

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA SEISMIC HAZARD SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD June 5, 2008



- I. OPENING BUSINESS 9:00 a.m.
- Call to Order (John Aho, Chairperson); Commission members John Aho, Gary Carver, David Cole, Rod Combellick, Kathy Hosford, Laura Kelly and Dean Maxwell present. Absent were Roger Hansen, Robert Hicks and Mark Roberts. April Woolery of the State Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys was also present.
  - Agenda approved, No items added
  - Introductions - No guests
  - Review of Minutes for 04/30/2008-05/01/2008: Commission member Hosford moved, Commission member Aho seconded to approve the minutes of both meetings with corrections.

- II. BREIFINGS 9:10 a.m.
- Recent Seismic Activity of Interest - Hansen (absent: no report)
  - Health of the Alaska Seismic Networks, Weak and Strong Motion (Statewide/ANC/FBKS/Other) - Hansen (absent: no report)
  - ShakeMap Update - Hansen (absent: no report)
  - ANSS Implementation Committee Meeting - Hansen (absent: no report)
  - 05/14-15/2008 SERC, LEPCA Meeting Update - Roberts (absent: no report)
  - MOA GAC Port Presentation Summary - Cole: A presentation was given by the Port designers to the Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission, of which Commission members Cole and Aho are members. The Port expansion will cost at least \$700 million when completed. The new wharf design approach was covered, as well as the seismic hazard analysis, which was given by Ivan Wong of URS. Mr. Wong used two models for his analysis. The deterministic model used the maximum magnitude that could occur on faults close to the project, regardless of return periods. The probabilistic model used magnitudes that were likely to occur based on historic and paleoseismic evidence. Of these two models, the more severe projected outcome came from the probabilistic model. Commission member Cole feels that the Earthquake Scenario Committee should discuss this outcome.

- III. OLD BUSINESS 9:30 a.m.

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- Action Items: Commission member Carver completed a letter that encouraged the mapping of existing faults. Chairman Aho signed and forwarded the letter to DGGG Director Robert Swenson. Director Swenson responded favorably, stating that fault tectonics is on the DGGG short-term planning list. He will follow up with a letter.
- At-Risk Schools Seismic Safety Retrofit, Update - Roberts (absent: no report)

IV. MEETINGS OF INTEREST 9:35 a.m.

- IRIS Washington, June 4-6, 2008
- SERC, LEPCA Meeting Fairbanks, September 17-18, 2008
- EERI Scenario Workshop, San Francisco, September 17-18, 2008
- Joyner Lecture, Anchorage, October 1, 2008
- Alaska Council of School Administrators Anchorage, AK October 2008
- Alaska Assoc. of Secondary Schools Anchorage, AK October 2008
- Annual GSA Meeting Houston, TX October 5-8, 2008
- 14<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Earthquake Engineering Beijing, October 12-17, 2008
- WSSPC Salt Lake City, February 2009
- EERI Annual Meeting Salt Lake City, February 11-14, 2009
- SW Alaska Municipal Conference, January 2009
- 2014 National Earthquake Engineering Conference Anchorage

V. CRITICAL DEADLINES 9:40 a.m.

- FY09 Budget to Legislature Current
- FY09 Draft Report December, 2008
- FY09 Final Report to Legislature January, 2009

VI. NEW BUSINESS 9:45 a.m.

- Future Briefings
  - Anchorage Port Expansion
  - Anchorage Emergency Operations Center Tour
  - DHS&EM Tour

If Commission members think of other presentations that they would like to see at future meetings, please let Chairman Aho know.

VII. REPORTS 9:50 a.m.

- Chairperson
  - Swenson Letter (discussed above)
  - Joyner Lecture: Chairman Aho spoke with Chris Poland, who will be in Anchorage on October 1 to give this lecture. The Wendy Williamson Auditorium at UAA has been scheduled for Mr. Poland. The UAA Engineering department will pay for the auditorium and advertising for the lecture. Mr. Poland may be able to address the

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Commission at our October meeting, which will be scheduled to coincide with his visit. Commission member Carver would like to make planning the details of the lecture a priority at the next teleconference.

