check into the possibility of applying for a Homeland Security grant in the spring. Bob Carey will help in the request, if needed.

Barry Welliver reported on the unreinforced masonry (URM) resolution for Utah. The USSC URM ad hoc committee and the SEAU Existing Buildings committee will formally support the resolution in the 2008 legislative session. Barry plans to request endorsements from Representative Morley and Senator Knudson and requested a formal endorsement from the Commission.

Motion: *Jake Watson made a motion to support and endorse the URM Resolution for the 2008 legislative session. Barry Smith seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved after some discussion among the Commissioners.*

Barry Welliver also updated Commissioners on the SEAU structural-engineer licensing bill, which will be presented in the 2008 legislative session. The Structural Licensing – Scope of Practice bill is an attempt to define the structural–engineering profession in detail. The scope of practice was presented to the Commission and differences between structural- and civil-engineering professions were discussed. Barry requested that USSC endorse the bill.

Motion: *Within the framework of the Commission’s partnership with the Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU), and recognizing the implications of structural licensing for earthquake safety in Utah, Walter Arabasz moved that the Commission endorse the SEAU’s efforts to seek regulation of structural engineering services in Utah. Boyd Wheeler seconded the motion. Several Commissioners discussed the scope of work as defined in the bill. Three Commissioners voted for the motion, two were against, and five abstained from the vote.*

After the break, the Commission revisited the motion to support the SEAU bill to discuss whether it had carried. Some Commissioners who had abstained felt that a majority vote of the quorum of members in attendance was needed for the motion to carry. Since the motion had carried with less than a majority, these members requested a second vote on the motion. After further discussion, the Commission voted to table the motion and revisit it at the next meeting after a review of the rules of order could be made.

➤ **GOVERNOR’S GEOLOGIC HAZARDS WORKING GROUP**

Gary Christenson gave a summary of the recommendations of the Governor’s Geologic Hazards Working Group. Gary summarized the local government subdivision-approval process in Utah, and gave examples of some of the 2005 and 2006 landslides to illustrate the failures of the process that prompted Governor Huntsman to form the Working Group. The Working Group met from September 2006-September 2007 and presented their final recommendations to the Governor on September 28, 2007. The final report with recommendations, entitled *A Plan to Reduce Losses from Geologic Hazards in Utah* (UGS Circular 104), is available at http://geology.utah.gov/ghp/geohaz_workgroup/index.htm

➤ **CRANDALL CANYON OVERVIEW & UPDATE**

Chairman McDonough cited a U.S. Geological Survey letter awarding Walter Arabasz with the John Wesley Powell Award for his outstanding scientific leadership in helping public and elected officials understand and reduce the impact of earthquakes. Walter then gave a presentation on the mining-induced seismicity in the Crandall Canyon coal mining area.

➤ **USE OF GEOFOAM IN NATURAL-GAS PIPELINES**

Bret Lingwall, graduate student, University of Utah Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, gave a presentation on the use of geofoam in natural-gas pipeline crossings of the Wasatch fault.

➤ **NEW & UPDATES**

Pete McDonough and Rick Allis gave an update on the 2007 Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) annual conference in Reno. Pete and Rick reported that the conference was combined with the International Code Council meeting and overall went very well. Policy recommendations were made during the conference.

Gary Christenson reported on the progress of the “Putting Down Roots” brochure. Almost all information has been gathered and will be formatted by the UGS editorial staff by the end of the year.

Barry Welliver gave an update on the progress of the 2000-2006 USSC Progress Report. The report is nearly complete, and Barry planned to send a final draft copy to a few selected individuals for a final review before printing.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

DATE: Friday, January 11, 2008
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Room 1010
Natural Resources Bldg. (1594 W. North Temple)
Salt Lake City, Utah

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.