

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Vicki S. McConnell, State Geologist

NEWS RELEASE: October 15, 2008

Report on Seismic Critical Energy Infrastructures Workshop released

Portland, Oregon: The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has released **Open-File Report O-08-10, Oregon Public Utilities Commission–Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Leadership Forum and Seismic Critical Energy Infrastructures Workshop, April 2, 2008, compiled by Yumei Wang and José R. Gonzalez.**

This report documents the Leadership Forum and Seismic Critical Energy Infrastructures Workshop, held in Salem, Oregon, which brought together executives and senior engineers from critical energy and telecommunication infrastructure organizations with the goal of sharing evidence that earthquake preparedness is needed for the State's energy and telecommunication infrastructure. The workshop also encouraged participants to look at the need for seismic vulnerability assessments of utility systems and encouraged the development and implementation of earthquake hazard mitigation plans.

Workshop attendees heard from Commissioner Ray Baum of the Oregon Public Utilities Commission (OPUC), Oregon State Senate President Peter Courtney, and Regional Coordinator of the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team, Mark Ellsworth.

Seven nationally recognized experts presented overviews of Cascadia earthquake hazards and risk, infrastructure vulnerability to earthquake damage, state-of-practice lifeline seismic vulnerability studies and application, and a look at vulnerability studies by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

"OPUC's staff recognizes the potential severity of a great Cascadia earthquake in Oregon and wants the electricity, gas and telecommunication providers in the State to take seismic preparedness seriously," said J. R. Gonzalez, Program Manager - Safety, Reliability & Security, OPUC and co-organizer of the workshop.

Yumei Wang, earthquake engineer with DOGAMI and co-organizer, commented that, "performing seismic vulnerability assessments and cost-effective, risk-wise mitigation actions are key to being prepared for future megaquakes."

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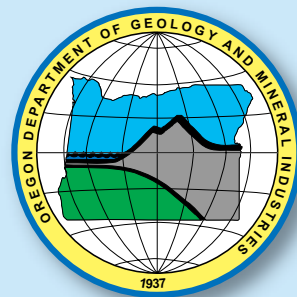
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Sponsors included the Oregon Public Utilities Commission, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission, American Society of Civil Engineers: Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering, and the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission. Corporate sponsors included NW Natural, PacifiCorp, and Portland General Electric.

Open-File Report O-08-10, Oregon Public Utilities Commission–Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Leadership Forum and Seismic Critical Energy Infrastructures Workshop, April 2, 2008, is available for purchase on CD-ROM for \$10 from the Nature of the Northwest Information Center (NNW), 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 177, Portland, Oregon, 97232.

You may also call NNW at (503) 872-2750 or order online at <http://www.naturenw.org>. There is a \$4 shipping and handling charge for all mailed items. For additional information, please contact the Nature of the Northwest Information Center. Additionally, this item as well as all department maps and publications can be purchased at DOGAMI Field Offices including 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass, (541) 476-2496 and 1510 Campbell Street, Baker City, (541) 523-3133.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State, and has a broad responsibility in developing a geologic understanding of natural hazards. We then make this information available to communities and individuals to help reduce the risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. We assist in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards are key to decision-making. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation.

Learn more about Oregon's geology by going online at:

<http://www.OregonGeology.org>

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