

## Geology, Seismology and Geotechnical Engineering NRC Technical Exchange

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## City of Aiken Municipal Building Conference Center 19-20 September 2001



## NRC Technical Exchange Geology, Seismology and Geotechnical Engineering

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Introduction

**J.** M. McConaghy **19** September 2001

NRC Technical Exchange **19-20** September 2001















## SRS Geology and Seismology Overview

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## L. A. Salomone WSRC Chief Geotechnical Engineer 19 September 2001

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### Technical Challenge

The objective of estimating annual frequencies of earthquake - caused ground motion is hampered **by** the lack of significant earthquakes in the vicinity of the Savannah River Site.

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### **Summary**

The WSRC baseline data has been made available to **DCS**  and the MFFF project

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## An Overview of the Geology of the Savannah River Site

**D.** Wyatt WSRC **19** September 2001

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## \*The surface geology of the SRS area has been extensively mapped **by** SRS, major universities, the **USGS** and the **SCDNR.**

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- "- There are **350+** published scientific and engineering studies, reports and papers that define and discuss the geology (mostly subsurface) of the SRS region!
- " There are approximately **10,000** locations on or near the SRS with subsurface information! (borings, wells, cone penetrometer tests)
- **"\*** More than 200+ line miles of seismic data exist on the SRS, plus gravity and aeromagnetic data.

## Some background concepts.

Metamorphic rocks mostly make up the Appalachians.

Exposed rocks erode, are transported and deposited as our coastal plain sediments. These sediments are mostly sand, silt and clay.

"Basement" rocks are those rocks underlying our unconsolidated sediments. Igneous and metamorphic rocks generally form our basement complex. Coastward, Triassic aged rocks, mostly sandstones, form our basement.

### regional overview



Site concepts

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thicken towards the coast. These sediments may be classified and mapped. This pattern defines our stratigraphy by dividing the sediments into mappable The SRS subsurface geology is part of a regional pattern of sediments that formations.



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SRS has a well defined localized hydrostratigraphy.

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GW concepts

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Sediment color and textural examples from the upper 400 feet. These samples are from a boring located near the center of the SRS and are typical for the region.



Below approximately 300 feet sediments are generally very similar until the crystalline or Triassic basement rocks are encountered. The average depth to basement rocks across the SRS is approximately 1000 feet.

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Geo concepts

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Using borehole geophysics and core data it is possible to define and correlate our subsurface strata. Curve characteristics are generally predictable.



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unconsolidated and form fault breaks in our are generally strata. These compressive propagation faults do not through our These faults Quaternary folds in the crystalline sediments. **Faults** are rocks that propagate structural sediments. overlying effect our recent aged

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# **A** Summary of SRS Geology

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- **SRS** sediments generally consist of unconsolidated sands, silts and clays eroded from the mountains, transported, and deposited in near shore, deltaic to shelf environments.
- **"\*** Well known surface geology and data from approximately **10,000**  boreholes and wells allows for a detailed understanding of the subsurface geology.
- These sediments have characteristics that allow them to be mapped over large areas therefore defining a regional stratigraphy and hydrostratigraphy.
- **"\*** These unconsolidated sediments rest on metamorphic crystalline or Triassic sandstone basement rocks.
- "° The basement rocks are offset in many places **by** ancient faults that may affect the overlying sediments, however, our Quaternary sediments are not affected.



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## SEUS Historical Seismicity

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R. Lee WSRC 19 September 2001

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### Significant Historical Earthquakes

- Earthquake historical record dates back to 1774  $\bullet$ 
	- MMI's inferred from newspaper and other historical accounts
	- **-** SEUS instrumental record began in earnest in mid-1970's (SRS seismic network began in 1976)
- Earthquake history of region is dominated by the occurrence of the 1886 Charleston earthquake
	- $-$  estimated magnitude of about  $7 +$
	- $-$  estimated epicentral Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) of X
	- produced MMI of about VI in what would be the SRS area
	- paleoseismic investigations suggest recurrence of M 7+ earthquakes about every 500-600 years









### August **31, 1886** Charleston Earthquake

(South Carolina Geological Survey, Bulletin 40)

