



ANNUAL MEETING SPECIAL EDITION

About this issue...

This special issue is intended to encourage members of the Engineering Geology Division to consider contributing to the technical sessions at the GSA Annual Meeting in Reno, NV (November 9 – 18, 2000). It is also designed to alert members to events and activities that might be of special interest at the meeting. Division Program Chair, Duane Eversoll, worked very hard to ensure the meeting would have a mix of technical sessions and fieldtrips on environmental and engineering topics.

Attention Students !! **Roy J. Shlemon Meeting Awards**

The Division is pleased to request applications for Roy J. Shlemon Meeting Awards for this year's annual meeting, field trips, and short courses. The only criterion is that you must be a student member of GSA. However, student members of the Division (\$2/year) will be given preference. Fill out the form and have a professor in your department sign it, and then send it in. The form can be downloaded from the GSA EGD website at <http://rock.geosociety.org/egd/index.html>, or by going to the GSA website at www.geosociety.org and going to Divisions to connect to the GSA EGD website. The form is found under "Scholarships".

You will be notified about a month in advance of the meeting, if an award is made. An award will pay for meeting registration, and the attendance fee for a short course or field trip. You may apply for more than one field trip and short course. The

student must provide transportation, room, and board. So, please send in your application as soon as possible. **Remember: August 15, 2000** is the deadline for submitting an application for meeting awards for the GSA annual meeting at Reno, NV.

Topical Sessions to Consider

Both individuals and groups, such as the Engineering Geology Division, propose topical sessions for consideration at the Annual Meeting. GSA's Joint Technical Program Committee decides on the sessions to accept and organizes the schedule at the meeting.

Two Abstract Deadlines for 2000

If you are submitting your abstract on a paper form, the deadline for submission is by **July 25, 2000**. If you are using electronic submission via the GSA website at www.geosociety.org, the deadline for submission is by **August 1, 2000**.

Topical sessions have one or more advocates who encourage submission of abstracts, organize the accepted abstracts, and, often, chair the session. A topical session will only take place at the annual meeting if a sufficient number of abstracts are submitted for it. If you notice a session in which you might have an abstract to contribute, be sure to submit an abstract and note the topical session number on the abstract form. Session type, ORAL or POSTER, is noted. If you have an abstract and do not find a topical session for it, just submit it for ENGINEERING GEOLOGY general session.

Communicating Geohazards Information Effectively (T61)

Advocates: Thomas C. Pierson and Scott E. Burns

Sometimes geohazard information and warnings conveyed by scientists are understood and heeded; sometimes they are not. Presenters will share insights and lessons learned about how hazard information can be effectively communicated to public officials and the general public. (ORAL)

Landslides: From the Summits to the Plains (T65)

Advocates: Duane A. Eversoll, Robert A. Larson, and Scott E. Burns

Landslides cause worldwide human and physical destruction, and their frequency increases annually. Many landslides are not identified until they become a problem to society. This session will include papers on activities to identify, document, and characterize landslides in all types of geological conditions and papers that outline landslide hazard mitigation efforts. (ORAL)

Landslide Risk Mapping and Database (T66)

Advocate: Hiromitsu Yamagishi

To predict landslide risk, maps of possible sliding slopes are necessary. However, the mapping of unstable slopes is variable, because there are many types of landsliding. In this session, we will discuss mapping methods, factors, and criteria for inventory for any type of landslide, and then discuss how to construct a database, including a method using GIS technology.

Land Subsidence, Earth Fissures, and Aquifer Mechanics (T67)

Advocates: Jiang Li, Zhuping Sheng, and Donald C. Helm

This session will explore the technical, environmental, legal, and social issues related to land subsidence and earth fissures caused by fluid withdrawal, and progress in the theoretical study of aquifer mechanics as well as its applications. (ORAL)

Joints and Other Discontinuities (T68)

Advocates: Judy Ehlen, Robert D. Jacobi, and Ken Hardcastle

Sophisticated modeling techniques integrated with field-based joint studies allow

cogent insights concerning the development and influence of joints and other discontinuities with respect to societal, e.g., contaminant transport and slope stability. This session provides a forum for presenting new developments in the study of joints and the application of new technologies. (ORAL)

Analysis of Active and Potentially Active Faults: Challenges and Case Histories (T69)

Advocates: Vincent S. Cronin and Keith A. Sverup

Are the geosciences providing adequate and timely recognition and characterization of earthquake hazards through fault-zone studies? This is a forum for case studies illustrating the scientific challenges of fault-zone studies and for considering whether the "science" of these studies is affected by societal pressures that diminish their quality and/or effectiveness. (ORAL)

High-Technology Tolls for Geologic Research and Practice (T70)

Advocate: John H. Kramer

Digital technologies continue to impact our science with new techniques for creating, portraying, analyzing, and viewing geological data. This session is dedicated to the new tools of our era, be they remote sensing, computerized digital field mapping, new analytical tools, or other modern techniques pioneered or used by earth scientists. (POSTER)

