



Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

T. Leslie Youd
Chairperson

State of Utah

UTAH SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

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UTAH SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

July 11, 1995
State Office Building Rm. 4112
MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair, Les Youd	Professor, BYU Civil Engineering Department
Lee Allison	Director, Utah Geological Survey
Walter Arabasz	Director, University of Utah Seismograph Stations
James Bailey	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Lorayne Frank	Director, Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management
James Golden	Assistant Chief Structural Engineer, Department of
Transportation	
Rep. Peter Knudson	Utah House of Representatives
Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region American Institutes of Architects
Suzanne Winters	Science Advisor, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Members Excused or Not Present:

D. Douglas Bodrero	Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Ken Bullock	Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns
William E. Juszczak	Division of Facilities Construction and Management
Sen. Craig A. Peterson	Utah State Senate

CEM Staff Present:

Brenda Edwards	Office Technician, Natural Hazards Section
John Rokich	Natural Hazards Section Chief
Judy Watanabe	Planner, Natural Hazards Section

UGS Staff Present:

Gary Christenson	Applied Geology Manager, Utah Geological Survey
Janine Jarva	Senior Geological Technician, Utah Geological Survey

Others Present:

Lee Siegel	Salt Lake Tribune
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Call to Order

Chairman Les Youd called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m..

Review of Minutes

Lorayne requested that the title of the Emergency Planning Standing Committee be changed to the Emergency Management Standing Committee. Lorayne explained that this will allow a greater range of issues to be discussed.

Motion:	Approve minutes, as changed.
Moved by:	Walter Arabasz
Seconded:	Jim Bailey
Motion Carried:	By a Quorum

Meeting with Governor Leavitt

Les informed the Commission that the meeting with Governor Leavitt was postponed from July 10 to July 17, 1995. Senator Peterson will not be able to attend on that day, however Representative Knudson can be in attendance. Suzanne strongly encouraged that both legislators be present at the meeting. After some discussion it was decided to reschedule the meeting with the Governor. Suzanne will reschedule the meeting. She will inform those attending the meeting of the date and time. The presentation materials were on display and USSC members were given copies of the presentation packet.

USSC Participation in NEHRP Coalition

The National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) Coalition is a national coalition of groups involved with earthquake issues and in seismic safety. Groups similar to our Commission have been very supportive of the NEHRP Coalition. Lee expressed the importance of participating in NEHRP. Under the NEHRP guidelines, Utah has a low priority for funding of earthquake issues. Lee said Gary is talking with Robert Swain from the NEHRP Coalition about the appropriateness of a policy commission, like USSC, being a part of the coalition.

Review of Tasks Assigned at July 11 Meeting (refer to "USSC Task Assignments")

- 1) Suzanne will set up a meeting with the Governor. Complete.
- 2) Les will bring membership information and applications. Incomplete.
- 3) Staff will send out the "Strategic Plan" to other Western States Seismic Safety Commissions. Complete.
- 4) Copies of Carl Eriksson's presentation will be sent to members of the Commission not in attendance. Complete
- 5) The staff will arrange a meeting with Rep. Knudson to orient him to his duties. Complete and on-going.

Items for further consideration 1) The need for a permanent staff person for the Commission. In the discussion that followed, the Commission was reminded that the Governor may react negatively to a direct request for a full-time employee. A suggestion was made to attach a fiscal note to a bill for funding a staff person, if a bill were to be introduced for a staff person. It was also suggested that this may impede the bill. In a previous meeting Sen. Peterson suggested that it may be more achievable if one of the state agencies were to include a request for a full-time employee in their budget. Lee said that it would be a benefit to UGS and the Commission to have a full-time employee to take over the duties of the current staff and to further the mission of the Commission. Rep. Knudson said we do not need to hide from the Governor that we are requesting a full-time employee, but we should not ask him to put it in his budget.

Motion:	Request UGS or CEM to put a request in their budget for professional staff support of the Commission.
Moved by:	Representative Knudson
Seconded:	Barry Smith
Motion Carried:	By a quorum. Lee Allison and Lorayne Frank abstained.

2) Inventory response, mitigation and recovery plans in Utah and other items. These are highlights from Carl Eriksson's presentation. These items are for the future development and consideration by the Commission. Les suggested review of these items at a future meeting.