- Preceeded by several foreshocks  $(MMI \le V)$
- Hundreds of felt aftershocks (a few of MMI VII-VIII)
- Epicentral (MMI X) "Some well-built wooden structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundations; ground badly cracked. Rails bent. Landslides considerable from river banks and steep slopes. Shifted sand and mud. Water splashed, slopped over banks"
- **0** 27 lives taken
- **\*** Barnwell (MMI VII) (report- "Severe shock, alarming everybody; houses rocked and shook as if about to fall. Light objects thrown about, furniture moved, walls cracked, and plaster shaken down.") **<sup>6</sup>**

### August **31, 1886** Charleston Earthquake (Cont.)

- Ellenton (MMI VI) (report- "The first and severest shook houses at a terrible rate. Six shocks felt in a little over an hour; others of less force perceptible to 8 a.m. A roaring as of heavy thunder could be heard for some time before and after each disturbance. Persons differ as to the direction: not much damage")
- Aiken MMI VI (report- "Church bells rang. Frame house, two stories, on brick piers: house rocked, window-weights rattled, pictures thrown down, plaster cracked")
- Beech Island (MMI V) (report- "Alarm among men and animals")

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### August **31, 1886** Charleston Earthquake (Cont.)

- Felt area of about  $5x10^6$  km<sup>2</sup> (radius of over 1200 km)
- Inferred magnitude (Mw) 7.3 (based on areas of MMI isoseismals)

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### Earthquakes in the Vicinity of the SRS

- Earthquake recorded in the site vicinity range in magnitude from about 1-3 (magnitude threshold for SRS network is about M 0).
- Felt earthquakes at the SRS occurred in 1985 (M 2.7), 1988 (M 2.2) and 1997 (M 2.5).
- Since 1976, the level of motions recorded at the site are less than 0.01g.
- Estimated historic earthquake levels of motion that would have been measured at the SRS are estimated to be less than 0.1g.



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# SRS Site-Specific PSHA Development of Bedrock Spectra

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J. K. Kimball DP-45, NNSA 19 September 2001

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#### SRS DESIGN SPECTRA

#### DEVELOPMENT OF ROCK SPECTRA

Implementation of DOE Standard 1023-95 {Change Notice #1 }

Establishing the Design Basis Earthquake (DBE)

 $\checkmark$  Complete Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis and Establish Mean Uniform Hazard Spectra

 $\checkmark$  Deaggregate the PSHA and Determine the Controlling Earthquakes

- $\checkmark$  Using Controlling Earthquakes Determine if the UHS is Sufficiently Broad to Represent Design Spectra
- $\checkmark$  Review Historic Earthquake Record and Determine if Site is <200 km of a  $M$  >6 earthquake – calculate ground motion

#### SRS DESIGN SPECTRA DEVELOPMENT OF ROCK SPECTRA

Implementation of DOE Standard 1023-95 (Change Notice **#1)** 

 $\checkmark$  Establishment of DBE Depends on Facility Hazard Category, Classification of Structures, Systems, and Components and Link to Natural Phenomena Performance Categories

- **"** Performance Category (PC)3 =  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  per year (mean)
- "  $PC4 = 1 x 10<sup>-4</sup>$  per year (mean)

 $\checkmark$  The 1886 Charleston Earthquake triggers the Historic Check - Assumed  $M = 7.3$  @ 120 km distance

 $\checkmark$  The DBE is Established Based on the Envelope of the UHS and the Historic Earthquake

While DOE-STD-1023 Was Developed in Advance of NRC Regulatory Guide 1.165 There Are Many Common Procedural Steps Between the Two Set of Requirements

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# SRS Site-Specific **PSHA** Development of Soil Surface Design Spectra

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R. Lee **WSRC 19** September 2001

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## WSRC Approach to Develop Design Spectra

- \* Implement DOE-STD-1023 seismic design criteria
- Review and apply DOE recommended PSHA's
- Characterize SRS-wide soils and shallow bedrock
- Evaluate SRS Site Soil Response
- \* Make site specific adjustments to rock PSHAs to correct for SRS conditions

- Develop SRS PC-3 and PC-4 design basis
- \* Evaluate SRS specific soil UHS.
- "\* Use high-gain sensors to monitor seismicity.



