Comments on behalf of FEMA

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FEMA activities related to Codes and Standards

• Development of P 695 methodology for improving Code R factors
• NEHRP Provisions Update Committee
  • Updates NEHRP Provisions which is used as source for ASCE 7
  • Several Issue Teams working on various code improvements
    • One is clarifying code performance intent including considerations of economic losses and downtime
    • One is identifying lessons from recent earthquake that may indicate code changes: Haiti, Chile, Baja CA, Christchurch, Japan, Virginia
      • Immediate obvious lessons
      • Potential changes needing research
    • Most code changes require additional study before they can be implemented
    • Some changes will only become apparent after additional study or research is completed.
Other FEMA activity

• Existing Buildings
  • Support for update of ASCE 31 and 41
  • Support for individual project to provide improved evaluation and retrofit standards for existing buildings. E.g.
    • Weak story wood frame apartment buildings
    • Older concrete buildings
  • Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Structures-Design Guidelines

Unofficial FEMA Comments

• FEMA (I suppose) is anxious to encourage/assist with implementation of lessons learned from recent events, particularly Chile, Christchurch, and Japan.
• This workshop has indicated that these events can yield an extraordinary volume of data applicable to US design practice.
• FEMA encourages (I suppose) all additional study of data or research stemming from the results of these events.