

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARD SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
HELD October 1 & 2, 2008



OCTOBER 1, 2008

- I. OPENING BUSINESS 11:00 a.m.
- Call to Order (John Aho, Chairperson); Commission members John Aho, Gary Carver, David Cole, Rod Combellick, Roger Hansen, Robert Hicks, Kathy Hosford, Laura Kelly, Dean Maxwell, and Mark Roberts present. On October 2, Commission member Hicks was absent, excused. April Woolery of the State Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys was present both days.
 - Agenda approved with one addition.
 - Introductions – Dr. Helen Liu, PE, of the University of Alaska, Anchorage gave a briefing on October 2.
Review of Minutes for 07/03/2008 and 09/04/2008: The minutes were approved with changes. All in favor.
 - Tour of Emergency Operations Center and lunch break followed. Committee meetings were held in the afternoon. At 7:00 pm, Commission members attended Chris Poland's Joyner Lecture on the UAA campus. The meeting reconvened on Oct. 2, 2008 at 8:30 am.

OCTOBER 2, 2008

- II. BRIEFINGS 8:30 a.m.
- Recent Seismic Activity of Interest – Hansen: 453 seismic events occurred during the week of September 15 through 21. 333 of these events occurred in South Central Alaska, the biggest being a magnitude 4.7 quake in Cook Inlet. Event locations ranged from sub-glacial quakes in Icy Bay to Denali Fault aftershocks from the 2002 event to a very active Kantishna Fault.
The big news in August was the eruption of Kasatochi volcano in the Aleutians. The quakes leading up to the eruption were large by volcanic standards: instead of magnitude 1 to 2 events, Kasatochi's largest was a 5.8 event just 3.5 hours prior to ash emission/eruption. Ash went 50,000 feet into the air. It was a quick eruption and a quick die-off. Okmok's July and August eruption probably put out more ash because it went on longer, but it was less spectacular.
Aftershocks from the 2002 event continue along the Denali Fault. Statistically, there should be aftershocks for about 14 years following an event of that size (M7.9). We are in year six, so we should have about eight more years of gradually diminishing aftershocks on this fault.
 - Health of the Alaska Seismic Networks, Weak and Strong Motion (Statewide/ANC/FBKS/Other) – Hansen: There is a new product that is

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basically a “seismometer in a box”. It plugs into a home-based computer and sends live data via the internet. If it catches on among the public, it could mean many home-based accelerometers and much greater coverage of populated areas.

- Recent Research on Earthquake Engineering – Dr. Helen Liu, PE: Dr. Liu described how a new building or storage tank can be tested to determine its natural period: how it responds when it is sound and undamaged. After an earthquake, it can be tested again and compared to the baseline to determine if there is damage, where the damage is, and how severe the damage is. The testing can be done with portable monitors. This process would be most useful for large, steel-reinforced buildings, not houses.
- QuakeSmart – Aho: this FEMA initiative is not available in Alaska at this time.
- Newly Identified Earthquake Faults Along the Alaska Highway Corridor – Carver: Field geology is necessary to determine which is a “fault of concern” (potentially active) and which is an inactive fault (millions to hundreds of millions of years since last activity). This knowledge is critical to planning and engineering projects such as the proposed gas pipeline.
- Seismic Recording Instruments – Hansen: An overview of seismic instruments, past, present and future. We should be seeing seismometers that are smaller and more accurate in the years to come.
- SERC, LEPCA Meeting in Fairbanks, September 17 & 18, 2008 – Roberts: SERC members toured Roger Hansen’s shop, where they saw how tsunami and earthquake hazards are monitored around the state.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1:00 p.m.

- Action Items – Will be covered under committee reports.
- At-Risk Schools – Roberts: Evaluations are needed to plan what should happen and when. The Commissioner of Education will need to be on board as well as legislative and congressional representatives.
- Earthquake Insurance Model Review Assistance – Aho: Chairman Aho led discussion regarding ASHSC members reviewing and providing comment of the assumptions used by insurance companies to model earthquakes. As a commission, ASHSC cannot advocate for a particular system, but can advise Sarah McNair-Grove, the Property/Casualty Actuary for the Alaska Division of Insurance, that she should contact the U.S. Geological Survey or the State Geological Survey (DGGS) for guidance. Commission member Combellick pointed out that the USGS maps are used for building codes, but that the insurance companies have generated their own models instead of using the existing ones. These companies should use the maps that match the building codes or provide justification for using their own maps. Since the ASHSC is not a regulator body, it can advise the legislature to set forth guidelines for the

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insurance industry that specify the use of models based on good science, such as the USGS models.

