

GeoEngineering Earthquake Reconnaissance (GEER) Association
under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation (NSF)

GEER Steering Committee (SC) Teleconference
02/28/08 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon PST

Meeting Summary

Meeting Attendees: J.-P. Bardet, Jon Bray, David Frost, Rob Kayen, Ellen Rathje, Nick Sitar, and Les Youd

1. Introduction

The meeting objectives as listed on the meeting agenda were agreed to, and no additional items were identified to discuss.

2. Status of Previously Identified Action Items

(a) Targeted GEER Membership Drive:

Bray is taking the lead on this targeted membership drive. Besides targeting individual members, the GEER SC members agreed that we should target key post-earthquake organizations, such as EERI, USGS, NIST, and FEMA. Key members of those organizations were identified. SC members were also asked to forward names of individuals who should be targeted.

(b) Post-Earthquake Reconnaissance Guidance Document:

Kayen is taking the lead on preparing this document. A rough draft of the document was prepared by Kayen, and GEER SC members were asked to provide comments. The document should be concise and focus on research aspects of earthquake reconnaissance. It should take advantage of Google EarthTM and have downloadable forms. The document will eventually be posted at the GEER web site and it will describe the minimum equipment required by team members in the field (e.g., GPS device and digital camera) and provide guidance on how to use the key features of the required equipment.

(c) Participation in the GEESD IV Conference in Sacramento in May 2008:

Frost and Bray are organizing a session at the conference to highlight GEER. In addition, the NEES demonstration exposition at UC Davis can be used to display equipment used in GEER post-earthquake reconnaissance. Kayen will be taking the lead on the demonstration of equipment used by USGS personnel involved in GEER. GEER should continue to look for opportunities to get exposure so that earthquake professionals are aware of its activities.

(d) GEER Strategic Plan Development

Bray discussed aspects of the proposal submitted to NSF to fund GEER for the next 5 years. Bray was the PI of the proposal and Frost and Rathje were Co-PIs of the proposal. The proposal included a plan to expand GEER beyond post-earthquake reconnaissance to include multi-hazards; however, it would retain its focus on geo-aspects of events. If funded, GEER will be recommended to be renamed as the Geoengineering Extreme Events Reconnaissance (GEER) Association.

(e) GEER Report Series:

Mason converted existing reports into GEER reports, each with their own number for tracking purposes in the GEER report series. They are available at the web site.

(f) GEER Earthquake Response Plan:

The concepts discussed at the last meeting are still considered reasonable. Bray should prepare a document that delineates the plan so that it can be distributed at the GEER web site.

3. New Issues

(a) Post-EQ Reconnaissance and Documentation Efforts Being Initiated By NEHRP Agencies:

The emerging development of the NEHRP Post-Earthquake Information Management System (PIMS) and FEMA-sponsored seismic Mitigation Assessment Teams (MAT) activities were discussed. GEER SC members agreed that GEER should be involved in the development of these activities and coordinate with the developers. It is not clear yet what role GEER members will actually play. Bray can stay monitor their development through his role as a member of the NEHRP ACEHR committee, and in the area of PIMS, Frost and Bardet, should become involved as they are well aware of many of the key issues involved in information management systems.

GEER should formalize its continuing coordination with EERI LFE and with USGS personnel involved in post-earthquake reconnaissance.

(b) Northeast Nevada M=6 Earthquake Response:

The GEER SC committee agreed that this event could be handled adequately by the engineering geologists and structural engineers who were surveying the effects of this event. Although there may be some important lessons to be learned regarding some geotechnical issues, such as ground motions from this M=6 event in a basin area, they could be learned without dispatching a GEER team.

(c) GEER Steering Committee Membership and Co-Chairs:

Due to the new responsibilities accepted by some of the GEER SC members, it was agreed that the membership of the GEER SC should be re-examined. J.-P. Bardet asked to leave the Co-Chair position of the GEER SC due to his new position as Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at USC. It was agreed by all, that it would be advantageous to have two co-chairs. By a unanimous vote, David Frost and Ellen Rathje were elected as Co-Chairs of the GEER SC.

4. Schedule

It was agreed that we should try to hold a teleconference meeting in early March 2008 and a face-to-face meeting while most of us were attending the ASCE GEESD IV Conference in Sacramento in May 2008. A reminder was provided about the upcoming GEER SC/AP workshop in October 2008.

The meeting agenda follows this page.

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02/28/08 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon PST
Webex Meeting No.: 572 837 802 Call-in #: 866-469-3239 Password: geersc08

Meeting Agenda

1. Introduction
 - (a) Meeting Objectives
 - (b) Additional Issues to Discuss
2. Status of Action Items Identified in the January 2008 GEER SC Meeting
 - (a) Targeted GEER membership drive (Bray)
 - (b) Post-EQ reconnaissance guidance document preparation (Kayen)
 - (c) Opportunity to train engineers at the GEESD IV conference in Sacramento in May 2008 (Frost with assistance from Kayen and Mason)
 - (d) GEER strategic plan development (Bray)
 - i. Proposal for the next 5 years of GEER submitted to NSF
 - ii. Expansion to multi-hazards and expansion to include Co-PIs.
 - iii. If funded, will recommend renaming GEER as the Geoengineering Extrême Events Reconnaissance (GEER) Association
 - (e) GEER report series (Bray/Mason)
 - (f) GEER response event response plan (Bray)
3. New Issues
 - (a) Post-EQ reconnaissance and documentation efforts being initiated by NEHRP agencies and others:
 - i. NEHRP (NIST) Post-Earthquake Information Management System (PIMS)
 - ii. FEMA-sponsored seismic Mitigation Assessment Teams (MAT)
 - iii. EERI LFE
 - iv. USGS
 - v. Others
 - (b) Northeast Nevada M=6 earthquake response
 - (c) GEER Steering Committee Membership and Co-Chairs
4. Schedule
 - a. Next Steering Committee Meeting
 - b. Future Activities
 - GEER SC and AP Workshop (with additional invited participants) tentatively scheduled to be held at Berkeley in October 2008