



STATE OF NEVADA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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BOB MILLER
Governor

April 8, 1993

To: Seismic Safety Council

From: J.F. Goodfellow
Earthquake Program Manager 

Subject: Minutes of March 26 Council Meeting

Enclosed are the summary minutes of the March 26, 1993 Seismic Safety Council meeting. Items of major significance were discussed. These items concern the critical actions the state needs to take to improve the management of earthquake risk and how the earthquake program can be continued in times of a decreasing budget.

This meeting had something for everyone. Those professionals interested in earth sciences should pay particular attention to paragraphs 3, 4 and 5. Representatives from government need to pay particular attention to paragraphs 4, 5 and 7. If you are interested in local emergency management and school activities you will find paragraphs 5 and 6 of importance. Finally, if you are a professional in earth sciences, engineering or emergency management, paragraph 8 will be of particular significance to you.

These minutes have been intentionally delayed for a few days. Two items of special notice have occurred since the Council meeting. AB 445 has been introduced in the Legislature. This is the bill that officially establishes the "Earthquake Safety Council". The bill has 41 members of the Assembly as authors. It will require appointment of 17 members, 15 by the Governor and 2 members from the legislature. The powers of the council are broad and the act would become effective 1 July, 1993. The primary objective of the bill is to officially establish the Council. The bill also contains \$20,000 to fund the Council activities. This funding could be a significant amount of the required FEMA matching funds to continue the earthquake program as well as allowing the Council to begin holding meetings selectively at locations across the state.

Professional organizations and individuals interested in this bill and the future of the Council should send written support for the bill as soon as possible to:

Assemblyman Joseph Dini, Jr
Speaker of the Assembly
Capitol Complex
401 S. Carson St
Carson City, NV 89710

Assemblyman Val Z. Garner,
Chairman, Committee on Government Affairs
Capitol Complex
401 S. Carson St
Carson City, NV 89710

Assemblyman Morse Arberry, Jr
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
Capitol Complex
401 S. Carson St
Carson City, NV 89710

The bill will have its first hearing on April 20, 1993 in the Committee on Government Affairs. If you wish to make comments in person to the Committee, the hearing is in Room 330 in the Legislative Building at 8:15 a.m. I urge all members of the Council to support the bill either in person or by written comments. I will ask the Chairman to personally attend and make a statement on behalf of the Council.

The second item of significance is news about Agenda Item 8. Funds are available from the earthquake program to defray the costs of the damage assessment workshop to train professionals on rapid visual techniques to assess building damage after earthquakes. By putting the FEMA contracted workshop on pre-earthquake renovation of potentially vulnerable buildings together with the post earthquake damage assessment training, a 2 day workshop in Reno for engineers, architects, building managers, local public works directors, local building officials, local school officials and local elected officials can be held at no cost to participants other than for their individual lodging and meals. By scheduling the workshops on a Friday and Saturday, the private sector working professionals will not have to lose more than a single day of billable time. It may even be possible to conduct a duplicate workshop in Las Vegas should an adequate demand exist. Acting on the Council's discussion, I am working with Art Parr and Greg Erny to put these workshops together and promote them. As soon as a date can be determined, coordination can begin with the Director of the Association of Counties. I have already confirmed with them their intention to co-sponsor the original proposed workshop.

These activities demonstrate the strong beginnings the Council has made. Now your strong support of AB 445 to the Legislature will make the "Earthquake Safety Council" a permanent resource to improve the seismic safety in Nevada. Please take time to write and send your comments now.

At the June Council meeting I intend to propose a program strategy. With your active participation, the Earthquake Safety Council will become a major contributor towards making the state safer in the future. Please support the bill and plan on attending the meeting.



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SEISMIC SAFETY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes, March 26, 1993 Meeting

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Anderson at 1040 a.m. Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

2. Attendees were:

Mike Kloberdanz, Nevada Public Service Commission
Floyd Marcucci, Nevada Department of Transportation
Greg Erny, American Institute of Architects, Northern Nevada
Bill Langley, Nevada Division of Emergency Management
Glen Shippey, Nevada Department of Insurance
Harold F. Bonham, Jr., Director, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
Joanne Hoffard, FEMA Region IX Earthquake Program
Clark Watson, Consulting Geologist
Art Parr, Architect, Northern Nevada Chapter AIA

3. Chairman Comments:

Chairman Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He discussed the Cordilleran and Rocky Mountain Sections meeting of the Geologic Society of America Spring Meeting that is to be held at the Reno Hilton 19-21 May. One of the purposes of the meeting is to enhance the transfer of knowledge from the research communities to the user communities. Sessions will feature seismic hazards including presentations about active tectonics, seismology of the Basin and Range States, and a session on Yucca Mountain geology. Interested parties can obtain further information from the UNR McKay School of Mines or the Geosciences Department.

