

The Engineering Geologist



THE
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ENGINEERING GEOLOGY DIVISION OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Volume 11 Number 1

August 1976

Chairman's Message

It has long been the policy of the Geological Society of America (GSA) to allow the establishment of divisions, such as the Engineering Geology Division (EGD) and the Coal Division, if there is no professional affiliated society to carry out appropriate activities. During the past 13 years, the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) has grown from the flourishing California AEG to a flourishing national organization which is prepared to act, speak, and publish on behalf of the country's engineering geologists.

Accordingly, discussions between the EGD and AEG have been taking place over the past few years to explore the possibility of a consolidation of effort on the part of these two organizations. One of the circumstances strongly favoring this merger is the fact that nearly half of the members of EGD are also members of AEG. Qualifications for membership have long implied that an individual has demonstrated competence to practice as an engineering geologist. Under most circumstances, a member of AEG would be expected to qualify as a registered engineering geologist in states where registration is required.

On the other hand, there are members of EGD who are neither practicing engineering geologists, nor who wish to become registered geologists. A number of members of EGD, in particular many from the academic community, took up membership in order to be kept informed of developments in the field.

At the Annual Meeting in South Tahoe, Nevada, in October, 1975, the AEG Management Board approved a new class of membership, namely, Academic and Research Members. Such membership has education and experience requirements, but an individual who would qualify for this category would not otherwise qualify for full membership in AEG, or for registration. In practice, many academic and research geologists would have qualifications for full membership.

Additionally, the AEG sees no reason for not becoming an affiliated society of GSA, with the option in certain years of holding its meetings back-to-back with GSA. In fact, in 1977 the annual meetings of both GSA and AEG will be in Seattle, Washington. We hope and expect that by that time, the EGD will have transferred its functions to the AEG, the work of EGD having been completed and the torch passed to an organization fully equipped to represent the diverse interests and activities of the engineering geology profession.

As Chairman of EGD, I find myself in the slightly awkward position of being engaged in phasing out one of the organizations in which I have long had an active interest. However, I have also worked closely with the AEG at the sectional and national levels, and I believe that it is in the best interest of both organizations, GSA and AEG, to effect this union.

Paul L. Hilpman, 1975 Chairman

Summary of Annual Report

Minutes, GSA Engineering Geology Division Management Board Meeting, Utah Stars Room, TriArc Travelodge, Salt Lake City, Utah. 20 October 1975

Meeting was brought to order at 1315 by Chairman Hilpman. The entire board consisting of Skehan, Galster, Varnes, and Pincus was present. Observers were Winkler, Wilson, Coates, Legget, Kolb, Holland, Stuart, Hatheway, and McClure.

Secretary Galster gave his report. Officers elected were: For Chairman—Skehan, 418 votes; for Chairman-Elect—Varnes, 418 votes; for Secretary—Galster, 418 votes; and for Management Board Representative—F. Wilson, 415 votes. Only the Nuclear Powerplant Siting Committee had submitted an annual report. A

general discussion followed regarding technical committees and liaison representatives and the general lack of performance. The secretary's annual report and minutes of the 1974 Board Meeting were summarized and approved. Galster related budget problems and accounting problems in relation to GSA Headquarters. The Division has no timely knowledge of Division funds which makes it difficult to authorize expenditures. We do have problems with increasing costs for Newsletter publication and travel costs, our largest items.

Chairman Hilpman noted that each future Case History volume would have a separate editor rather than the Division having a single editor for all volumes. He then asked each editor for a status report.

Summary of Annual Report [continued]

Winkler, "Preservation of Stone," reported difficulty in obtaining final editions of papers delivered over a three year period and asked if abstracts might be published in lieu of the full paper where the author had not submitted the final version.

Coates, "Landslides," together with Chairman Hilpman reported that there had been considerable delay in getting papers together for this volume during Kiersch's editorship. Coates reported that papers already published elsewhere were not acceptable, and because of this, only one paper (by Fowler) was ready to go. The volume will have to be essentially started over. Kiersch will be acknowledged as initiator of the volume, not as co-editor. The question of the volume being a case history or a review volume was discussed. Decision deferred until papers are ready, or until contents are established. Coates set summer 1976 as deadline for papers.

