

Welcome to the first SQUG/SEQUAL Newsletter of 2004. As you head into summer, here's a brief update on SQUG/SEQUAL related news. We hope that you find these Newsletters informative and useful.

John Richards
SQUG/SEQUAL Chairman

NERP Evaluations

We have posted the first four NERP Evaluations on the SQUG/SEQUAL Web site (<http://squgweb.mpr.com>). From the home page, click on the **NARE** link on the left and then the **examples** link in the last paragraph. The following NERP Evaluations are posted for your use:

1. Pump, Siemens (2BE1152)
2. Damper, Johnson Controls (COPBS-150x300)
3. Pressure Gauge, Ashcroft (60-1379SS-02L-60)
4. Pressure Regulator, Fisher (95H: ½" NPT, Cast Steel Body)

The NERP Evaluations are in the member's only portion of the web site so you'll need your ID and password to get past the home page.

The next three NERP Evaluations for three different Hoffman Panels will be posted this summer.

In addition, the NERP team is collecting info for evaluations on a Cable Tray

System and two subcomponents (a transformer in a Battery Charger and a Johnson Controls Actuator).

Please contact Don Moore at dpmoore@southernco.com or 205-992-6672 if you have any additional information or ideas to offer on NERP.

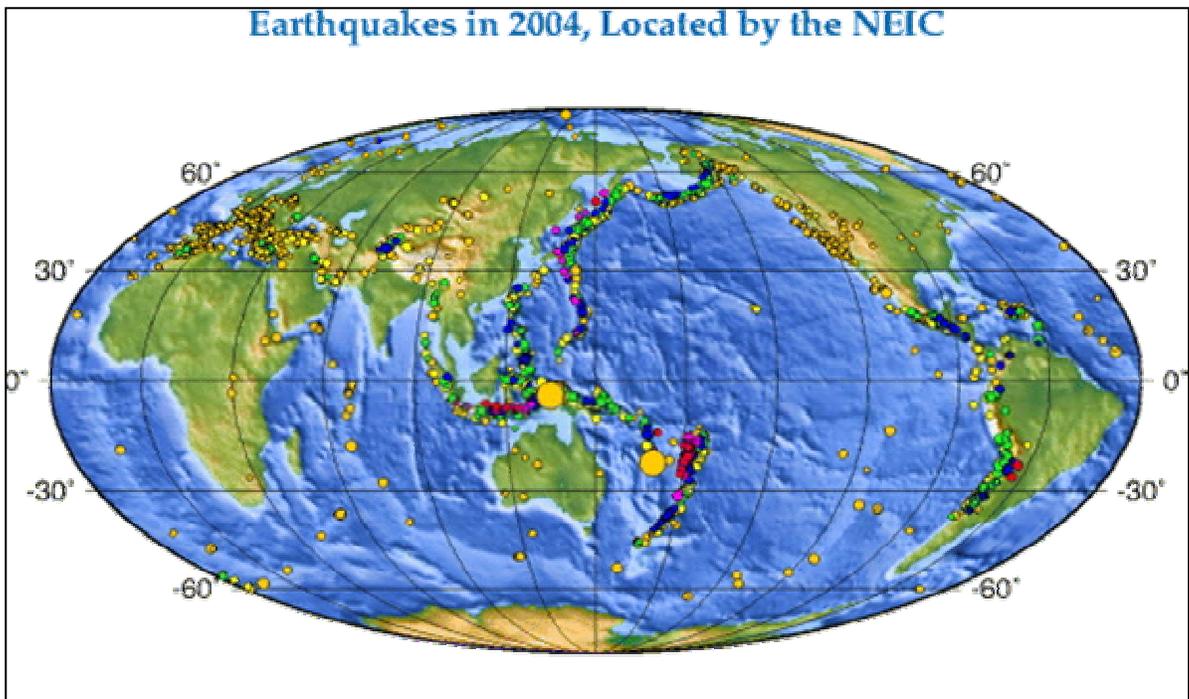
2004 Earthquakes

As usual, there have been lots of earthquakes so far this year. Also as usual, there have only been a few that were significant and only one or two of those in the U.S. The diagram below is from the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) National Earthquake Information Center (<http://neic.usgs.gov/>) and shows all

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Earthquakes in 2004, Located by the NEIC



of the earthquakes they've identified so far this year. Each dot represents an earthquake. The diameter of the dot represents the magnitude and the color represents the depth. You can see that most of the earthquakes occurred in a ring around the Pacific Ocean and in a strip through the Middle East. Some of the more significant earthquakes are noted below.

Morocco

A 6.4M earthquake occurred in the port city of Al Hoceima on the north coast of Morocco on February 24, 2004. It was a very shallow earthquake in a populated area that lead to over 600 deaths. There were reports of widespread damage to unreinforced mud brick and stone structures and concrete apartment buildings. Ground cracks and landslides were observed in some areas and a maximum horizontal acceleration of 0.24g was recorded in the nearby town of Imzourene.

