

Public Call-in line: 1-800-315-6338, Code: 131959#

Commission Members In-Person and via Zoom Videoconference

Chair: Sterling Strait, sterling.strait@alyeska-pipeline.com 907-632-7654 (text/cell)

1. Opening Business

8:00 am

- a. Call to Order (*Chair*);
- b. Roll call (*Staff*);
 - Present – S. Bass, T. Bergey, L. Kelly, N. Murray, D. Neuffer, N. Ruppert, B. Salisbury, and S. Strait.
 - Guests:
 - Logan Stolpe – Geologic Hazard Mitigation Coordinator-State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM)
 - James Benzschawel – DHS&EM
 - Amanda Siok – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - Dr. Majid Ghayoomi, University of New Hampshire
 - Dr. Wael Hassan, University of Alaska, Anchorage
- c. Ethics Act (*Chair*) <http://www.law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/ethics/EthicsInfoBC.html>
Nothing to report
- d. Approval of the Agenda – D. Neuffer motions to approve no changes, B. Salisbury seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed.
- e. Review/Approval of previous Meeting Minutes - D. Neuffer moves, L. Kelly seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed.
 - i. February 17th, 2021
 - ii. April 28th, 2021
 - iii. July 7th, 2021
- d. Public Comments – time offered, no public comments
- e. Chair Comments – welcomes guests and board members. Announces three vacancies on the Commission that need to be filled. Forward any suggestions for Insurance Representative, Local Government Representative, and DMVA Representative vacancies. Discussion on possible commission candidates.

2. Briefings

a. Arctic Seismic Resiliency Workshop

8:15 am

i. Dr. Majid Ghayoomi, University of New Hampshire

Presentation on workshop activities, discussions, recommendations, and funding opportunities for future workshops.

S. Strait – what’s the relationship with UAF University of Alaska Fairbanks? Dr. M.Ghayoomi – currently several research projects and collaborations with UAF PI’s – principal investigators. S. Bass question on where to find draft report from the workshop and presentation information. Dr. Ghayoomi – information on the workshop will be available on the University of New Hampshire website. Commission questions and discussion on workshop details. B. Salisbury – comment appreciates the workshop’s focus on the indigenous people and scientific collaboration to support communities and the needs of residents. Discussion on community outreach and needs. S. Strait – has outreach been initiated regarding Barry Arm warning system research compared to the warning systems in Norway or Iceland? B. Salisbury – yes, it’s a slow process with proposals being submitted. Barry Arm slope is now being monitored by cameras, infrasound, and radar to monitor slope activity. Long term monitoring costs will be shared between DGGS and USGS landslides. Focus is the impact of the landslide hazards for small communities. J. Benzschawel – Tsunami hazard Mitigation program received a grant for FY21 for a new siren for Prince William Sound. Recent workshop and community outreach in Valdez June 2021. To identify hazards and emergency resources in the Valdez area.

Discussion on Alaska communities, accessibility to earthquake hazards and response possibilities. **Action** – posting of Arctic Seismic Resiliency Workshop to ASHSC website by B. Salisbury

BREAK

b. EERI Final Report: 2018 M7.1 Anchorage Earthquake Presentation

9:05 am

i. Dr. Wael Hassan, University of Alaska Anchorage

Discussion – **Action** completed – posting of EERI Final Report 2018 M7.1 and slide presentation to ASHSC website by B. Salisbury

Seismic regulations and mitigation: is that contained in the report or just the slide presentation? Dr. Hassan – Chapter 11 of the report has the information and regulations. S. Strait -- through EERI what resources are available to assist us if we were to pursue some of these specific recommendations such technical writing of proposed ordinates?

Dr.Hassan – EERI has guidelines, information, and resources that can assist.

BREAK

3. New Business

a. Review Commission Strategic Objectives

10:15 am

S. Strait – Goals of the commission that should be accomplished this year. As a commission we can recommend legislation to the legislature or provide recommendations to the Governor.

