



The Official

Newsletter

of the Oregon Section Association of Engineering Geologists

Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Groundwater Geology

DECEMBER 2004 SECTION MEETING

GUEST: David W. Bieber, Geocon Consultants, Inc. & AEG President

PRESENTATION: Naturally Occurring Asbestos – Science and Politics

The topic of Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) is fraught with confusion and misconception. As geologists, we are squarely in the cross-hairs when it comes to both the science and politics of dealing with this issue. Many geologist's believe that the issue is a local one. However, NOA occurs around the world, and adverse health effects are attributed to it in a wide variety of settings. As a result geologists are on the front line for developing methods for assessing the presence of NOA and providing guidance to law makers on the control of NOA.

Do we need Geological Guidelines for the Investigation of NOA? In my opinion, the answer is yes, when dealing with NOA in the context of potential risk to health. Health risk related guidelines for the identification and geologic assessment for NOA were lacking or poorly developed prior to 2002. In addition, health risks related to exposure to NOA are poorly understood. However, based on the evidence from locations such as Libby, Montana, at least in some scenarios, NOA does present a genuine risk. Unfortunately, at least in California, parties with alternate agendas have obscured the few facts that are available regarding the risks from NOA. The alternate agendas run the

gambit from using NOA as a lever to stop all development in some areas, to parties claiming that all of the claims regarding potential risks are part of a mass conspiracy.

The Engineering Geologist is not a specialist in health risks, but does have training and expertise in the risk assessment process, specifically from the mitigation standpoint. For example, we analyze risk from earthquakes and landslides on a regular basis, and provide professional advice so that the potential hazards posed by

those risks can be mitigated. While the Engineering Geologist does not address health risks, he or she can address the likelihood of encounter-



ing NOA on a particular site, and whether NOA is likely to be liberated by onsite activities. The Engineering Geologist can also provide feedback for

effectively mitigating exposure to NOA through engineering controls, just as he or she can provide feedback on mitigating landslide or

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This Month's Meeting is on Tuesday December 14

Madison's Grill & Catering
1109 SE Madison Ave.
Portland, OR 97214
(503.230.2471)

6:00 pm Social
 7:00 pm Dinner
 8:00 pm Presentation

\$20.00 dinner (\$10.00 for students)

Pasta bar including chicken & salad
 (Green salad with dressing choice,

Penne pasta, Seasoned chicken,
 Steamed vegetables, Fresh tomato
 and basil marinara, Sundried tomato
 cream sauce, Bread stick, Holiday
 cookie)

Call 503-639-3400, or email
 <glenda.christman@amec.com>
 with "AEG Reservations" in the
 subject line, by 4 pm Thurs. Dec. 9.
 There is a \$2.00 surcharge for those
 who do not reserve by the deadline,
 so call now!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I'm looking forward to this month's presentation by AEG President, David Bieber. He will be speaking on the Science and Politics of Naturally Occurring Asbestos. The mix of science and politics always makes for frustrating work and interesting presentations. I hope you can join us, and meet this year's AEG President.

Dave Bieber is a fellow geo-

physicist (although currently doing more engineering geology) presently working with Geocon Consultants, Inc. outside Sacramento. He brings a lot of enthusiasm to the AEG as we begin implementation of our Strategic Plan to expand the organization and increase our involvement in the larger community. Community involvement includes working with regulatory,

educational, political and social groups.

I'll see you Tuesday, December 14 at the Madison's Grill. If not, have a great Holiday season and I'll see you next year. How time flies!

Also, if you have not already, please renew your 2005 membership!

Rowland French
AEG Oregon Section Chair

PSU AEG STUDENT CHAPTER

New officers were recently elected to the PSU student chapter of AEG and will serve until fall of 2005. The three officers are all graduate students of the PSU Geology Dept. and include Alex Benavides (secretary), Nathan Smith (vice president) and Hiram Henry (president). Past president, Soren Clark, will continue to be assist the

new officers. Upstanding AEG citizens are cautioned to be wary of these sly miscreants.

The student chapter will continue to organize regular student meetings at PSU, field trips and brown-bag lectures, presented by both student and non-student speakers. Planning and preparation is

underway for the annual Student Poster Night this coming spring. As usual, individual posters will highlight research work of both graduate and undergraduate students, accompanied by good food and free beer!

