

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS, AND RESOURCES

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D. C. 20418

U.S. NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR ROCK MECHANICS

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October 18, 1982

Mr. Trueman L. Seamans
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 697-SS
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Seamans:

The U.S. National Committee for Rock Mechanics is pleased to submit the attached Quarterly Activities Report for the period July 1, 1982 - September 30, 1982 as required under Article II and III of U.S. Bureau of Mines Contract No. JO 199030.

Sincerely,

John E. Wagner
John E. Wagner
Executive Secretary

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On August 23, 1982, the Panel on Domestic and International Activities also met at Berkeley, California. A major portion of the full day meeting was devoted to International Activities. The cooperation with other North American countries was proposed through co-sponsorship of joint symposia. The first such meeting will be a joint Mexico/U.S. Symposium Rock Fragmentation and Comminution in Relation to the Geometric-Mechanical Properties of Rock Masses to be held in Mexico City, February 24-26, 1983. The panel decided to explore the possibility of a joint U.S./Canadian symposium in 1985 or 1986. A request received from Victor Maury, president of the ISRM Commission on Rock Failure Mechanisms in Underground Openings, was discussed and a decision made to request further definition of proposed U.S. participation in the Commission. In a discussion of rock mechanics centrifuge testing, the Panel decided to seek information on British and Soviet centrifuge data. A review was completed of proposals for the 25th U.S. Symposium on Rock Mechanics and a recommendation drafted for USNC/RM decision. In connection with the U.S. Symposium, the Panel also reviewed current selection procedures and the current schedules of USNC/RM meetings in conjunction with symposia. Development of ASTM Rock Mechanics requirement standards was discussed and agreement reached that definitive standards should not be proposed prematurely.

On August 24, 1982, the USNC/RM held its annual meeting at Berkeley, California. Agenda included administration, elections, panel reports, ISRM, technical society relationships and reports, and a briefing on high gravity simulation research in rock mechanics. Details of the Annual Meeting will be included in the 1982 Annual Report.

Technical Society Participation

Society representatives of AEG, AGU, ASTM, GSA, SEG, SME and TRB participated in the annual meeting and presented reports on their society activities.

INTERSOCIETY ROCK MECHANICS NEWS. The secretariat has been advised the ASME will provide society newsletters. No response has been received from ASTM, SME and SPE in regard to exchange of society news.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. The secretariat was authorized to send invoices to all participating technical societies for 1982 contributions.

SPONSORSHIP OF U.S. ROCK MECHANICS SYMPOSIA. The USNC/RM decided that requesting technical societies to host rock mechanics symposia as a part of their own society meetings might inhibit participation from other societies. Dr. Coulson, USNC/RM Vice Chairman, was designated to chair an ad hoc group to develop procedures for encouraging technical society participation in symposium sponsorship in conjunction with university hosts.

U.S. NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ROCK MECHANICS

ACTIVITIES REPORT

July 1, 1982 - September 30, 1982

This report covers continuing activities of the U.S. National Committee for Rock Mechanics from July 1 through September 30, 1982, under U.S. Bureau of Mines Contract JO 199030. It is submitted pursuant to the provisions of Articles II and III of the contract.

International Society for Rock Mechanics

5TH CONGRESS. Drafts of papers selected for presentation at the 5th Congress were received and critically reviewed by the ad hoc selection committee in August 1982. Following this review, authors were given final guidance for preparation of camera ready copy to be submitted to the organizing committee in Melbourne. Fifteen authors submitted papers for the Congress.

Two U.S. members of the ISRM were selected to be general reporters for the 5th Congress. Previously the USNC/RM had nominated general reporters for each of the five congress theses.

MANUEL ROCHA MEDAL. Nomination of six candidates for the 1984 award of the Manuel Rocha Medal were submitted to the ISRM secretariat. Five of these candidates were persons previously nominated who continue to be eligible for the award. Approximately twenty five percent of the nominees for the 1982 and 1983 awards were for doctoral theses presented at U.S. universities or by U.S. citizens/residents.

MEMBERSHIP IN ISRM. The USNC/RM recognizing its role as the ISRM National Group, USA, voted that all members of the USNC/RM should be ISRM members during the period of their committee membership.

Meetings

The Panel on Domestic and International Activities held its Annual Research Awards Meeting in Chicago, Illinois on July 8, 1982. Persons selected for awards were honored at a luncheon on August 26, 1982 in conjunction with the 23rd U.S. Symposium on Rock Mechanics.

On August 23, 1982, the Panel on Science and Engineering of Rock Mechanics met at Berkeley, California, in conjunction with the USNC/RM annual meeting and the 23rd U.S. Symposium on Rock Mechanics. In this meeting the Panel completed their annual assessment of programs and progress in rock mechanics. The assessment is brief and thematic and emphasizes progress applicable to diverse disciplines and problems. Theme of the review was rock-mass characterization, with particular consideration given to thermomechanical properties determination and in situ stress. Results of this assessment will be published and distributed before the end of January 1983.