

2018 Earthquakes Committee Report

Name of Committee: Earthquakes

Chair: Lelio Mejia

Vice Chair: Jack Montgomery

YP Vice Chair: Zahra Amini

2018 Activities and Accomplishments:

The Committee continued to actively work on its objectives of a) promoting the seismic safety of dams and the development of knowledge on seismic analysis and design of dams, and b) supporting the ICOLD Committee on Seismic Aspects of Dam Design. The Committee met twice during 2018: in person during the USSD Annual Meeting in Miami, and by telephone in October. The committee added 3 new members in 2018 and its roster now stands at 36. The membership includes representatives of private, government, and academic entities from the United States and Canada.

The Committee worked on four initiatives intended to develop and disseminate knowledge on dam seismic design. One of them was to sponsor the workshop on seismic analysis of concrete dams, held during the 2018 USSD Annual Meeting. The other three are in progress, as follows: 1) update of guidelines for the selection of earthquake ground motion parameters of dams (which were last updated by the Committee in 1999), 2) development of guidelines for the seismic design and evaluation of structures appurtenant to dams, and 3) development of guidelines for the seismic deformation analysis of embankment dams. In addition, the Chair attended the 2018 meeting of the ICOLD Committee on Seismic Aspects of Dam Design in Vienna, Austria. The Committee also contributed significantly to the planning of the 2019 USSD Annual Meeting in Chicago.

2019 Plans and Goals:

The Committee is continuing work on its three standing initiatives and is nearing completion of the first one. In addition, the Committee is co-sponsoring, together with the Concrete Dams Committee, a workshop on the Seismic Analysis of Concrete Dams during the 2019 USSD Annual Meeting. The Committee will be holding an in-person meeting also during the USSD Annual Meeting, and a second meeting later in the year. In addition, the Committee will continue to support the ICOLD Seismic Committee and will participate in the 2019 ICOLD Congress in Ottawa.