- Committee Reports 10:00 a.m.
  - Insurance-Maxwell: The committee has had no activity since the last meeting. Two fairly large insurance providers in Oregon and Washington are pulling out of the earthquake insurance market. Nationwide, insurance companies are increasingly dropping this coverage and disaster coverage in general. Commission member Carver suggested that our Insurance Committee contact other the insurance committees in other states to develop a coalition to deal with this issue on a national level. Commission member Combellick's suggestion was to ask Susan Tubessing if EERI could sponsor a state seismic commission chair workshop to address the problem. Chairman Aho will follow up on contacting Ms. Tubessing. The Insurance Committee also plans to produce a brochure to help consumers, titled "Do You Need Earthquake Insurance?" and subtitled "Making an Informed Decision".
  - Schools-Kelly: The School Committee has good inroads with the newly appointed Department of Education Commissioner Larry LeDoux. Commissioner LeDoux knows that Alaska's schools are aging and have a backlog of maintenance issues. The state has no formal venue for funding seismic retrofits for schools at this time, which is partly why \$4 million that would have gone to the Kodiak Schools retrofit project was vetoed. Commissioner LeDoux is committed to educating the public to get support for seismic retrofits for schools. He is open to being a member of the ASHSC/School Committee and formally appointing someone to attend committee meetings. Commission member Kelly wants to send a letter to him, formally inviting him to be a member of the Commission. She also wants to act now to gather support at the state level for funding school retrofits. The damage to schools from the recent earthquake in China has pushed this issue into the spotlight, and the Commission should act quickly before public attention is lost. Commission member Kelly, with Commission member Carver's assistance, will draft a two page letter to be presented to the Governor's Office via Larry LeDoux. The letter would be framed in response to OMB Director Karen Rehfeld's comments on the Kodiak school retrofit as quoted in the Kodiak newspaper. Chairman Aho will receive a draft within a week per Commission member Carver.
  - Earthquake Scenario-Combellick: The committee has not met since the Anchorage meeting. The EERI will hold a Scenarios Workshop in San Francisco September 17-18, and Commission

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member Combellick hopes that at least two or three people from the Seismic Hazards Commission will be invited. Commission member Combellick sent out a link to a press release for a southern California scenario. He will send out matrices for proposed Alaska scenarios following this meeting.

- Educ. & Outreach-Hosford: Commission member Hosford will be stepping down as chair of the Education and Outreach Committee, as she feels that she is not able to devote enough time to the position. She recommended that Commission member Hicks be made chair in her stead. Commission Chairman Aho will contact him to discuss this.
- Hazards Identification-Carver: Commission member Carver will e-mail a copy of his PowerPoint presentation from the Anchorage meeting to any Commission members who request it. No further activity since the last meeting.
- Response, Recovery-Roberts: (absent: no report)
- Post Earthquake Planning-Carver: Commission member Carver will work on developing a document from the committee presentation from the last meeting.
- Partnership-Aho: Chairman Aho will continue to work on the Joyner Lecture. EERI, UAA, ASHSC, and the Municipality of Anchorage are all sponsoring of this lecture, which will raise awareness of seismic safety issues in these groups and possibly spur partnerships.

VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION 11:00 a.m.

- Public (none)
- Commission Members (none)

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS 11:00 a.m.

- Budget Report-Woolery: \$1,445.15 remains in the ASHSC budget. Former Commission member Linda Freed may request a reimbursement. We can schedule our next meeting for the end of June in order to spend down the remainder, since we lose what we don't spend before July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ASHSC Web Site Update Status-Woolery: Meeting agendas are up to date on the web site. Once the minutes are finalized, Commission member Combellick will give them to Ms. Woolery to post on the site.
- Next Meeting Date (June 27, 2008-Teleconference)

X. ADJOURNMENT 11:10 p.m.

- Commission member Maxwell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commission member Hosford. All in favor. Teleconference adjourned at 11:10 am.