

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission and Oregon Emergency Management

Earthquake Program

OSSPAC was informally requested by OEM Director Ken Murphy to assist OEM in exploring the issues involved in forming the Seismic Grants Committee and deliberating the criteria for the Grant application and its process. Jim Doane stepped down as the OSSPAC chair. The new Chair, Gerry Williams, created two additional committees: one to tackle issues for the Grants program and another for developing a two-year Strategic Plan. OSSPAC will continue to receive testimony from key public and private stakeholders, such as utilities and state agencies, on their risk reduction measures and earthquake response plans.

As directed by SB-2 (2005), DOGAMI completed its statewide seismic needs assessment, which is a comprehensive and original database of about 3,350 public schools and emergency facilities (see www.oregongeology.com/sub/projects/rvs/ to download some or all of the report or associated materials). Forty percent of all buildings were assessed a high or very high probability of collapse risk (RVS score less than or equal to 1.0). Oregon Seismic Rehabilitation Grants Program received funding for OEM staffing through Senate President Courtney's SB-1 (2007) that funds the hiring of a Grant Program Manager and an Administrative Assistant.

FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) 2007 Grants were awarded to the City of Salem for seismic upgrades to fire stations and the City of Albany received 2006 funding for retrofitting a water treatment facility. Demonstration tours of two university seismic mitigation projects, which are funded by PDM 2005, received high visibility. Reports on three university demonstration projects, which were funded by PDM 2003, were published by DOGAMI.

OEM and DOGAMI sponsored Benefit/Cost Analysis training sessions with emphasis placed on seismic projects and attendance by OSSPAC members. DOGAMI sponsored a seismic hazard workshop for the Oregon Department of Transportation and has made seismic design recommendations on critical infrastructure.

The enhanced rapid visual screening (E-RVS) method was developed by DOGAMI with funding support from the Oregon University System. FEMA and Applied Technology Council are evaluating the method for possible adoption.

The six Region 3 counties (Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion, Yamhill and Polk), which were funded by FEMA PDM 2003, have updated hazard maps and HAZUS results from DOGAMI and FEMA-approved natural hazard mitigation plans. Many other counties/cities received or are in the process of receiving FEMA-approved plans.

Oregon has continued to participate in the Cascadia Regional Earthquake Workgroup (CREW). Yumei Wang was elected as a new Board Member. OEM has continued to support the Recovery Planning initiative led by the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience. OEM has also participated in the program planning for the 2008 National Earthquake Conference in Seattle.

OEM and DOGAMI representatives attended the WSSPC Annual Conference with representation from OSSPAC by Tom Manning and Sue Graves, from the Lincoln County School District, who won a 2007 WSSPC Award in Excellence in Outreach.

Yumei Wang was appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction.

OEM and DOGAMI representatives attended the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council meeting in Portland on understanding the “slow earthquake” or episodic tremors along the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

Jay Wilson attended the 2007 National Earthquake Program Managers meeting held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Tsunami Program

As part of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP), DOGAMI is working with Oregon State University and Oregon Health and Sciences University on continuing development of updated tsunami inundation modeling, paleotsunami deposit mapping and tsunami inundation hazard assessment for the Oregon coast, beginning with a pilot project at Cannon Beach. These hazard maps are being developed with new geologic source models of the Cascadia Subduction Zone fault rupture to better estimate the various tsunami inundation hazards and the recommended evacuation zones.

Oregon continues to support the TsunamiReady™ Community Program with Douglas County being recognized this year and three-year reviews conducted in Cannon Beach and the Northern Tillamook County Communities of Manzanita, Nehalem, and Wheeler.

Lincoln City was chosen as a demonstration project for using neighborhood-based groups such as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) to improve the tsunami readiness of the “community” and enhance the benefits of an existing TsunamiReady™ Community. Working with the National Weather Service, OEM and DOGAMI will provide support to Lincoln City in their employing a tsunami preparedness coordinator to spearhead this enhancement of public outreach and nurture sustainable grassroots disaster preparedness.

Jay Wilson participated in a multi-agency TsunamiReady™ Summit held in San Diego to evaluate the program and suggest recommendations for improving voluntary participation and delivery of benefits.

OEM and DOGAMI participated in the NTHMP 5-year review, with Jay Wilson participating in the committee for designing the review and selection of the panel. OEM has continued compilation of interviews and observations for the 1964 Alaska tele-tsunami for the educational video documentary. Jay Wilson participated in the NTHMP Tsunami Warning Subcommittee and worked with West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center to review and revise the tsunami warning and advisory criteria to address issues raised by the impacts of the Kuril Island tsunami events at Crescent City, California.

Based on the Washington Emergency Management Division design, OEM and DOGAMI, with assistance from the National Weather Service Offices in Portland and Medford, developed an Oregon Tsunami Emergency Media Guide as an outreach resource tool for news agencies to reference during tsunami events. The binder was introduced at the Oregon Association of Broadcasters Annual Conference in September 2007 and will be officially released in conjunction with the National Weather Service’s revised definition for a Tsunami Advisory in February 2008.

Both agencies met with Oregon Coastal Fire Chiefs’ All Hazards Task Force in February and July 20, 2007 to present updates on tsunami-related program and policy issues.

Jay Wilson moderated a session on Cannon Beach’s tsunami recovery planning workshop during the NOAA Coastal Zone 07 Conference.

Submitted by Jay Wilson, Earthquake and Tsunami Program Coordinator, Oregon Emergency Management