### Approaches to Develop SRS-Specific Design Basis

- Use SRS-specific ground motion attenuation model(s) in the conduct of the PSHA
- Evaluate PSHA for a reference rock outcrop site condition and apply mean SRS soil surface/bedrock amplification function.
- Evaluate PSHA for the reference bedrock condition and compute soil surface hazard using SRS-specific amplification functions.

### Evaluate SRS Response

Site Amplification Analysis

- Use large SRS geophysical and geotechnical database to establish variability in soil velocity profiles, ranges in soil column thickness and strain-dependence of soils
- \* Use equivalent linear analysis to handle strain-dependence of soil
- Establish frequency, magnitude and ground motion level dependent site response distributions by ranges in soil column thickness and bedrock type

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#### SRS Shear-Wave Model

- Database of soil velocities and dynamic properties compiled from eight areas of the SRS (176 Vs profiles)
- Data limited in some facility areas and not available outside facility areas
- Five shear-wave profiles available for soil depths  $> 300$  ft.
- Measured soil profiles used to derive a statistical shearwave model that can be used to generate profiles having the appearance and statistical qualities of the measured profiles (EPRI, 1993).

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• Measured variability incorporated in site response.



### SRS Dynamic Soil Properties

- UTA employed to make dynamic property recommendations for the SRS:
	- review existing SRS dynamic property database
	- test SRS soil samples using calibrated equipment
	- construct dynamic property database and evaluate SRS soils for correlations with nonlinear dynamic properties
	- provide recommendations for dynamic soil properties
- Testing data was reviewed from 29 reports
- Dynamic property database was compiled for 8 different site areas





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- In order of importance
	- soil shear-wave velocity
	- $-$  bedrock shear-wave velocity ( $f < 2$  Hz)
	- $-$  shear-wave modulus and damping  $(f > 10 Hz)$
	- $-$  soil column thickness ( $f < 4$  Hz)
- "\* Other important source and path parameters
	- Charleston source distance and stress drop
	- Crustal structure
- Bedrock PSHA





### Development of SRS-Specific Soil Surface Hazard

- "\* For each oscillator frequency, a bedrock hazard curve and corresponding earthquake magnitude and distance deaggregation is required.
- \* For each level of bedrock motion (contained in the hazard curve), a magnitude dependent bedrock-to-surface soil amplification distribution function is required.
- Resulting hazard curve is SRS-specific.









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## Site PC-3 Design Spectrum Modification

# B. Gutierrez Engineering & Analysis Division, DOE-SR 19 September 2001

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## MFFF Site Confirmation of SRS **PC-3 /** PC-4 Spectra

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M. Lewis WSRC **19** September 2001

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## MFFF Site Confirmation

#### Criteria

- Site surface topography
	- **-** No unusual features that could affect ground motion
- Stratigraphy
	- \* Ensure consistency with conditions modeled
- Soil column thickness
	- **-** Ensure it is within conditions modeled
- Bedrock type
	- **-** Ensure it is within conditions modeled

### MFFF Site Topography • Surface topography - The MFFF site is located on the northeast side of F area. The surface topography is consistent with the General Separations Area (GSA) - There are no unusual naturally (the existing fill spoil pile will be removed) occurring surface topographic conditions - The conditions are consistent with assumptions used in WSRC 1997 report 5

## Stratigraphy

**-** Criteria

- Local geologic layering
- Dynamic properties
- $-$  Shallow  $V_s$  profile

### MFFF Stratigraphy

- \* Horizontal layering
- \* Sands, silty sands and clayey sands
- \* Thicknesses consistent across distances of interest

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\* Consistent with other areas of SRS

















### **Conclusions**

- There are no topographic or subsurface features at MFFF site that could alter ground motion over the cases modeled in WSRC 1997
- \* The soil column thickness and bedrock type at MFFF match ranges used in WSRC 1997
- The MFFF shallow  $V_s$  are within variances modeled in WSRC 1997
- Thus, SRS sitewide PC-3 & PC-4 spectra are applicable for the MFFF site **16**



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## Selection of MFFF Seismic Design Basis

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J. M. McConaghy 19 September 2001

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