

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

**NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD  
PANEL ON STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY & GEOENGINEERING**

**SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION TO  
SEISMIC VULNERABILITIES  
DISCUSSIONS**

**PRESENTER: DR. ARDYTH SIMMONS**

**PRESENTER'S TITLE  
AND ORGANIZATION: GEOLOGIST  
YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT**

**PRESENTER'S  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (702) 794-7998**

**JANUARY 22-23, 1992**

## **Previous Meeting - April 1990**

- **Summarized current knowledge of seismic hazard at site**
- **Presented conceptual seismic design basis and summary of probabilistic assessments**
- **Discussed in detail preliminary seismic design cost benefit analysis for waste handling facilities**
- **Proposed approach for further development of seismic design basis**

## **Work Since April 1990**

- **Repository design has been funded at a minimal level; therefore, little new work on seismic design**
- **Major shift in personnel in 1991**
- **TAR is being initiated for seismic design basis for ESF - items not important to safety**
- **ESSE recommended that, based on present knowledge, faulting and ground motion would not disqualify the site**
- **Seismic hazard is a good topic for issue resolution; DOE working group established to develop topical report**

# Purpose of Today's Presentations

- **Discuss new data collected**
- **Incorporate knowledge from nuclear testing at NTS tunnels**
- **Use this information to assess seismic vulnerability of facility for pre- and postclosure**
- **Discuss how vulnerability can drive site characterization**
- **Suggest possible methods of reducing seismic vulnerabilities**
- **Show that seismic risk to public by facility would be low**
- **Introduce new Yucca Mountain investigators**

# **Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Structural Geology & Geoengineering Panel Meeting**

## **Seismic Vulnerabilities Agenda**

**January 22-23, 1992  
Irvine, CA**

### **Wednesday, January 22, 1992**

- |             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| <b>8:30</b> | <b>Welcome and Introduction</b>   | <b>D. Deere/NWTRB</b>                        |
| <b>8:35</b> | <b>Introduction</b>   | <b>C. Allen/NWTRB</b>                        |
| <b>8:45</b> | <b>Introduction to Seismic Vulnerabilities<br/>Discussions</b>  | <b>A. Simmons/DOE</b>                        |
| <b>9:00</b> | <b>Summary of Seismic Hazards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>• Faulting and ground motion<br/>for pre- and post-closure</b></li><li><b>• Multiple event and multiple<br/>faulting scenarios</b></li></ul> | <b>T. Grant/SAIC</b>                         |
| <b>9:50</b> | <b>Update on Midway Valley Trenching</b>  | <b>B. Swan/Geomatrix<br/>J. Whitney/USGS</b> |

# Seismic Vulnerabilities Agenda

- 10:10 Break (30 min.)**
- 10:40 Effects of Nuclear Tests on Tunnels** **J. Phillips/SNL**
- 11:15 Seismic Vulnerabilities & Seismic Design Issues: Surface Facilities** **P. Richter/  
Fluor Daniel**
- 11:55 Lunch (1 1/4 hour)**
- 1:10 Seismic Vulnerabilities & Seismic Design Issues: Subsurface Excavation** **J. Merritt/WC**
- 1:50 Site Characterization at Yucca Mountain and Issues Related to Seismic Vulnerability** **R. Quittmeyer/WC**
- 2:30 Summary of Presentations by DOE** **A. Simmons/DOE**
- 2:45 Break (30 min.)**