1. School & Public Building Safety – put this topic under critical infrastructure. L. Kelly to expand to utilities and bridges.
2. Enhance and Improve Alaska Seismic Monitoring Network – S. Strait - adopting additional seismic stations. Is this still a focus area? N. Ruppert – that stage is complete, the Alaska Earthquake Center adopted about a hundred stations from the North slope project, that was a success. The other projects I can think of include seismic monitoring of earthquakes in Alaska and an Early Warning System. This could be a long-term focus for the Commission
3. Enhance Post-Event Inspection Efficiency – S. Strait – Coordination of engineers to complete post-earthquake inspections. Improve trained officials that are available to call for inspections.
4. Providing Post-Earthquake Information – B. Salisbury and N. Ruppert publish a brief informational report of current seismic events as soon as possible after they occur— typically within a month of a significant earthquake.
5. Media, Press release

N. Ruppert – it's important to reach out to the media. At some point reaching out to a local TV station, once we have a definite message and what specific points, we want to deliver. Public outreach has not been done by the commission before. S. Strait – wait until we have a clear message to deliver. **Group Action** – Issue press release on the EERI report findings that is condensed on the message we want the public to know. B. Salisbury – the direct outreach to the media is a good idea. We don't need to check with anyone in DNR before directly reaching out to the media regarding earthquakes or Commission efforts. However, an official DNR press release would need DNR approval. We are now less resilient to Earthquakes since the 2018 Earthquake. We are not prepared for an Earthquake of a large magnitude. That is not on people's radar, we need to get the public to be more aware of earthquake hazards and damages to buildings and infrastructure. S. Strait – how do we get people out of buildings safely and, what if it's 20 below outside with no building for people to return to poses a major problem. N. Murray – having a key message to the public of the damage to a residential building and the ways to make their homes more resilient to a seismic event. Murray asks: is Dr. Hassan's report public knowledge? the media and the public can access the report. B. Salisbury recommends a one- or two-page summary of the report, as that format is preferred by the public and news media. NEHRP has published information in the past, such as a pamphlet for distribution. S. Strait asks: Do we have access to the state public relations to help with our report? B. Salisbury – yes we, do have a PR – Dan

Saddler who issues public press release on behalf of DNR. Again, that would be something we can put together and would need to run it through the State Geologist before sending to Dan Saddler.

We do have this resource that we are underutilizing. L. Stolpe – DHS&EM has a Public relations resource. More effective strategy for getting the narrative to the public. D. Neuffer - Do we want to go through DNR to do a press release on this report? Should we recommend to the DNR staff? S. Strait - YES, the first roadmap needs to be legislation to be submitted by January, maybe the commission members in Juneau can present the legislation. D. Nueffer-Have Dr. Ghayoomi and Dr. Hassan be a part of the press release. S. Strait - Commission will collaborate with Dr. Hassen.

B. Salisbury - AS a GROUP decide our top priorities. Have a publishing group at DGGs that we can submit the document and have it formatted into something to publish. As a group decide what the final draft should look like. B. Salisbury – reminder: July 12 is the deadline for submitting legislative proposals. By mid-june the draft would have to be submitted to the State Geologist to review. S. Strait - I will take the structural engineering part of the report. Let's have this conversion by e-mail. J. Benzschawel and Logan Stolpe will be involved in the press release process.

6. Connecting People to Mitigation and Recovery Funds – S. Strait – any comments to improve access or find funding to aid people. Anything our commission can do to improve ability for people to access funding.

7. Building Code Adoption, Inspection, & Enforcement:

B. Salisbury – James can you provide more information on the NEHRP grant and what projects and/or proposals can be funded. As a commission the NEHRP grant can be submitted to the Legislature for additional funding. J. Benzschawel – NEHRP Application is due in March 2022 and will research past grant requirements and guidelines. S. Strait – identify structures that need work done in Alaska. J. Benzschawel - NEHRP has funded safety seismic structures for school districts. B. Salisbury - Identification of infrastructures and identify those structures that need repairs, should focus on schools, hope to expand on to other critical infrastructures and where they are located. S. Strait – focus can be on Southcentral Alaska where it is hazardous for seismic activity. B. Salisbury – continue our efforts in Anchorage where the most damage has occurred from the previous earthquake in 2018. Find a way to transition from Anchorage Municipality to smaller communities in Alaska. N. Ruppert – Fairbanks is a high seismic zone. Would be beneficial to incorporate UAA & UAF engineering students to work post event inspections. Can be a great partnership with UAA & UAF Engineering Departments. Suggests next face - to -face meeting in Fairbanks to tour the Earthquake Center and UAF Engineering Department. Involve the legislature recommendations to adopt code enforcements for building and infrastructure inspections. S. Strait – DNR legislature liaison to assist the commission with proposal to the Legislature. B. Salisbury – Yes, there is someone at DNR representative to assist in drafting and format the

