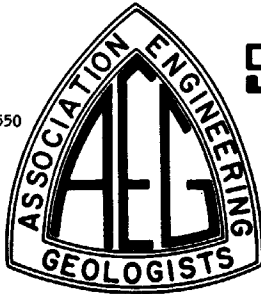


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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

# news letter

2550 BEVERLY BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067

## MAY MEETING

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 14, 1985 (2nd Tuesday)

**PLACE:** Stevens Steak House  
5332 Stevens Place  
Commerce

**COST:** \$13.00, including tip.

**RESERVATIONS:** Jeff Holt & Associates  
805-522-5174  
Please make reservations by noon on previous Friday.

**TIME:** 5:30 Social Hour  
6:30 Dinner  
7:30 AEG Business  
8:00 Speaker  
9:00 Section Affairs, if scheduled

**SPEAKER:** Don Michael  
Consulting Engineering Geologist, Malibu.

**SUBJECT:** The Occidental-Palisades Controversy

The Occidental Petroleum Corporation has been attempting for years to obtain from the City of Los Angeles a permit to drill adjacent to the Coastline in Pacific Palisades. Earliest objections to the project questioned the appropriateness of the zoning change that would be required. Within the past few years however, as a consequence of a review of an Occidental draft environmental impact report (EIR), other objections of an essentially geotechnical nature also have been raised.

Since the project has now been approved, the essential question is whether the City has  
(cont'd)

DON MICHAEL (cont'd)

complied with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which requires the environmental impacts of a proposed project to be adequately described. Questions relating to what constitutes an adequate analysis of environmental impact and how that is to be determined are of fundamental importance; otherwise, a public agency such as the City of Los Angeles may, arbitrarily, receive into the record erroneous information upon which it bases its ultimate decision, thus subverting the intent of CEQA.

It is Don's contention that this is the heart of the Occidental-Palms controversy. His discussion will deal primarily with: (1) the inadequacy of the public hearing process as a forum for discussing geotechnical problems; (2) the questionable aspects of the Occidental EIR in describing the drilling project and its environmental impacts; (3) ethical problems raised by the statements of geotechnical experts made in response to criticism of the Occidental EIR.

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BUILDING CODES RFP ("Request For Proposal"). If you have suggestions, comments, or information concerning Building Code matters in your neck-of-the-woods please contact Jim Shuttleworth at 213-738-2171 or P.O. Box 231, West Covina, CA 91793. The Southern California Section, for instance, would be supportive of efforts to get jurisdictions not presently doing so, to enforce Chapter 70.

Some comments at the last meeting suggest that all is not rosy in AEG-land.

JEFF HOLT hears rumblings by some members that monthly meetings are "too demanding, too frequent, or too boring." AEG is an organization that could offer a lot more - if the members were willing to make the offer. EDITOR suggests we incorporate some educational programs directed to the methods of practice. Virtually every other registered professional group in this state operates a professional improvement-educational program for members. They do it because they found out the hard way that mistakes and/or poor judgement lead to lengthy and expensive discourse with attorneys.

It would be easy for the Legislature to solve our problem - they could require us to participate in educational programs and courses as part of our registration and certification. On the other hand, they could view our registration as a frill that cannot be justified on a cost/benefit basis.

The alternatives are few. Engineering geologists must overcome their shortcomings through education, and in the process, acquire a higher level of sophistication in dealing with each other and the public. What this means in terms of monthly meetings is hard to forecast, but hopefully it will assure better attendance and eventually, a firm commitment by every engineering geologist to become a member of AEG and participate in its programs.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL WASTE SITES: An International Symposium on Management of Hazardous Chemical Waste Sites will be held on October 9 and 10, 1985 at Winston-Salem Hyatt Hotel, North Carolina. The symposium is organized by the U.S. National Committee for the International Association of Engineering Geology (IAEG) in cooperation with the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Geophysical Union (AGU), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The U.S. National Committee for IAEG is a subcommittee of the U.S. Committee on Geology, consisting of members appointed by the National Academy of Sciences.

The symposium is being held in conjunction with the 28th Annual Meeting of the Association of Engineering Geologists scheduled to be held on October 7-11, 1985.

For information contact one of the following:


Professor NORMAN R. TILFORD, General Chairman, c/o Department of Geology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3115, Tel: (409) 845-9682.

Dr. ZUBAIR A. SALEEM, Technical Program Chairman, c/o Ebasco Services Inc., 2211 W. Meadowview Road, Greensboro, No. Carolina 27407, Tel: (919) 885-7500.

The SPRING FIELD TRIP will be held on June 8, 1985. It will replace the monthly meeting and will consist of a boat ride to ANACAPA ISLAND. Only 74 persons can attend and space will be allocated on a first pay-first serve basis. Cost is \$35.00 per person. Make checks out to AEG and send them to GARY GUACCI, c/o LeRoy Crandall & Assoc., 711 N. Alvarado, Los Angeles, CA 90026. Section members will be given preference.


STEVE JENSEN  
c/o F. Beach Leighton & Associates  
4393 Viewridge Avenue, Suite D  
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CONSULTING GEOLOGIST

31129 VIA COLINAS, SUITE 705, WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91362

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