The discussion of the GSA meeting introduced the subject of Public Law 102-285, the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992. The Earthquake Program manager noted the map act has specific goals identified. The goals include earthquake hazards reduction, screening and characterizing sites for toxic and nuclear waste disposal, identifying requirements for design and construction of infrastructure requirements such as utility lifelines, transportation corridors, and surface-water impoundments, and reducing losses from landslides and other ground failures. During the discussion the State Geologist noted there are state monies that might be used to provide the state matching funds required by the Map Act to begin critically needed research in Nevada.

It was concluded that the State of Nevada has an extremely urgent need for research that is part of the Map Act. Not only will seismic knowledge be greatly increased through this research, but Nevada offers a unique opportunity among the states with earthquake risk. Nevada is the only one of the contiguous 48 states that has a seismic zone range from 2 through 4. This presents an unusual real-world laboratory for the research community.

By unanimous motion the Council requested the Earthquake Program Manager to prepare a letter to the Nevada Congressional Delegation and the Governor asking that Nevada seismic mapping needs be given a high priority in the national program and that state funds be identified for the match. The program manager will prepare the letter in coordination with the Council Chairman and the State Geologist.

4. The Chairman next directed attention to the draft of the Nevada Earthquake Risk Reduction Plan 1993-1997. To facilitate the review and comments, the program manager was asked to review the critical elements of the draft.

An overview of the plan was discussed. The consensus was that the format was excellent and the basic contents were as agreed in previous discussions by the Council. By establishing specific priorities, the plan presents a clear view of the actions Nevada needs to take to improve the management of its seismic risk. There was general consensus about the results that were needed from the three priorities. The Council had an extensive discussion about how to convey to both technical and non-technical readers what the needs and the desired results should be. The Council concluded the language used in the draft for Priorities 2 and 3 needed further clarification. The program manager will use the discussion to revise the language so that it more clearly reflects the requirements as expressed by the Council.

Specifically, Priority 2 will focus upon developing useful earthquake scenarios for the populated areas of the state. The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology needs expanded information about seismology and faults in Nevada to do this. State and local agencies will need to assist in assessing the potential damage to facilities and lifelines after the seismology has been evaluated. Emergency managers will need to provide assistance in identifying the impact on the programs that are available in a specific area. The results of such a full-range spectrum of evaluation will benefit all agencies involved in the process. This will be a major multi-year effort that provides benefits to research and emergency management alike.

Priority 3 will be rewritten. The intent of this priority is to expedite reaching a consensus about the seismic and related risks in Seismic Zone 2b. Once the consensus is reached, actions will be taken as necessary to implement the consensus opinion.

The discussion about the UBC Seismic Zonation map initiated a discussion about the process used by the International Council of Building Officials to revise it. It was decided to ask the State Fire Marshal representative to the Council to make a presentation at the next meeting to explain the process. The State Fire Marshal's Office is the official state agency responsible for the UBC.

The program manager described the process that will be used to obtain public and private sector review of the document. The revised draft will be presented to the Council at the next meeting for their review and approval. Subsequently, the plan will be forwarded to appropriate state agencies, local agencies and professional organizations for review and comment. When these inputs have been processed, the final document will be presented for approval to the Council. Upon publication, the Nevada Earthquake Risk Reduction Plan for 1993-1997 will be distributed to all interested parties. Since this process may take several months, it may be appropriate to change the year designation to 1994-1998.

The Chairman recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:15. The meeting came to order again at 1:20.

5. The Chairman introduced Joanne Hoffard from FEMA Region IX. Ms Hoffard is the former program manager for Nevada and currently is the Region IX state program coordinator. Ms Hoffard was asked to update the Council on the possible earthquake hazard briefing that is being developed by FEMA and USGS. At the January Council meeting the Council had requested the program manager to ask FEMA to schedule the briefing in Nevada and include the other Intermountain States at that event. The program manager forwarded correspondence to FEMA reflecting that request and this agenda item was to provide further information about the briefing.

Ms Hoffard advised the Council that federal planning for this event was still in an early stage. The intent of the workshop is to share the latest information about seismology with emergency managers and scientific researchers. The focus is on earthquakes in rural areas and the resulting impact on residents, lifelines and governmental disaster responses.

The Council had an extended discussion about the briefing. Although Nevada will receive direct benefits from this proposed briefing and would like to be a sponsor, the conclusion was that because of the short time for planning, the Council was unable to provide significant host capabilities to FEMA/USGS in the summer or fall of 1993. Never-the-less, strong sentiment was expressed about the proposed briefing.

Key among these concerns were the following:

- A. A presentation on rural earthquakes would be a direct benefit to all earthquake programs in the Intermountain States.

- B. A workshop on the intermountain area seismology and known hazards combined with user inputs about future seismological research needed to determine more accurately the risks of the Basin and Range area is needed. It was noted this directly relates to the discussion on the activities to be requested from the Map Act in Item 3. A significant concern was expressed that because of societal influences as well as the physical similarities of the Basin and Range states, this area must be kept as an entity and not divided.
- C. Although the Council felt they did not have the preparation time to host such an important event, they did emphasize their desire to support in every possible way such an event in the Intermountain West.
- D. The Council strongly supported attendance by all emergency managers and basic researchers.

