

*JANUARY 23, 2018 SEISMIC EVENT RESPONSE MEETING MINUTES*

**25 January 2018 (Thursday), 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

DGGS Geologic Materials Center - 3651 Penland Parkway, Anchorage  
Teleconference (1-800-315-6338, Code: 50077#)

*Michael West, Chair mewest@alaska.edu , 907-687-4288 (text/cell)*

**I. ROLL CALL**

- Call to Order-*Kelly*; Roll call – John Aho, Edward Athey, David Gibbs, Laura Kelly, De Anne Stevens, and Sterling Strait were present. Charity Carmody, Michael Holman, Robert Scher, Kim Stuart and Mike West were excused. April Woolery from DGGS was also present. Guests: Natasha Ruppert of the Alaska Earthquake Center (AEC) and Mark Roberts of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs/Alaska State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

**II. UPDATE FROM THE ALASKA EARTHQUAKE CENTER**

- Recap of the event from Natasha Ruppert: The event occurred in the Gulf of Alaska, southeast of Kodiak Island, just after midnight on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. Most shaking was felt in Kodiak and near communities, with weak shaking felt as far away as Juneau and Fairbanks. In the hours following the event, it was first reported as a M8.0 event, then as M8.2, and is now reported as M7.9. It is common for large seismic events to be revised in this way as information becomes available following the event. The AEC unfortunately had a power outage during the event and so were unaware of it in the immediate aftermath.

**III. STATE OF ALASKA RESPONSE**

- Mark Roberts: The Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was alerted immediately following the event. Per their standard procedures following large events, emergency staff were recalled, communications were established and emergency warnings were sent out to potentially affected communities. General alerts were issued to tsunami coastal hazard area communities. Fifteen communities reported evacuating as a precaution. The SEOC is continuing to follow up on the response and lessons learned.

**IV. DISCUSSION**

- Q & A and commentary: Communication with Governor's Office tabled for now as SEOC has covered that. Regarding the AEC's being impacted by a power outage during and after the event, commission vice-chair Kelly asked about the possibility of backup generators to keep the AEC running. Natasha Ruppert replied that their servers are housed in the Butrovitch Building, and the university has no viable plans to provide backup power for the servers. However, the main problem in this case was the loss of connectivity to the internet. AEC has brought this to the university's attention but again, there is no plan to address the problem.
- ASHSC Talking Pointes memo: Commission member Stevens asked what our main talking points should be regarding this event. Sterling Strait pointed out that this was one of the biggest seismic events in the recent past. Stevens and Kelly added that the location created

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the fear of a tsunami hazard that impacted communities along the coast in the northwest U.S. and Canada. Aho said that the response of those communities was appropriate to the magnitude of the event and they should be recognized for that. Members would also like to provide an explanation of why this event did not generate a tsunami. Strait said that it would be good to remind people to prepare when they evacuate and bring appropriate clothing and supplies.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**10:15 a.m.**

Stevens moved, Aho seconded to adjourn. All in favor: meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.