Kolb, "River Engineering," reported that only three of the six papers presented at the 1973 Symposium had been submitted in spite of repeated urgings. The suggestion was made that these papers be published as part of a Symposium on Geomorphology and River Engineering which Don Coates is chairing shortly. Coates passed out titles to be included in this volume to the Board. Skehan moved, and Pincus seconded, that these three papers be published in this new volume and not as a Case History volume. Motion passed.

McClure (for Hatheway), "Geology in Siting of Critical Structures," passed out a listing of titles and authors for the proposed volume and indicated that other papers would be included by invitation. Galster questioned title as most papers are oriented to Nuclear Plant siting. Board agreed that this could be changed later if so desired. Whether volume should be a Case History or a review volume was considered but not acted upon.

Chairman of Division is to send a letter to society editor informing him of our publications intentions.

Varnes, as an associate editor of GSA, interjected the importance of complete review of papers before they get to the GSA Editor. Much time can be saved by having completed reviewer forms submitted with the paper. In the future, reviewer forms will be sent out by the volume editor who will be responsible for selecting reviewers and making sure reviews are handled in a timely fashion.

Pincus gave a report on the Long Range Planning Committee making the suggestion that review volumes on each major urban area might be considered. He further suggested that Robert Legget be approached to coordinate such an effort. The Board agreed that both

were excellent suggestions, and Hilpman was asked to discuss the matter with Legget.

Winkler raised a question regarding further publication of bibliographical material on Preservation of Stone. He was requested to proceed with it, but the decision as to where it would be published was deferred.

The question was raised regarding an extensive bibliography on tunneling machines which has been made available to the Division. Hilpman felt that the material should be updated and published. He will discuss the possibility of Legget looking it over and discussing the matter with the GSA Editor.

Hilpman gave a report on the upcoming International Bicentennial Conference on Engineering. The conference will have a keynote session, five plenary sessions, and some workshops. The committee is looking for groups to set up workshops. Our representative on the planning committee has been Emory Cleaves who feels the short lead time does not permit any slack. He cannot pursue the matter further. Hilpman said that he would pass out brochures at GSA and AEG meetings but felt that the whole planning effort was too little, too late.

In the absence of Lynn Brown, no report was made relating to the Engineering Geology Reference List. Hilpman will contact Brown regarding progress.

The Division necrology was read by the Secretary.

The resignation of Mary Horne as Newsletter Editor was received and accepted with regrets. Pincus moved, and Skehan seconded, that Mary Horne and George Kiersch both be thanked for their many efforts on behalf of the Division.

Jasper Holland was introduced as President-Elect of the AEG. He spoke to the Board relating to closer ties between EGD and AEG, specifically cooperation in the "joint" meeting in Seattle in 1977. He noted that the AEG is considering a bylaws change to permit a new class of membership called Academic and Research Member. He requested a consensus of AGD opinion regarding relations between the two groups. The Board agreed that if consolidation of the two groups was ever to take place, a listing of actions required by AEG prior to phasing out of EGD is appropriate.

Varnes, as the Division's present representative for coordination with AEG, then read the proposed AEG bylaws changes. This was followed by some discussion. Consensus of the Board was that the proposal was adequate to permit members of EGD who are not now members of AEG to affiliate with the latter if they so desire. The point was made that Academic and Research Members should be able to sponsor new members in that category. The Board consensus was further that it would be helpful for AEG to become an associated society of GSA. This would not be absolutely essential, however, for the Board to begin action to phase out EGD.

R. W. Galster, Secretary

U.S. National Committee on Tunneling

The letterhead involving the USNC/TT has just been changed from, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL: National Academy of Sciences-National Academy of Engineering, to NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, Assembly of Engineering.

"The U.S. National Committee on Tunneling Technology has twenty-four members appointed on the authorization of the President of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. Six of the members are from Industry, six are from academic or research institutions, and six are from government. Six are appointed as designated representatives of the following organizations: American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME), the Geological Society of America (GSA), the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG), the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), and the Interagency Committee on Excavation Technology (ICET).

"The officers of the Committee are Chairman, First Vice Chairman, and Second Vice Chairman. Each officer is elected by the membership from one of the sources—industry, academia, or government—such that each of the officers is from a different sector. Each year the First Vice Chairman succeeds the outgoing Chairman, who remains on the Committee for one year as Immediate Past Chairman. The Second Vice Chairman becomes the First Vice Chairman. The officers of the Committee and the six designated representatives form the USNC/TT Executive Committee.

