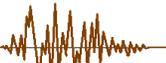


Welcome to the first of what we hope will be regular SQUG Newsletters. The goal is to provide an informal forum to communicate SQUG news and happenings a few times a year between meetings to let you know what's up in SQUGland.

We encourage you to send back your comments and thoughts so that we can make this as valuable as possible. We also encourage you to pass along information you would like to have included in the Newsletter to share with your fellow SQUGers. So now, on with the news...

SER Update



Happily, we're almost done with A-46! As of mid-October, 34 out of 36 SERs have been completed and received by utilities. Just as importantly, they all look good.

The two SERs left are Indian Point 2 and North Anna 1 & 2. They have been delayed due to more pressing issues at the plants. We know SQUGers might find that hard to believe but it happens. These last two SERs have been completed by the Mechanical Branch and are expected to be sent to the utilities soon.

If you recently received your SER, take a look and see if it says you have to submit your completion letter BEFORE you can adopt the GIP for NARE. This requirement slipped into the Pilgrim SER. It should not (and so far has not) been a requirement in anyone else's SER. In Pilgrim's case, it isn't a significant problem so we're going to let it slide as is.

Completion Letter Thoughts



Several members have asked what they should say in their completion letter. To help, we offer the following thoughts.

The idea for submitting a Completion Letter came up long ago during negotiations with the NRC on final GIP acceptance. At the time, the staff was having trouble knowing when utilities finished work associated with generic programs. As a part of the give and take in negotiating the GIP, SQUG agreed to include a requirement to have each plant tell the NRC when all of the outliers were resolved.

The intent of this requirement was for each plant to provide a simple letter which states that all the corrective actions identified in the

Summary Report (or agreed to with the NRC staff as a result of other correspondence) were completed. If you did something different than you told the NRC in your Summary Report (i.e. used a different resolution method), the Completion Letter should explain that to the NRC. Otherwise, it should be a **simple letter** letting the NRC know that you finished what you said you were going to do.

An example of a Completion Letter (courtesy of FirstEnergy) following these guidelines is included on the SQUG web site at the following address:

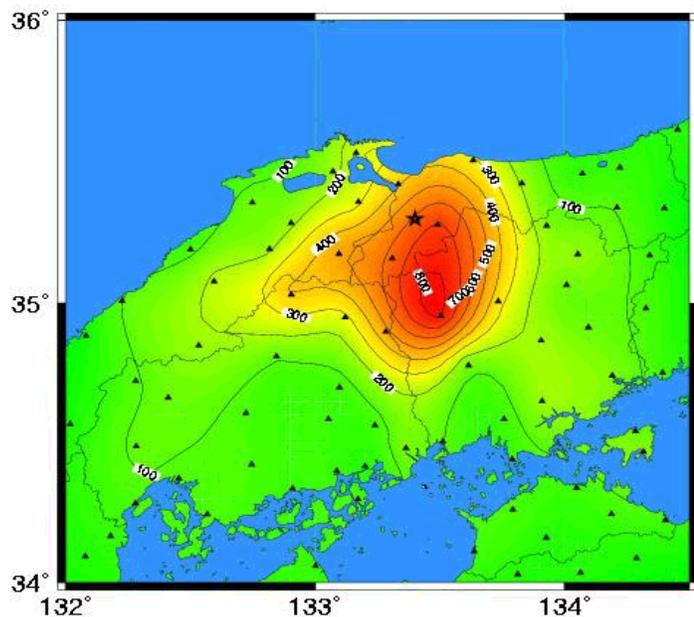
<http://squgweb.mpr.com/private/16.2-Corresp2/files/000717.pdf>

Recent Earthquakes



One ongoing SQUG activity that frequently happens in the background is the review of recent earthquakes to see if we need to perform detailed investigations. You may not know it, but there were eleven Magnitude 7 or larger earthquakes around the world so far this year.

For example, a big quake (M6.7) occurred in Japan on October 6. Fortunately for us, EQE usually sends a team very quickly to investigate these types of earthquakes in support of their other businesses. (Check out their investigation of this earthquake at www.eqe.com.) Often their preliminary investigations, along with other sources of info, help determine if SQUG needs to investigate an earthquake (large magnitude, high accelerations, industrial facilities near



PGA Map, Courtesy of Kyoshin Net

the epicenter, able to achieve access to the facilities, etc.).

In the case of the October 6 earthquake, it doesn't look like the accelerations were high enough to be of value to SQUG. We are still looking to see if it might be possible to get recordings from the nearby Shimane Nuclear Power Plant, but that is usually difficult. You may not hear any more from SQUG about this earthquake but you should know that we review the big ones on a regular basis.

NARE Training & Workshop

The November NARE training is looking popular! At this point 30 people have signed up for the training and 15 people have signed up for the follow-up workshop. This terrific response reflects member's increasing desire to use the GIP for NARE.

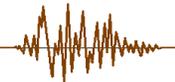
If you missed the announcement, the training will be on November 15 and 16 in Atlanta and the Workshop will follow on November 17. For hotel details and last minute applications to the course or workshop, contact Dave Freed (703-519-0200, dfreed@mpr.com) or Patrick Butler (703-519-0242, pbutler@mpr.com). No promises but we'll try to accommodate everyone that's interested!

NARE Review Panel

Several people have signed up to work on the NARE review panel and we're thrilled with their response! We believe this will be a valuable experience for these members and result in a good product for the SQUG organization.

We've had a few administrative challenges getting this started and we'd like to apologize to the NERP volunteers for not getting it going quicker. One thought might be to have a NERP kickoff meeting the second afternoon of the SQUG Winter meeting in Las Vegas. Nothing has been decided but we'd like to get the group started and that sure looks like a good opportunity. You should be hearing from us soon.

SQUG Winter Meeting



Speaking of the Winter meeting, you should have already seen the meeting announcement but just in case you haven't ... the SQUG Winter meeting will be December 4-5 at the Monte Carlo hotel in Las Vegas (Reservations: 800-311-8999 or 702-730-7777 under the meeting name XEPRI, problems? contact Ms. Alex Philby directly at 800-311-5999 x 7346).

We will be sending out an agenda soon but the general flavor will be to:

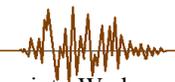
- report to the members what was done on the year 2000 tasks,
- discuss the 2001 tasks and get members' approval for those activities and budgets, and
- discuss the overall scope of the 2002 activities in preparation for developing the 2002 SQUG funding request.

Wrapped around those business decisions will be the technical and administrative discussions necessary to understand the activities and allow members to provide direction to the Steering Group.

If you have any particular topics you would like to have discussed that the meeting please let us know.

We'd like to encourage you to make every effort to attend the meeting. Your input is vital to making sure we perform the right tasks to support your needs.

That's It



Well that's all the news that's fit to print. We hope you find this of value. If you have any comments, thoughts, or contributions for this Newsletter, please let us know.

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