

Seismic Network/Information Upgrade

The USGS has begun a series of planning meetings to design the scope of work required to upgrade the west coast seismic networks. Two meetings were held at the USGS Menlo Park office in November to begin developing the list of technological issues that need to be solved to meet the performance standards written into the initiative. The major technological issue is telecommunications. The USGS and the regional seismic network operators (University of Washington and University of Alaska) are in agreement that developing a seismic system that takes advantage of both current telecommunication options and is easily (and cheaply) upgraded to promising new technologies is the key to project success.

The overall seismic network upgrade effort will be managed by David Oppenheimer of the USGS in Menlo Park. David has been the lead seismologist on the Northern California seismic network and wrote the upgrade plan for this network that was partly incorporated into the tsunami initiative. The USGS and the university network operators will submit a single scope of work to NOAA sometime in late January 1997 that details first year goals, products to be delivered, and a breakout of efforts for year 2 and the years.

The USGS has stressed that one of the first products to be delivered will be real-time seismic information to those partnership states currently lacking this capability. The University of Washington and the USGS will deliver the first such system to Oregon Emergency Management in January 1997. Once these systems are in place the USGS and the regional network operators will rely on the state agencies' comments to help improve the delivery of real-time seismic information.