



Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission

A G E N D A

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting
(Hybrid format)

In-Person Physical Location

or

via Microsoft Teams

Planning Conference Room 170
Planning and Development Center
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Download Teams | Join on the web](#)

Meeting ID: 269 718 563 018, Passcode: yoWmD2

Or Join by Conference Call:

Dial-in Number: 907-519-0237

Conference ID: 655 600 897#

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Establishment of Quorum
 - B. Disclosures
- II. MINUTES
 - A. February 28, 2023
 - B. March 28, 2023
 - C. August 22, 2023
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Scope of Potential Project for Seismic Hazard Analysis and Mapping
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A.
- V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit)
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Communications Committee
 - B. Hazard Mitigation Committee
 - C. Seismic Hazard Committee
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS
- VIII. STAFF REPORTS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting – October 24 or 31, 2023



Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission

ACTION SUMMARY

Tuesday, February 28, 2023
12:00 Noon

Regular Meeting

Hybrid Meeting – In-person and Virtual via Teams
Training Room, 4700 Elmore Road

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

A. Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was present.

Present: Dennis Berry*
Steven Halcomb*
David Hemstreet*
Thomas Krzewinski*
Keri Nutter
John Thornley, Chair

Excused: Kyle Brennan, Vice Chair
Amy Steiner

Absent: Cody Kreitel

Staff: Tom Davis, Senior Planner, Planning Department
Wayne Bolen*, Plan Reviewer, Building Safety, Development Services Dept.
Tim Huntting, Geotechnical Lab Manager, Project Management & Engineering Dept.
Amanda Loach*, Director, Office of Emergency Management
Ross Noffsinger*, Engineering Services Manager, Development Services Dept.

Guests: David Cole, former GAC Commissioner
John Daley, PAMP Engineer Manager, Port of Alaska
Jacobs: Eric Adams, David Ames, Donald Anderson*, Hong Guan*, Nason
McCullough*, George Newman*, Doug Playter*
Lettis Consultants International, Inc. (LCI): Ivan Wong* and Nora Lewandowski*
Drielle Welch*, OEM Consultant
Jessica Feenstra, WSP*

*Virtual

Commissioner Berry agreed to serve as Acting Vice-Chair.

B. Disclosures

Commissioner Halcomb gave a disclosure regarding agenda item III.A., that his firm CRW has been asked to provide civil engineering services as a contractor under WSP for the design of the Port of Alaska PAMP Terminal 1.

Chair Thornley also gave a disclosure regarding agenda item III.A. that his firm WSP is in negotiation with the Port of Alaska for PAMP Terminal 1 design services. As one of the personnel on the WSP design team, he will be a recipient of the GAC's recommendations from today in addition to receiving the recommendations of the ASCE 61-23 report. He stated, however, there is no financial gain that he or WSP would receive from any of the outcomes from the GAC.

Chair Thornley turned control of the meeting over to *Commissioner Berry*, Acting Vice-Chair, for the purpose of determining if there were any conflicts of interest based on the two disclosures.

Commissioner Berry asked for a motion to direct *Commissioners Halcomb and Thornley* to participate in agenda old business item III.A. *Commissioner Krzewinski* seconded.

There was no discussion, except *Commissioner Hemstreet* stated that he believed there is a conflict because he did not think commissioners should be making recommendations regarding design standards for projects they are working on. The Commission voted, 3 in favor and 1 against the motion. The motion failed because a favorable vote by a majority of the 9 total seats minus the 2 commissioners who have made the disclosure—i.e., by 4 of 7 Commission seats eligible to vote. The Commission determined that *Commissioners Halcomb and Thornley* could not participate in item III.A. at today's meeting.

Commissioner Berry returned control of the meeting to *Chair Thornley*.

II. MINUTES

A. January 24, 2023

Commissioner Berry moved to approve the January 24, 2023, minutes as drafted. *Commissioner Nutter* seconded.

The following correction was suggested by *Chair Thornley*:

- A correction on the bottom of page 2, to simplify the minutes to read that *Chair Thornley* announced that *Ivan Wong* is scheduled to deliver a presentation, removing the statement that *Mr. Wong* is an author of a particular report.

The January 24, 2023, minutes were approved unanimously as amended above.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Port of Alaska Update

Discussion on this item was postponed to the next meeting. *Chair Thornley* reported that the GAC is still waiting for the Assembly to schedule a work session regarding the PAMP project.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Seismic Hazard Analyses and Time Histories for Port of Alaska – Presentation by Ivan Wong, Lettis Consultants International, Inc.

(Note: Item IV.A. was moved up on the agenda to become the first item after Disclosures.)

Ivan Wong, with LCI, delivered a presentation regarding seismic hazard analyses being used for the PAMP project, using the PowerPoint slides attached to the meeting packet. After *Mr. Wong* reached the conclusions slide, he opened the topic up for discussion and questions.