Papua Indonesia

Several large earthquakes occurred in Indonesia with the first being a 7.0M earthquake on February 5, 2004 followed by a 7.3M earthquake 2 days later and a 6.5M the day after that. All three earthquakes took place within about 50 miles of each other in

a remote region of Indonesia. There were reports of about 40 deaths and damage to roads and bridges but considering the size of the earthquakes, that was relatively minor.

North West Wyoming

The NEIC lists only two "significant or noteworthy" earthquakes in the U.S. so far this year and they are both in North West Wyoming. A 5.0M earthquake occurred on January 7, 2004 and a 4.0M earthquake occurred on April 7, 2004. No significant damage was reported from either earthquake so perhaps they weren't that significant or noteworthy after all.

GIP/NARE Awareness Training

At the Winter meeting we discussed the idea of creating a ½ day GIP/NARE Awareness Training course that could be presented to a broad range of plant personnel by a utility subject matter expert. We are working on a plan for that training and expect to have a draft for review near the end of the year. If you would like to participate on a review group for the GIP/NARE Awareness Training materials, please contact John Richards by e-mail or phone as

provided at the end of this Newsletter.

SCE Walkdown Training Instructor's Guide

We've been working on an update to the SCE Walkdown Training Instructor's Guide. The update would help instructors focus the DVD training videos on the issues more pertinent to our current applications of the GIP.

Dick Starck and Pat Butler have prepared a draft of the revised material based on recommendations from a working group. The updates include:

- crossing out old material (but not removing because the slides are still on the video), and
- adding references to locations where the current information is maintained.

Paul Baughman is testing out the improved Instructor's Guide in SCE training he is providing at the Bruce Power Plant in Ontario. Following that pilot application, we'll make any necessary adjustments and distribute the updated material to our members on CDs. We'll also post the updated information on the SQUG/SEQUAL web site although; the files are LARGE so it would take a while to download.

Relay Evaluation Training

Recently we have received requests from a few members for the Lead Relay Reviewer Training. That course has not been taught in many years. We're trying to determine if there are enough students for a class so if you have an interest in sending someone to that training, please contact John Richards by e-mail or

G.E. IAC66K Relay GERS Advisory

On June 8th we sent an advisory to current and former SQUG Member Representative and Alternates describing an error in the GERS capacity for the General Electric IAC66K relay. The operate and non-operate capacities for one of the relay subcomponents were swapped in EPRI Report NP-7147, Volume 2, Addendum 2, April 1995. As explained in the notice, this is a complicated relay and the contact in question is in series with another contact in the relay; therefore, this error it is unlikely to significantly impact your A-46 resolution.

In any case, informing all of our present and former members of this error was the proper thing to do. We are also reviewing the other relay GERS reports to identify any similar errors. If your utility's SQUG Rep or Alternate and did not receive the Advisory, please contact John Richards.

phone as provided at the end of this Newsletter.

HVAC Guideline

Last year we issued the HVAC Evaluation Guideline. When we issued the Guideline, we did not seek NRC endorsement but offered to support a member when they chose to use it.

Don Moore is using the Guideline for an application at Southern Company. They obtained a peer review of the Guideline and anticipate submitting the Guideline to the NRC for review. The Steering Group has agreed to support Southern's application and we expect to update the Guideline using the lessons learned from the peer review and pilot application.

SEQUAL Update

At the Winter Meeting, we noted that we'd be working on SEQUAL options early this year so that we could make plans for future activities at our April 2004 Steering Group meeting.

In April, we had an extensive discussion on SEQUAL covering the technical issues, regulatory issues, strategies, options, and opportunities for success.

At this point there does not seem to be a cost efficient strategy with a reasonable opportunity for success. While we strongly believe the SEQUAL Experienced-Based Seismic Qualification Method is an acceptable qualification method in accordance with Part 100 Appendix A, the NRC staff has a number of issues that would be VERY

8th NRC/ASME Symposium on Valve & Pump Testing

You might want to put the 8th NRC/ASME Symposium on Valve and Pump Testing on your calendars. It will be July 12 to 14, 2004, in Washington, DC, at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel.

Why, do you ask, would you be so interested in valve and pump testing? Because there will be several papers on the new ASME QME experience-based seismic qualification criteria written by familiar authors such as Tim Adams, Dick Starck, Paul Baughman, Don Moore, and John Richards. If you're interested in hearing about the criteria being rolled into the new ASME QME Standard (and IEEE 344) you might want to attend. Check it out at:

<http://www.asme.org/cns/departments/nuclear/8symposium/index.shtml>.

expensive to resolve to their satisfaction. Therefore, we haven't found a way to achieve approval of the SEQUAL method that would be a good business decision for SEQUAL plants.

