

Geotechnical database
for the creation of earthquake hazard maps
as used in the
Portland Metropolitan Area

Annual Project Summary—99HQGR0017

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Program Element I

Key words: database, geologic mapping, site effects regional seismic hazards

Summary

The objective of this project was to combine several separate databases of geotechnical information into a single uniform database formatted for distribution. These several separate databases were compiled in different formats for different phases of the Portland Relative Earthquake Hazard Mapping Project. Both the structure and content of the final, unified database will be useful for application to other earthquake hazard mapping projects. The data itself is also useful for a wide range of related research areas and site-specific hazards assessments.

Progress To Date

The separate databases have been combined into a single database with all data fields from all records being transfers into appropriate fields and records in the unified database. However, early in the quality assurance process it was discovered that many of the fields in the source databases had been left empty. Further investigation revealed that at various points in the hazard map compilation it was judged expedient to simply record interpretive data on paper and then proceed with derivative products with the data never being entered into the database. All of the paper records are still available but for the database to be complete the interpretive data must be entered into the database.

There is clearly a lesson here that as research activities are expedited by computer technology, discipline is necessary to not fall back to pencil and paper approaches that will save minutes in the moment but cost hours in the long run.