Chair Thornley commented that he had plotted the 2008, 2014, and 2022 PSHA model hazards, and one of the significant things that he saw was that the 2,475-year seismic event from the 2014 model is the equivalent now to the 975-year seismic event for the 2022 model—and that is even on a time-dependent case. He said it will be interesting to learn what the USGS finds. *Chair Thornley* asked *Mr. Wong* if his work included a comparison to the USGS MPRS (Multi-Period Response) curves that the USGS published for Anchorage. He and *Mr. Wong* discussed this topic further. *Chair Thornley* concluded by noting that *Mr. Wong* has been involved in all 3 PSHA models—in 2008, 2014, and 2022.

John Daley, Port of Alaska, observed that the biggest accelerations were found to be in the shorter time period end of the spectrum and asked if that was because it is an intra-slab type earthquake.

Ivan Wong responded affirmatively and that it is because the intra-slab earthquake source is closer to Anchorage.

B. Scope of Potential Project for Seismic Hazard Analysis and Mapping

Tim Huntting reported that the grant for this upcoming project had not been approved yet, and so discussion was postponed to a future meeting. He explained that staff will be asking for GAC guidance on how to update the hazard seismic data for this project.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit) (none)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, March 7, at noon.

B. Hazard Mitigation Committee

No report.

C. Seismic Hazard Committee

No report.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS (*none*)

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

No report.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Halcomb moved to adjourn. *Commissioner Berry* seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.



Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission

ACTION SUMMARY

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

12:00 Noon

Regular Meeting

Hybrid Meeting – In-person and Virtual via Teams
Training Room, 4700 Elmore Road

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

A. Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was present.

Present: Dennis Berry
Kyle Brennan, Vice Chair
Steven Halcomb*
David Hemstreet
Cody Kreitel
Keri Nutter
Amy Steiner

Excused: Thomas Krzewinski
John Thornley, Chair

Staff: Tom Davis, Senior Planner, Planning Department
Tim Huntting, Geotechnical Lab Manager, Project Management & Engineering Dept.
Ross Noffsinger*, Engineering Services Manager, Development Services Dept.

Guests: John Daley*, PAMP Engineer Manager, Port of Alaska
Thomas Fenoseff*, Anchorage School District

B. Disclosures

No disclosures.

II. MINUTES (*none*)

*Virtual

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Port of Alaska Update

Acting Chair Brennan and *John Daley* anticipated there will be an Assembly work session soon regarding the PAMP design criteria, but it has not been scheduled yet. *Acting Chair Brennan* expected that the GAC would resume its effort to prepare a resolution making recommendations regarding the seismic design criteria after the work session with the Assembly. The GAC resolution is intended to help inform what the design criteria for the PAMP will be.

John Daley reported that the Port is hiring a designer of record for the terminals and has a memorandum before the Assembly to authorize the contract on April 11. In the contract, the Port will be asking the designer to study the seismic design criteria, including to evaluate the current inferred design standard (“minimal damage” in a design earthquake), and to evaluate “controlled and repairable damage” in a design earthquake as an alternative design standard, looking at factors such as costs, performance, and emergency service capacity. *Mr. Daley* expressed that the Port is looking forward to the Assembly work session as an opportunity to discuss costs and the minimal damage versus controlled and repairable damage design criteria.

Commissioners discussed progress on the draft resolution and what the Assembly might want to hear from the GAC. *Commissioner Nutter* suggested a GAC work session to resume GAC resolution preparation efforts prior to the Assembly work session. She volunteered the GAC Communications Committee’s upcoming meeting time slot for it. *Acting Chair Brennan* and the other commissioners agreed, and the work session was set for 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 4.

B. Scope of Potential Project for Seismic Hazard Analysis and Mapping

Tom Davis shared an inter-agency memorandum provided at a previous GAC meeting. It informed the GAC about an upcoming grant-funded project to update seismic hazard data. The memo requests the Commission’s feedback on the project scope and types of seismic hazard data to update.

Mr. Davis and *Tim Huntting* summarized the project’s objectives. *Mr. Davis* explained that the grant has not yet been awarded, but once awarded, the Municipality will be interested in moving forward with finalizing the project scope and putting the RFP out for bid. The budget is \$750,000, although some of the funds will be used for staff administrative costs. *Tim Huntting* discussed existing and potential data sources. The inter-agency staff lead would be *Tim Huntting*, and the departments would involve the GAC in the project from the start.

Staff requested the commissioners to review the memo, think about the project, and provide initial feedback at an upcoming GAC meeting. Commissioners discussed the data categories mentioned in the memo and the potential limitations to the scope due to the project budget size.

Acting Chair Brennan requested municipal guidance regarding whether commissioners who may be wishing to bid on the project can participate in the Commission’s discussions about its recommendations for the project scope. *Tom Davis* responded that staff will be initially seeking only broad guidance from GAC about the overall scope, but he would follow up regarding that question.

