News of the Institute

EERI Dispatches Team to Investigate M 8.1 Quake near Guam

With support from the National Science Foundation, an EERI team of five scientists and engineers flew to Guam to investigate the effects of the August 8, 1993, earthquake. Centered about 55 miles northeast of Agana, the 8.1 magnitude quake, occurring at 6:35 p.m. local time, was felt strongly on Guam and Saipan.

Several hotels were seriously damaged, including the Grand Hotel and the Royal Palms, which both suffered collapse of at least one story. Early reports said that 37 homes on the south part of the island, which encompasses the naval base, required evacuation. As of August 12, only 48 people have been reported injured.

The airport was not damaged, but lateral spreading in the port area put many harbor facilities out of action. Early dispatches from the EERI team noted significant amounts of localized liquefaction.

The team is led by Craig Comartin, Consultant (Structural Engineer). Other members are: A. Gerald Brady, U.S. Geological Survey (Civil Engineer/Strong Motion Studies); James Hengesh, Dames & Moore (Senior Geologist); Dennis Ostrom, So. California Edison (Consulting Engineer/Industrial Facilities); and M. Saaid Saaidi, Univ. of Nevada (Civil Engineer/ Bridges). Dames & Moore offered their office in Sinajara, Guam, as a contact location for the EERI team.

News of the Institute

EERI Reconnaissance Team Reports on Japan Quake

The preliminary EERI reconnaissance report on the July 12, 1993, magnitude 7.8 Hokkaido-nansei-oki earthquake is being published as a special edition of the newsletter and will be mailed directly to EERI members later this week. Comprehensive reconnaissance reports and other in-depth postearthquake studies will be published in Spectra, as part of EERI's Learning from Earthquakes project.

The four members of the EERI team, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, were Les Hould (team leader), Brigham Young University; Paul Somerville, Woodward-Clyde Consultants; Jane Preuss, Urban Regional Research; and Charles Scawthorn, EQE Engineering. The EERI team was part of a 12-person U.S. team coordinated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Logistics in Japan were organized through the U.S.-Japan Panel on Wind and Seismic Effects.

EERI organized two postearthquake briefings which were held in Pasadena and San Francisco in late August. EERI team members presented their initial findings on the causes, effects, and impacts of the earthquake, tsunami, and fire at these briefings.

Special Session on Japan Quake Planned for 5NCEE

The Local Organizing Committee for the Fifth National Conference on Earthquake Engineering (5NCEE) is planning to hold a special, concurrent session at the July 1994 national conference on the Hokkaido-nansei-oki earthquake and tsunami.

Abstracts based on reconnaissance observations of the earthquake are sought by October 15, 1993. Full papers will not be required. In an effort to feature as many speakers as possible at the 5NCEE, the Organizing Committee is limiting each presenter to a single paper. However, you may participate in this special session even if you are already presenting a paper on another topic.

To submit an abstract, send eight copies of a one-page abstract, with your full name, mailing address, work phone, and fax number to: Neil Hawkins, Civil Eng. Dept., NCEI, Univ. of Illinois, 205 N. Mathews, Urbana, IL 61801-2397 by October 15, 1993.