- WSSPC Award Nomination – Carver, Kelly: The Commission wants to be sure that the Kodiak Island Borough is nominated for this award in recognition of their school retrofit. Commission members Carver and Kelly plan to visit the Borough representative on Monday, October 6, to follow up.
- NIMS Online Training – Roberts, Aho: NIMS, or National Incident Management System, is a FEMA-sponsored training plan. Among our Commission members, only Laura Kelly has taken the training so far and others are encouraged to do so.
- Kodiak Meeting Proposal Closure – Roberts, Aho: This will only be feasible if we get our budget increase due to travel costs.
- Education Commissioner contact – Kelly:
- Comment on Joyner Lecture – Aho: San Francisco uses a dual timeline that tracks where they want to be in seismic readiness and where they actually are. Commission member Cole suggested that Alaska aim for a version of California's Field Act, which provided for seismic upgrades to schools.

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST 1:35 p.m.

- ASIS Meeting October 14, 2008 Disaster Preparedness for Business Continuity
- Annual GSA Meeting Houston, TX October 5-8, 2008: State Geologist Bob Swenson will attend.
- 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering Beijing, October 12-17, 2008
- ANSS Meeting, October 14-15, 2008 in Boston
- Los Angeles International Earthquake Conference November 12-14, 2008
- NTHMP Annual Meeting November 18-20, Washington, D.C. Erv Petty and Commission member Hansen will attend.
- National Academy of Sciences: Tsunami Mitigation and Management Focus Irvine, CA December 8 & 9, 2008
- AGU December 15-19, 2008 in San Francisco.
- SW Alaska Municipal Conference, January 2009
- WSSPC Salt Lake City, February 2009
- EERI Annual Meeting Salt Lake City, February 11-14, 2009
- EERI 9th U.S. and 10th Canadian National Conference on Earthquake Engineering: Reaching Beyond Borders Toronto, Canada July 25-29, 2010
- 2014 National Earthquake Engineering Conference Anchorage

V. CRITICAL DEADLINES 1:45 p.m.

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- FY10 Budget to Legislature Commission member Combellick reported that the budget proposal has been forwarded to the State Office of Budget Management. There are no further updates at this time.
- FY09 Draft Report: December, 2008
- FY09 Final Report to Legislature: January, 2009

VI. NEW BUSINESS 1:50 p.m.

- Future Briefings: Chairman Aho would like to get a tour of the Anchorage Port Expansion project for our next face-to-face meeting. Commission member Roberts suggested that the Commission invite legislators to give presentations at future face-to-face meetings.

VII. REPORTS 2:00 p.m.

- Chairperson – Chairman Aho has asked the mayor of Valdez for input for a new Commission member to fill the local government position vacated by Linda Freed. He is interested in selecting another member from a less-represented area, and Valdez is a good example. Valdez City Councilman Gay Dunham is submitting an application for the position. He works in the Emergency Management Department at Alyeska and was recommended by the mayor of Valdez. Commission member Combellick cautioned that the State Boards and Commissions office likes to have more than one application for such positions. They have been known to delay filling positions in the hope of getting more than one applicant. Also, Laura Kelly and Gary Carver have expired memberships. They have both let Dan Saddler at Boards and Commissions know that they wish to continue serving on the Commission.

- Committee Reports 2:10 p.m.
 - Insurance-Maxwell: He is working on a brochure titled “Can I Recover From An Earthquake?” When finished, it will help property owners decide whether they need earthquake insurance or not. Chairman Aho suggested a table in the brochure that would give a “ballpark” idea of how much, per \$10,000, it would cost to insure a structure.
 - Schools-Kelly: Unavailable
 - Earthquake Scenario-Combellick:
 - Education & Outreach-Hicks:
 - Hazards Identification-Carver:
 - Response, Recovery-Roberts:
 - Post Earthquake Planning-Carver:
 - Partnership-Aho:

VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION 4:30 p.m.

- Public: (none)

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- Commission Members: (none)

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS 4:35 p.m.

- Budget Report-Woolery: Our current budget is \$6,694.57.
- ASHSC Web Site Update Status-Woolery: The web site is currently up to date.
- Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 6, 2008 (teleconference)
- Next face-to-face meeting: January 7-8, 2008 in Anchorage (tentative)

X. ADJOURNMENT 4:45 p.m.

- Commission member Hansen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commission member Maxwell. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.