It appears that the best opportunities for SEQUAL are to select individual applications at non-A-46 plants and seek approval for those applications via License Amendment Requests. Over time, those applications could build a case for broader approval of the method.

In addition, the revised ASME QME and IEEE 344 Standards (see article

below) offer opportunities for experience-based seismic qualification at newer plants. We will have to wait to see what the NRC says in their revision of Reg. Guide 1.100, but the current draft Standards offer reasonable opportunities for use of experience-based methods for seismic qualification of equipment.

Therefore, we will continue to explore options and potential strategies for SEQUAL's success but we will not request dues for SEQUAL activities.

SQUG/SEQUAL Web Site

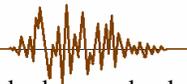
By now we hope you've tried out the new and improved SQUG/SEQUAL web site.

It has much of the same information as the old web site but in a new format that should make things easier to find. There are a number of areas that are still "under development" and we're working on prioritizing what should be filled in this year.

If you don't see what you're looking for, please contact Dick Starck at rstarck@mpr.com or (703) 519-0200.



ASME QME & IEEE 344 Standards

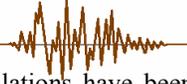


Both of these Standards are slowly, but surely grinding their way to completion. And believe me, those of us working on them can hardly wait!

You may remember that ASME QME ran into a problem just as it was about to head out the door. Fortunately, the problems are mostly administrative and it is still expected to be officially revised next year.

The latest draft of IEEE 344 passed its ballot earlier this year with 87% of the ballots returned and 87% of those ballots voting to approve. There are a number of comments the Working Group needs to respond to but the vote can't get any worse than the numbers above – which is more than the 75% necessary for approval. The Working Group is scheduling one last meeting and the Standard is expected to be published by the end of the year.

RISC-3 Special Treatment Requirements



Risk Informed regulations have been mentioned numerous times in these Newsletters and our Winter Meetings. You may remember that under the proposed 10 CFR 50.69, RISC-3 is the category of equipment that is Safety Related (as defined in your license) but Not Safety Significant (e.g., low contribution to core damage as determined by your PRA).

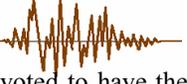
Several activities are currently underway within EPRI to develop “Special Treatment” guidance for these RISC-3 items. In general terms, “Special Treatment” is the extra stuff you have to do for Nuclear equipment beyond what would normally be done for commercial applications. One Working Group was formed under the EPRI Plant Support Engineering (PSE) Committee to develop a RISC-

3 Environmental Qualification Guideline. They have had several meetings and are well on their way to finalizing their Guideline. You can contact Gary Toman at gtoman@epri.com or (704) 547-6073 for additional information.

Another Working Group was formed under the EPRI Structural Reliability & Integrity program to develop a RISC-3 Seismic Qualification Guideline. They have also had several meetings and are making good progress on their guideline. The current plans are to lean toward STERI like criteria for components and GIP/NARE like criteria for assemblies. They are also considering an approach based on ASCE 7. You can contact Bob Kassawara by e-mail or phone as provided at the end of this Newsletter for additional information on the RISC-3 Seismic Guideline.

In addition, a Steering Committee has been formed to prepare a 10 CFR 50.69 Implementation Guideline for Special Treatment of SSCs. That Guideline should provide some overall guidance for Special Treatment under the new rule and tie everything else together. Contact Pat O'Regan at poregan@epri.com or (508) 497-5045 for additional information on that guideline.

Winter Meeting

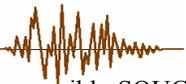


Last December you voted to have the 2004 Winter meeting in Las Vegas or Phoenix. Bob Kassawara was able to get us a pretty good deal at a beautiful hotel just outside Phoenix so ...

Mark your calendars for the 2004 SQUG/SEQUAL Winter meeting on December 8 through 10, 2004 at the Hyatt Gainey Ranch Resort in Scottsdale Arizona (just outside of Phoenix). The meeting will start at 1:00pm on the 8th and end at noon on the 10th. We'll send out an official

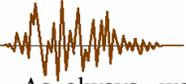
meeting notice with additional information closer to the meeting. In the mean time, you can check out the hotel at <http://scottsdale.hyatt.com>. We hope you'll be able to join us to receive updates on our activities, network with your peers, and help us steer the organization to best meet your needs.

International SCE Training



We are working on a possible SQUG Seismic Capability Engineer (SCE) Walkdown Training session to be held in France this fall. Plans are still tentative but if you are interested in attending, please contact Greg Hardy at GHardy@absconsulting.co or +001 714 734-4242.

In Closing



That's it for now. As always, we hope you find this Newsletter valuable and that it helps keep you up to date on our SQUG/SEQUAL activities. If you have any comments, thoughts, or contributions for the Newsletters, please let us know.

We hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe summer!



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