IV. NEW BUSINESS *(none)*

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit) *(none)*

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Communications Committee

Commissioner Nutter noted that, per item III.A., the Committee is prioritizing helping the GAC complete its resolution to the Assembly regarding the PAMP design criteria, so the meeting time next week will be used for that purpose. She thanked the meeting guests, including the School District, for attending GAC and encouraged them to let the Commission know if there are any agenda items they would be interested in discussing.

B. Hazard Mitigation Committee

No report.

C. Seismic Hazard Committee

No report.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS *(none)*

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Tom Davis reported on the status of the Assembly's emergency ordinance extending commissioners' terms through April 12 and the likely impacts to obtaining a quorum at the GAC's next regular meeting on April 25.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Steiner moved to adjourn. *Commissioner Berry* seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.



II.C.

Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, August 22, 2023
Noon – 12:52 p.m.







Regular Meeting
(Hybrid format)
Training Room, 4700 Elmore Road

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Establishment of Quorum

Quorum established. Members, staff, and visitors:


Members	Staff	Guests
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair John Thornley• Vice Chair Steven Halcomb• Dave Hemstreet• Keri Nutter • Kyle Brennan• Dennis Berry • Excused: Cody Kreitel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daniel Mckenna-Foster, Senior Planner• Ryan Yelle, Long-Range Planning Manager• Miles Colecott, Long-Range Program Specialist• Sue Perry, Long-Range Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wayne Bolen, MOA Development Services • Ross Noffsinger, MOA Development Services • Amanda Loach, Director of the MOA Office of Emergency Management • Tim Huntting, MOA PM&E

Disclosures

No disclosures.

Prior to discussing minutes and business, the Commission discussed providing a card for John Aho.

Minutes

Commissioner Hemstreet moved  to approve the minutes; Commissioner Steiner seconded. There was some discussion of spelling out “PFAS” (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Ultimately the minutes were approved as written.

Old Business

There was a quick discussion of Old Business item A. “Scope of Potential Project for Seismic Hazard Analysis and Mapping,” and the decision was to skip.

New Business

There was a discussion of the [Recent Report on Tsunami Inundation](#), which shows new tsunami risk areas in Anchorage.

 Attended virtually

- Commissioners Brennan and Chair Thornley discussed how the assumptions going into this analysis seemed conservative, and that the greatest inundation scenario would need all the stars to align for it to happen.
- The Commission discussed inviting the authors of the report to the next GAC meeting.
- Commissioner Brennan asked whether this type of hazard was in the purview of the Commission, the chair assured him it was.
- Commissioner Steiner asked whether Anchorage would need to make any changes or adjustments, the Chair explained that there could potentially be some alterations made to the port. Commissioner Steiner mentioned that the structural loads for tsunamis are tremendous.
- Commissioner Brennan asked whether the report creators had contacted or worked with the Muni, MOA OEM Director Amanda Loach explained that this is a state of Alaska study.
- The Commission discussed about public education and public perception of risk hazards and warning documents. MOA OEM Director Amanda Loach mentioned that previously there was simply no good information about tsunami inundation in Anchorage, and in case of a tsunami there would be several hours' advance notice.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee (ComsCom)

Commissioner Nutter mentioned having prepared a card for former Commissioner Aho's family. She will also continue to look for new members. The Communications Committee meets the week following a regular Commission meeting. The next meeting is at noon on Tuesday, August 29.

Hazard Mitigation Committee (HazMitCom)

The Commission discussed possible action following a presentation by the authors of the Tsunami report.

Seismic Hazard Committee (SeisHazCom)

Chair Thornley mentioned the possibility of the Port of Alaska getting strong motion stations from researchers in New Hampshire and asked the commissioners for ideas about where these sensors might be placed (x,y coordinates). No sites have been selected yet. It might be possible as well that the local USGS could provide some components available here, such as batteries, if that might make it easier to send additional sensors as a bonus that might not otherwise be available. The commission discussed where to locate these sensors and whether there are existing bore holes/wells available.

He also discussed the possibility of measuring both how the ground behaves and how buildings designed to withstand the earthquakes behave (performance monitoring).

The Commission discussed maps coming out from the State of Alaska soon and a tight deadline of December of this year (2023). This deadline is apparently intended to ensure that these maps get into the next version of adopted code, but this creates some issues for a thorough review. The new state maps will have some significant changes, some long overdue.

The Commission discussed how new seismic standards might make structural engineers working in private practice a bit uncomfortable.

Other Business

No other business.

Staff Reports

No staff report. Commissioner Halcomb asked about how to re-up his commissionership. The group agreed that the best way was to go directly through the MOA website. The commission further discussed attracting new members.

Adjournment

Commissioner Halcomb moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Hemstreet seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.