



Society for Risk Analysis New England Chapter

Presidents' Message - March 2007

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NEWSLETTER

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Dear SRA-New England Members:

I'd like to thank Dr. José Figueira for his presentation in February on recent trends in multi-criteria decision-making, Dr. Igor Linkov for working to set up that meeting and ICF International for making their very comfortable meeting room in Lexington available for the meeting.

The next meeting of the organization will be our annual joint assemblage with the Massachusetts Licensed Site Professionals Association in Waltham, MA on Thursday, April 12 at 6 pm. Dr. Jo Anne Shatkin and Mr. Don Cooper, Esq. will speak on "**A Case Study of Arsenic Regulations by a Local Board of Health Regarding Redevelopment in a Former Orchard.**"

Note that this will be our second meeting in a row located in the Route 128 area, so we look forward to seeing all of you who work outside of the downtown core and who ask for more convenient meetings closer to your work locations.

I am in the planning stages of a final meeting for the year in early June with a discussant panel on some aspect of implementation of cancer risk guidelines and children's susceptibilities and early life stage exposures. More details will be forthcoming in May.

Please note that we have not yet been able to get our web site up-to-date and may temporarily disable it if we can't get to updating soon.

Sincerely,

Michael Hutcheson, President



Society for Risk Analysis New England Chapter

NE SRA/LSPA Joint April Seminar Thursday, April 12, 2007

6:00 PM Registration, Cocktails & Networking
6:15 PM Welcome, LSPA Business
6:45 PM Joint LSPA/SRA Meeting

LOCATION: Westin Hotel, Waltham, MA

Exit 27A off Route 128

(directions at: <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/area/directions.html?propertyID=1036>)

A Case Study of Arsenic Regulations by a Local Board of Health Regarding Redevelopment in a Former Orchard

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Abstract: A proposed mixed-use residential subdivision on over 100 acres of land in Central Massachusetts is on a former orchard, historically which had been treated with arsenical pesticides. The town is within a known area of high naturally occurring arsenic in soils. Under subdivision development rules in Massachusetts the planning board seeks advice from the local board of health on matters of public health. The board of health recommends to the planning board whether a development has public health issues and, if it does, conditions the development to mitigate those issues. Arsenic from pesticides applied in accordance with the directions on their label is not considered a release and is therefore not subject to the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Further, contaminants present at background levels are determined not to pose a risk to health. Consequently, the DEP Hazardous Waste Clean Up Regulations, known as the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, are not binding on a board of health. This Board of Health required extensive testing of the soils and subsoils on the site, resulting in one of the most intensely studied orchards. Equally intensive were the risk assessment analyses performed to study background conditions and assess risk under residential use. The conclusions of these tests and analyses further the knowledge of arsenic in these situations. Equally interesting are the Board of Health's attempts to devise remediation standards which it felt adequately protected the future residents of the subdivision from the perceived threat of arsenic in a town with naturally high occurring arsenic levels. The subdivision was eventually approved, conditioned on a remediation plan, the cost of which to develop and implement will be discussed in relation to the risk reduction achieved and, in contrast, what would have been achieved through application of the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, had it been applied.



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COURSES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

“Earthquake Insight Field Trip” for Non-Scientists - May 31-June 1, 2007

An intensive two-day field trip is being planned to show key leaders in business and policy exactly what they need to know about earthquakes – and the risks they pose – in the central US. This field trip is especially designed for non-scientists who have a leadership role in **portfolio management, equity development, valuation, risk management, finance**, strategic planning, insurance, infrastructure, land-use planning, continuity planning, business operations, energy, logistics and distribution, business media, or public policy.

The US Geological Survey recently authorized geologist Phyllis Steckel to develop a field trip for private-sector executives and policy-makers. The field trip will start and end in Memphis, Tenn. It is planned for Thursday, May 31, and Friday, June 1, 2007. One key purpose of the field trip is to show how business operations, commercial networks, transportation systems, communities, and communications will be affected by future earthquakes.

More than a dozen active researchers in geoscience and earthquake engineering will travel with the group and make presentations along the way. The field trip will also offer an opportunity for exchange between the research community and real-world business practice.

Participants will also gain insight into earthquake-risk management solutions that are currently available, but not often used, in the central US. For example, earthquake-resistant design is often omitted from new construction in the region because of widespread misconception that it adds cost to development. Field trip participants will learn that prudent earthquake-resistant design actually offers a key benefit: a positive change from a “cost item” to “value added.” This paradigm shift is one key issue that will be addressed.

The field trip route includes the Memphis metro area, northeast Arkansas, southeast Missouri, southernmost Illinois, and western Kentucky and Tennessee. Participants will see evidence of the 1811-12 New Madrid earthquakes that is still visible. Those earthquakes, estimated to be around magnitude 7-1/2, were felt throughout the eastern two-thirds of the country. They did damage in Georgia, the Carolinas, and Washington, DC. A similar event today would be devastating to the region affected as well as disrupt the national economy and negatively affect worldwide trade.

Cost to each field trip participant is \$550, which includes one night, single-occupancy hotel lodging, four meals, and round-trip transportation from Memphis via air-conditioned motor coach. Transportation to and from participants’ home city is not included. The field trip is generously subsidized by the US Geological Survey.

In May 2005, a similar field trip was held. A summary report to the US Geological Survey is available at <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/research/external/reports/05HQGR0014.pdf>

Those who are interested in participating in this field trip should contact Phyllis Steckel, RG, at 636-239-4013 or email psteckel@charter.net by April 30, 2007. Space is strictly limited to 35 participants.



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COURSES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS (cont.)

July 15-19, 2007, **International Congress of Toxicology**, Montreal, Canada. www.ict2007.org

August 8-9, 2007, **Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products: State of the Science**, Portland, Maine.
www.neiwpsc.org/ppcpconference

POSITIONS (none this month) *Please note that the job-posting fee for this newsletter is \$100 for recruiters/commercial and \$50 for government and nonprofit organizations. Please make your payment to Arlene Levin, NE-SRA Treasurer at Eastern Research Group, Inc. 110 Hartwell Street, Lexington, MA 02421*