The Council specifically noted that Nevada is the only mainland state that has more than two seismic zones within its boundary. The Council requested by unanimous motion that the earthquake program manager advise FEMA and USGS of their support for such a briefing. While the Council is unable to provide host support for a 1993 briefing because of time constraints, the Council strongly supports the proposed 1993 briefing and strongly recommends adding a 1994 workshop for the Intermountain States as a followup to the 1993 briefing. The Council would like an opportunity to co-host the 1994 event with FEMA and USGS if sufficient lead time can be obtained to allow a Council special committee to be effective.

Such a workshop offers both the research community and the using community an unusual opportunity to use current state-of-the-art advancements in seismology in actual state and local management settings.

6. The Earthquake Program manager presented to the Council the Governor's Proclamation of Earthquake Awareness Week, April 18 - April 24. The focus this year is on school activities and in providing state program support for local agencies. The program manager displayed the promotional letters that had been sent to all school district superintendents and school principals in the state and to all local emergency managers. The Council particularly noted and regretted that a representative was not present from the State Department of Education.

7. The program manager provided an update on the Nevada Earthquake Program. As a result of the Governor's reorganization plan and the resulting impacts on the state budget, a change in management of the earthquake program has been proposed. The program manager and Bill Langley, Chief of Plans and Programs from DEM, discussed the proposal. The guidance in preparing the budget for FY 94 was to seek ways to reduce the demands on the state general funds. This

requires all programs to seek ways to pay program costs from fees or other sources of revenues. As a result, DEM reviewed its responsibilities for all of the natural and technological hazards.

In one hazard program area, both personnel duplication and fee revenues were found. The Division of Emergency Management (DEM) is responsible for major portions of the hazardous materials program and has a Program Manager for this purpose. Simultaneously, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) has both a program manager and an administrative support person. The DEM program manager and these two SERC positions are state positions and are not required by federal law. In contrast, federal program guidance requires DEM to have an earthquake program manager. Further, if the State of Nevada desires to be eligible for federal disaster assistance after any declared disaster, Public Law and federal guidance require DEM to have a designated State Hazard Mitigation Officer. These two federally required positions are responsible for multi-hazard programs while the duplicated state optional positions are responsible for a single hazard program. Currently Nevada does not have a full-time HMO since the HMO position was eliminated in a cost saving move in FY 92.

The budget for FY 94 proposes a new section within DEM consisting of all the natural and technological hazard programs. This would allow DEM to use revenue fee funds to pay for a State Hazard Mitigation Officer (HMO). Under this organization, the HMO would supervise all hazard programs and be the actual earthquake program manager. While this will elevate the earthquake program within DEM, the new HMO will be extremely busy and the Seismic Safety Council must assume a more direct role in implementing the earthquake program. This is the background that puts a focus on the next agenda item that proposes establishing Council working committees.

The program manager requested each state agency representative identify within their requested FY 94 funds those line items that could be used to support national earthquake objectives. By identifying this funding, an alternative may be developed to keep the earthquake program functioning if the reorganization proposal is not approved. Even if the reorganization is approved, the state still needs to be able to identify funds that can be used as matching funds to obtain federal funds for critical program needs such as the map act requirements. Agency managers would not find changes in their budgets, but would simply allow DEM to identify their funds as support for national earthquake reduction objectives as a means of obtaining credit for existing Nevada funding.

There was extensive Council discussion about these issues. In summary, state agency representatives agreed to investigate their funding areas to identify potential matching funds for federal purposes. The ability to identify these matching funds for proposed federal actions will become increasingly important as state and federal budgets get more restrictive. This assumes a critical importance to Nevada because the Earthquake Risk Reduction

Plan prioritizes activities that are needed in the state. Federal funding will be essential to undertake these actions and in most cases the state must provide a matching fund.

8. The Chairman next invited Art Parr, a member of the Northern Nevada Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, to discuss his proposal to the Council. Mr. Parr described the role of trained volunteers to assist local building officials following an earthquake in making rapid visual damage assessments of buildings. He noted that the State of California made extensive use of volunteers in the earthquakes of 1987 and 1989.

On behalf of the AIA chapter, Mr. Parr solicited support from the Council to provide a workshop to train appropriate professionals in Nevada to do this task. Following a discussion, the Council unanimously agreed this training is necessary and they wanted to secure support for the project. The earthquake program manager advised he would investigate and provide all assistance possible to fund the training.

9. The next agenda item proposed establishing committees under the Seismic Safety Council. The program manager explained that the request to the Council by Mr. Parr is an example of the actions a committee could be expected to undertake. Further, the need to use a committee approach for supporting earthquake activities will become more necessary as the program management is revised. An opportunity to host a 1994 joint FEMA/USGS and Seismic Safety Council workshop is an outstanding chance to begin using a committee.

A consensus was expressed that a special committee would be the appropriate way to host such an event when adequate time is available for a volunteer group to be effective.

10. The Council set June 4, the first Friday in June, as the next meeting. The Chairman agreed to reserve the same room for the meeting and the same time was agreed upon. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.