Membership Changes/Absenteeism

There has not been regular meeting attendance from several of the Commission members. Lorayne said Doug Bodrero is a department head with a very stringent schedule. She said in order for him to attend, the Commission would need to consider his schedule. Discussion ensued on the importance of having representation from the League of Cities and Towns, lifelines, and local governments. A sponsor could be found to introduce a new bill that would make the USSC's membership more flexible. Les said there are others interested in being involved with the Commission, but have been precluded due to the lack of positions. Flexibility would be allowed if a representative could be chosen to attend the meetings in place of the Commission member. There is a concern that changing the legislation may be like opening a "Pandora's box". It may turn into a bigger issue and result in the Commission being dissolved. The members decided not to pursue new legislation at this time.

Rep. Knudson expressed that he would be willing to contact Ken Bullock, executive director of the League of Cities and Towns. He will report back to the Commission on his discussion with Ken. Rep. Knudson feels very strongly that there needs to be local government representation. Lorayne mentioned that ad hoc committees could be added to include some of those who have been left out of the Commission. These individuals would lend expertise but have no voting power. Lee said the standing committees are another way to involve others in the Commission. Les suggested that the Commission will need to consider this matter further.

New Paleoseismic Data, Salt Lake City

Lee informed the Commission about an additional earthquake that was found on a previously trenched portion of the Salt Lake City Segment of the Wasatch Fault. The most recent earthquake occurred 1300 years ago, the one prior was 2450 years ago, the new one was 3950 years ago, and the earliest one was 5300 years ago. The time between these events averages out to be 1350 years. These data are more alarming than previous numbers indicated (refer to chart handed out at meeting). The chart shows the dates of the actual earthquakes from the new trench data. There were six scarps and only one was dated when the site was trenched originally. The remaining five scarps were trenched again to make sure that all the earthquakes were recorded. The data have been rounded out to the nearest 50. With the error factor, there can be a wide range of intervals between events. Gary Christenson said it appears to us that with the uncertainty of the reoccurrence intervals, we are pretty much within the range of an occurrence right now. The previous data showed that we were half way through a cycle, but now it looks like we're near the end of a cycle. The hazard on the Salt Lake City segment now appears similar to that on the Brigham City segment. This information will be included in Utah Geological Association publication in October.

Other News (see letter addressed to Representative Waldholtz handed out at meeting)

Walter informed the commission of a budget reduction affecting the NEHRP external grants program by the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. It specifically targeted the external grants programs of the U.S. Geological Survey which is a major funding source for earthquake studies in the state of Utah. The structure with NEHRP fundamentally involves a university - U.S. Geological Survey partnership. This is very damaging to the earthquake studies in the state of Utah.

Motion:	USSC recommend that any cuts in the NEHRP program be managed by USGS program managers and the USSC inform our congressional delegation of our concern.
Moved by:	Lee Allison
Seconded:	Jim Golden
Motion Carried:	By a Quorum less Walter Arabasz who abstained.

Setting new USSC objectives - Committees:

(Refer to "Proposal" by Lee Allison in packet for July 11 meeting) Les commented that the standing committees have not yet been formed and that the Commission should do so this quarter.

Walter discussed the future representation of this commission and their voting procedures. Much of the work of the Commission is being carried out by the staff. As the standing committees are revived they will be more actively involved in the procedures of this commission. He said based on the Governor's reaction to the presentation of the strategic plan, certain committees will be heavily involved in completing the tasks in the plan. The key issue at the moment is authorization of the standing committees. The Committees could operate in an ad hoc way until we meet again as a formal group.

Les suggested circulating suggested membership for the standing committees through the Commission to save time. He said that having the committee chairs being members of the Commission may cause a problem. Lee stated that the Commission members were listed as interim chairs. Discussion followed and it was decided that a chairperson elected by the standing committees is a better approach. Membership on these standing committees should remain between six to ten persons. Jim suggested that incorporating others from different areas in the state is a good opportunity to broaden participation beyond Salt Lake. It may make it more difficult to meet, but would provide a greater base to discuss concerns that are in other areas. Walter suggested to have the interim committee chairs create a list of potential standing committee members. This list would then circulate through the Commission. Les would then have the authority to approve the committee members.

Motion:	Give Les the authority to approve committee membership.
Moved By:	Walter Arabasz
Seconded:	Representative Knudson
Motion Carried:	By a Quorum

The list should to be sent to Gary Christenson at UGS by Sept. 1, 1995. The list is not final but rather a starting point in which to add new members. Jim Bailey said that he may put a note in the structural engineers newsletter asking for those interested in serving on a standing committee to contact him. Les agreed that this may be a good way to find interested people to participate on these committees.