Regulatory Review: Using Science in the Public's Interest (T71)

Advocates: Greg K. Johnson and Robert A. Larson

This session will foster interdisciplinary discussion of the successful and unsuccessful methods of applying science to the process of regulatory review. How does the involvement of scientists benefit the public? Presentations regarding past practices, case histories, recently implemented processes, and the future directions of regulatory review are appropriate. (ORAL)

Academic Training of Engineering Geologists (T72)

Advocate: Terry R. West

Extensive technology changes have occurred in the past decade, some of which should be incorporated into engineering geology curricula. Geology professors have developed

ways to present ideas on this subject. Academics who teach engineering geologists can make valuable contributions on this subject. (ORAL)

Environmental Risk Assessments: Do they Benefit or Endanger the Public? (T73)

Advocates: Allen W. Hatheway and Robert A. Larson

This session will foster discussion of the appropriate methodology for environmental risk assessment and the impacts these assessments have on the public. Presenters should generally support one of three positions: (1) pro-risk assessment; (2) anti-risk assessment; or (3) means by which risk assessment can be made geologically realistic. (ORAL)

Environmental Restoration of Abandoned Mine Lands (T74)

Advocate: Syed E. Hasan

Remediation of lands at many abandoned mine locations across the country has led to development of new methods of characterization of site geology, nature and extent of contamination, and selection of appropriate remediation technologies. This session will be of special interest to earth scientist with a wide range of expertise. (ORAL)

Engineering Geology in the 19th Century (T75)

Advocate: Stephen M. Testa

Engineering geology in the 19th century is interlinked with Jefferson's fulfillment of Manifest Destiny by means of exploration and development of the U.S. far West. This session will explore the cross-disciplinary and multi-faceted engineering aspects associated with railroads, dams, mines, tunnels, and other structures, and the initial needs of growing communities and the military. (ORAL)

Seismic Hazard Analysis: From State of the Art to Standard Practice (T76)

Advocates: James E. Slosson and Robert A. Larson

State-of-the-art analysis of transient and permanent ground deformations resulting from earthquakes is gradually becoming standard practice. This session will explore this transition in professional practice. Improved applications of analyses, tied to cost-benefit studies, is required to better protect the public from the potential hazards of, and dollar losses from, liquefaction,

slope movements, tsunamis, and ground motion. (ORAL)

Remote Sensing and GIS in the New Millennium: The Use of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems in Surface Water, Groundwater, Soils, and Resource Issues. (T129)

Advocates: Norman S. Levine and Robert K. Vincent

This session will focus on the use of remote sensing and geographic information systems as a tool in environmental, engineering, and hydrogeological geology. Papers should focus on techniques related to the analysis, interpretation, and visualization of remote sensing and GIS data as well as data acquisition and management issues. (ORAL)

Remote Sensing and GIS in the New Millennium: The Use of Remote Sensing and GIS in Environmental and Engineering Projects: Case Studies in Evaluation, Remediation, Monitoring, and Modeling. (T130)

Advocates: Norman S. Levine and Robert K. Vincent

Papers should focus on application projects and case studies of the use of remote sensing and GIS in site evaluation, remediation, monitoring, and modeling.

Engineering Geology Division Luncheon

The EGD luncheon will be at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 15th. This informal gathering is an opportunity to honor our fellow professionals in environmental and engineering geology. Distinguished Practice, E. B. Burwell Jr. Memorial and other Division awards will be presented during the luncheon. Only a few tickets will be available at registration so please remember to get your tickets as part of your pre-registration package. The pre-registration deadline for the GSA Annual Meeting is October 6, 2000. The Fall issue of **The Engineering Geologist** will be announcing the names of awardees to be honored at this event.

Fieldtrips and Short Courses to Consider

Pre-meeting fieldtrips of particular interest to environmental and engineering geologists are:

Hydrologic and Geologic Characteristics of the Yucca Mountain Site Relevant to the Performance of a Potential Repository Friday-Sunday, November 10-12, Cost: \$220

Exploring the Lower Truckee River and Pyramid Lake Sunday, Nov. 11, Cost: \$75

Concurrent with the meeting:

Lake Tahoe Active Faults, Landslides, and Tsunamis Wednesday, Nov. 15, Cost: \$70

Post-meeting

Earthquakes, Surface Faulting, and Paleoseismology of the Central Nevada Seismic Belt: The Grand Tour Friday-Sunday, November 17-19, Cost: \$345.

Short Courses of interest to environmental and engineering geology include:

Science of Earthquakes: Earthquake Geology and Paleoseismology Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 11-12, Cost: \$370

Applications of Environmental Isotopes in Groundwater Studies Sunday, Nov. 12, Cost: \$340

Practical Methods in Applied Contaminant Geochemistry: From Characterization to Remediation Sunday, Nov. 12, Cost: \$300.