legislation proposal to the legislature. There is a time limit by July, to get on the docket

for the Legislative session in January. L. Kelly – what we could potentially do with grant

funding to hire a grant writer to assist with the proposed legislation to submit either to the Governor or State Legislature. S. Strait does not have a statewide building code and doesn't have any inspections or follow-up. Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Valdez does and not the Matsu Valley, construction is expensive in the bush communities. N. Ruppert – several organizations that are interested in adopting building codes that can help, to aid the commission. Select codes that the commission feels most important and can be achieved in a short amount of time. S. Strait – is this something the commission wants to put all our efforts in or will this limit the commission not to pursue other topics of concern. N. Murray – Our building codes for the state are basic. We (DOT) have had a seismic retrofit program in place for about 20 years, we have inventoried every bridge in the state, some of these bridges on the list require retrofits or replacement. A couple of research projects the commission might be interested in. One of those projects is a retrofit of a particular bridge in the port of Anchorage. This is a million-dollar project for the DOT. This bridge is very expensive to replace so we are looking for retrofit options. Alaska, Washington, California, Oregon, and Hawaii sponsored a pooled research project to look a tsunami impact on the coastal bridges. The research is completed and some of the recommendations are for specific areas. It is not generally practical to construct a bridge to withstand a tsunami. Recommendations is to avoid, if possible, building bridges in coastal regions that are in mapped tsunami inundation zones. Funding a research project for Alaska DOT that during a seismic event to receive in real-time information of which bridges are vulnerable and the damage to expect. Emailed Natalia Ruppert how the Earthquake Center could assist with technology and real-time data during a seismic event. S. Strait emailing the EERI report to all commission members, a lot of information and recommendations that applies to the purpose or goals of the commission. The report is about 200 pages. B. Salisbury – once we have that list of priorities, we should find funding resources that apply to each of the different tasks we have outlined. Should start this project soon, the timeline is approaching. L. Kelly – to submit the EERI report to the State Legislature, they would benefit from the information in the report. B. Salisbury recommends keeping the submission to one page that points the legislature members to the EERI report on the ASHSC website.

8. Design Engineering Requirements – S. Strait – update state CE requirements. Seismic tests about of the CE exam would be something to pursue.

Old Business/Committee Reports

11:30 am

- a. Alaska Seismic Hazard Map Update Meetings – address in next meeting
- b. Prince William Sound – Barry Arm Tsunami Risk – address in next meeting
- c. Resilience of Critical Infrastructure – already discussed in Building Code Adoption, Inspection, & Enforcement: D. Neuffer – USGS presentations on Seismic hazard update and ground failure maps and models. They compile technical information which is one of our weakness. As a

commission to use our local affiliations or industry groups to assist compiling technical reports.

- d. Aging Projects
 - i. ASCE 7 – Tsunami Modeling Letter
 - ii. Post-Earthquake Damage Assessment Taskforce
 - iii. School & Public Building Seismic Safety
 - iv. Grants for Earthquake Recover/Mitigation

5. Closing Matters

- a. Next Meeting: November – S. Strait – **ACTION** -will send an email to set a date that is convenient for all commission members to attend.

- b. Vacant Commission Seats – Local Government Rep, Insurance Rep and Commission Chair. S. Strait any volunteers to email board of recommendations for these vacancies. We will need to vote on a new Commission Chair at our November meeting.

Adjourn – B. Salisbury motions, D. Neuffer seconds

12:00 pm

6. Afternoon Briefing (Optional)

- a. UAA College of Engineering – Capabilities and Seismic Research

1:00 pm

- b. Earthquake Demonstration Project Tour

2:00 pm

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