USSC Action Plan Proposed by Lee Allison

Lee referred the Commission to his proposal from the April 20 meeting, which discussed a plan of action for the USSC. Lee began the discussion by saying the implementation of the strategic plan is a full-time job. To get the earthquake agenda adopted by state/local governments, private industry, and professional societies is an ongoing process. This Commission will have to take a leadership role in implementing the strategic plan. Lee said that using reports, workshops, promotional events, and information bulletins will help get the message out to local governments and private industry to take initiatives dealing with earthquake hazards. He suggested the Commission speak to the Governors office, legislative offices, state agencies, cities and counties, media, department heads, and division heads to gain their support for seismic safety issues.

Walter applauded Lee on his proposal and agreed that this plan is an appropriate way to achieve the goals of this Commission. He said the three initiatives we are pursuing will energize the state earthquake program: the earthquake awareness initiative, the DFCM initiative, and the strong motion program. These initiatives need to be a focus of the standing committees. He said we have a broad structure in place now, but the Commission needs to broaden to be effective.

Les expressed his desire for this Commission to develop an annual report of seismic safety related accomplishments throughout the state. The goal of the annual report is to communicate to the public, state agencies, legislature and Governor the status of earthquake safety activity throughout the state. Les set a goal of completing the annual report by June 30, 1996 to coincide with the end of the State's fiscal year. This will allow time to consider what is wanted in the annual report and time to collect the data. Lee suggested an intern help compile the data and possibly be paid with a portion of the \$4,500 annual fund the Commission receives. Discussion ensued on when to hire the intern and how long would we be able to fund an intern. John added that the Earthquake Working Group, made up of staff from UGS, UUSS and CEM, could be utilized to help coordinate the annual report. Les said specifics for the annual report will need to be discussed at a later time.

Included in the proposal, and brought up by Les, is an annual earthquake conference. Each standing committee could be assigned a part in a conference. Walter said if the Governor responds favorably to our three key items, then this fall may be an appropriate time to charge the standing committees with carrying out some of the tasks in the strategic plan. Les encouraged the Commission to think about having the standing committee members at the Oct. 27 meeting to plan some common goals.

Lee's proposal to recognize significant contributions to earthquake safety through annual awards in categories such as business was discussed and the Commission decided this item could be taken on by the committees.

Motion:	To adopt the Proposed Action Plan, presented by Lee Allison, as a guideline on how to implement the Strategic Plan.
Moved By:	Representative Knudson
Seconded:	Barry Smith
Motion Carried:	By a Quorum

Budget for the Commission

The budget ran in the red \$119.23 for the fiscal year July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995. The money was mostly used to print and distribute the strategic plan. Another \$4,500 was appropriated for the Commission for this fiscal year. Some of the budget may have to be used for the conference. Lee responded that UGS has taken on the liability to sign a contract for conferences and pay as the registrations are received. Discussion followed concerning the possible expenditures of the Commission. Funding will be needed for the Commissioners' travel, possible printing of a USSC brochure, and an intern.

Motion: Authorize UGS to use up to half of the budget appropriated to fund an intern.
Moved By: Walter Arabasz
Seconded: Jim Bailey
Motion Carried: This item was not voted upon. Discussion followed before a vote was taken.

The Commission's budget was intended to pay expenses for Commissioners to attend the meetings. Clarification was given from the legislative staff stating that the fund could be used at the Commission's discretion.

DFCM Strategy

Jim Bailey commented that the DFCM's strategy to improve seismic safety of state buildings shows the state is taking the lead in exploring the safety of Utah's older buildings. Walter stressed the importance of supporting this proposal from the Structural Engineer's Association and the Commission, to show the legislature that we really believe in this endeavor.

Review draft USSC brochure

The brochure is designed after the California brochure to inform the public of the Commission and its mission. The Commission suggested taking out the personal preparedness material and adding more encouragement for an activist stand, promoting the Strategic Plan, and promoting earthquake safety. The consensus is that the brochure is worth doing. UGS has seen a need for a brochure like this. Comments on the brochure are needed by the end of July.

UGS Trenching

Discussion ensued on the new data from the trenching of the Salt Lake City segment. Lee said the new earthquake was verified by two dates from two different trenches. Gary said this study couldn't determine how much slip there was in each earthquake, so the determination of the magnitude is based on the length of the segment. Lee said that for a surface rupture, which creates a wedge thicknesses that we observed, it appears that the magnitudes were in the range of 6.9. Jim commented on the regularity of the intervals between earthquakes. Gary said the Brigham City and Provo segments show similar regularity. Les asked if the trenching program will continue. Gary replied that this is one of the programs in the NEHRP external grants program. Lee said our long-term plan is to trench all of the major seismically active faults that effect urban areas. The UGS is mapping the West Cache Fault this summer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brenda Edwards