Hiram Henry
PSU AEG Student Chapter President

OREGON SECTION OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Chair: Rowland French, Northwest Geophysical Associates, Inc., (541)757-7231, rowland@nga.com



Chair-Elect: Brent Black, Cornforth Consultants, Inc., (503)452-1100, bblack@cornforthconsultants.com



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Treasurer: Matt Brunengo, (503) 534-0414, mbrunengo@aol.com



Past-Chair: Warren Krager, PSI, Inc., (503) 978-4727, wkrager@aol.com



PSU Student Chapter President: Hiram Henry, hiramhenry@hotmail.com

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Program Co-Chair: Lisa Glonek, AMEC, lisa.glonek@amec.com

Membership Chair: open



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History Chair: George Freitag, GRI, Inc., (503) 641-3478, gfreitag@gri.com



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Continuing Ed. Liaison: Andrew Harvey, PBS Environmental, andrew_harvey@pbsenv.com

NEWS ITEMS

AEG Section and Student Chapter Support Committee

In response to the member survey conducted in January 2004, AEG has formed a Section and Chapter Support Committee (S/CSC) to develop new methods to actively assist Sections and Chapters and their programs. This is a key component of the Strategic Plan recently approved by your Board of Directors. The S/CSC will work to address Goal II of the Strategic Plan. You can review the Strategic Plan goals in the June 2004 issue of AEG News, Vol. 47, No. 2. The committee consists of 10 people from AEG Sections and Chapters throughout the country. Ruth Wilmoth (Columbia Geotechnical) is on the committee, and

Drew Harvey (PBS Engineering and Environmental) is serving as committee chair. Two immediate tasks have been initiated: 1) Developing a clearinghouse of program information to give Sections and Chapters ideas for speakers and presentations, and 2) Developing training/orientation programs for chairpersons and officers both in their work as a Board member and roles within their sections.

The S/CSC is in the process of talking with all Section and Chapter chairpersons to get information on their successful programs, meetings, speakers and other events, and their use of officer duty guidelines. The S/CSC welcomes any input from present and past Section officers, and

any other members, in helping the committee do our best in addressing these first goals. Please feel free to contact Drew Harvey at (503) 417-7693; andrew_harvey@pbsenv.com

AEG Oregon Section Website Seeks Sponsors:

The Board is pleased to announce the opportunity for corporate sponsorship of our Oregon Section website <www.aegoregon.org>. Companies can have their name, logo, and link to their website displayed on the Oregon Section website for a nominal fee of \$100 per year. Benefits of sponsorship include high visibility within the AEG community and support of the AEG section. Email George Freitag (gfreitag@gri.com) if interested or for more information.

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seismic risks through engineering controls. However, in order to effectively manage NOA, geologic guidelines for the investigation of NOA that address potential exposure are needed.

The traditional asbestos assessment methods used were developed either for assessment of refined asbestos in industrial settings, or for the economic assessment of naturally occurring deposits for minerals exploitation. The application of the minerals exploration assessment method runs the risk of underestimating NOA since the method is intended to identify occurrences, which by their nature, have a volume of tens of thousands of tons of geologically concentrated asbestiform material. The use of industrial assessment methods run the risk of overestimating NOA since they look at total asbestos present, but do not factor in geologic occurrence.

Health risk related geologic guidelines for the investigation and assessment of NOA are necessary to

assure protection of individuals in areas where NOA materials are present and may be disturbed. Guidelines should address site-geology and site-use specific factors so that the results can be tied into exposure risk. The mere presence of NOA on a site does not pose a risk unless the material can become respirable.

Several scientific and government groups are currently developing such guidelines.

David's Bio:

David Bieber is the Geological Services Manager for Geocon Consultants, Inc. in Rancho Cordova, California and a member of the Sacramento Section. David is a California Registered Geologist, Registered Geophysicist, Certified Engineering Geologist, and Certified Hydrogeologist, as well as a Wyoming Registered Professional Geologist. His current areas of



professional practice include naturally occurring asbestos, abandoned mine land assessment, and the provision of integrated geological support for active construction projects.

David received a Bachelor of Science degree in Pathobiology with a minor in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Connecticut, finished his undergraduate geology studies at the Colorado School of Mines, and received a Master of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Colorado.

AEG OREGON CALENDAR

Jan 18: Gary Irwin, West Side CSO, Joint Meeting with ASCE Geotech

Feb 15: Ryan Shelby, Geo-Tech Explorations, Drilling Methods

Mar 22: Matt Rea, US Army Corps, Willamette River Basin Management

Apr 19: Student Night at PSU

May 17: Jeff Keaton, subject TBA

Sept. 17-25: 2005 AEG Annual Meeting - "Under the Neon" in Las Vegas, Nevada, Abstract deadline: May 1, 2005.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OREGON AEG!

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scriptions are free.

News items are invited and should be sent to: Charlie Hammond, OR Section AEG Newsletter Editor, Cornforth Consultants, 10250 SW Greenburg Road, Portland, OR 97223, email: <or.aeg.news@cornforthconsultants.com>,

phone (503) 452-1100. Electronic media is preferred. Deadline for submittal is Friday three weeks before each meeting.

Please notify Charlie if you have a change to your email or mailing address.

WWW.AEGOREGON.ORG & WWW.AEGWEB.ORG