"Six Standing Subcommittees were organized initially in 1973 in accord with the USNC/TT constitution."

The Standing Subcommittees are: No. 1. Technical Data and Information; No. 2. Technology Evaluation and

Environmental Impact; No. 3. Demand Forecasting, Use of Subsurface Space, Legal Requirements, and Standards; No. 4. Contracting Practices; No. 5. International Activities; No. 6. Education and Training.

AD HOC COMMITTEE: SOCIETAL FACTORS

The publications to date are:

- (1) Legal, Economic & Energy Considerations in the use of Underground Space. Nat. Acad. Sci., 1974. Standing Subcommittee No. 3. Printing and Publications Office, Nat. Acad. Sci., 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Wash. D.C. 20418. (Price not indicated.)
- (2) Better Contracting for Underground Construction. Nat. Acad. Sci., 1974. Standing Subcommittee 4, Contracting Practices, USNC/TT. Available from: Nat. Tech. Info. Serv. (NTIS), Springfield, VA 22161. \$5.75.
- (3) Symposium on Standardization and Metric Conversion for Tunneling, Underground Construction and Mining. Nat. Acad. Sci., 1974. Standing Subcommittee No. 5, International Activities—USNC/TT. Available from Nat. Tech. Info. Serv. (NTIS), Springfield, VA 22161.
- (4) Tunneling 1974 (Release in 1975); Resume history, purposes, constitution, etc. of the USNC/TT. Limited number available for agencies and institutions on request to USNC/TT. Nat. Acad. Sci., 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Wash. D.C. 20418 (Attention, Mr. Israelsen, Secretary).

Submitted: A. B. Cleaves

Boston College establishes new seismograph station in Maine

A new seismograph station has been established by Boston College's Weston Observatory in Allagash, Maine, to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in evaluating seismic risk in the area of the proposed Dickey-Lincoln dam and reservoir.

The station, eighth in the New England system operated by Boston College, was established in late November and has recorded four small tremors in the area of the St. Lawrence River Valley since that time. Funding for the station was provided completely by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Weston Observatory's New England seismographic network also includes stations located at Weston and Fall River, Maine; Hanover and Berlin, New Hampshire; and Milo, East Machias, and Caribou, Maine. Seismic data

from these sites are continuously telemetered to recording instruments at the Observatory where locations and sizes of earthquakes occurring in New England and surrounding areas are determined. Under the direction of Jeffrey Johnson, staff seismologists at the Weston Observatory have detected 25 small earthquakes in the northeastern United States and neighboring areas of Canada since May, 1975, eight of them large enough to have been felt by people in the vicinity of the tremors.

Besides funding for the Allagash station provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Weston Observatory receives financial assistance from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey. Installation of five additional stations is planned for 1976.

ENGINEERING GEOLOGY DIVISION OFFICERS-1976

Chairman James W. Skehan, S.J.
Weston Observatory, Weston, MA 02193

Chairman Elect David J. Varnes
40 South Holland Street, Lakewood, CO 80226

Secretary Richard W. Galster
18233 13th Avenue N.W., Seattle, WA 98177

Management Board

Representative Frank W. Wilson
Kansas Geological Survey, 1390 Avenue A,
Campus West, Lawrence, KS 66044

Past Chairman Paul L. Hilpman
Dept. of Geosciences, University of Missouri,
Kansas City, MO 64110

Newsletter Editor William J. Mallio
Kennecott Copper Corp., Ledgemont Laboratory,
128 Spring Street, Lexington, MA 02173
617-862-8268

The Engineering Geologist is issued by the Geological
Society of America, Engineering Geology Division,
3300 Penrose Place, Boulder, CO 80301.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

July 26-30, 1976 Fourth Annual Short Course
on Embankment Dams Soils
Aspects

August 16-18, 1976 ASCE Geotechnical Engineer-
ing Division Specialty Confer-
ence for 1976

University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

- (1) Rock Foundations for Structures
- (2) Rock Foundations and Abutments for Dams
- (3) Rock Slopes

August 23-28, 1976 Finite Element Method in
Geotechnical Engineering

September 13-17, 1976 Fundamental Hydraulics and
Hydrology of Dam Design

October 4-8 Association of Engineering
Geologists

For Information Contact:

Norbert O. Schmidt
Civil Engineering Department
University of Missouri-Rolla
Rolla, MO 65401.