Spirit Lake Outlet Tunnel

Speaker: David Scofield, USACE, Portland

Program: This talk will cover the emergency interim repair and planned future rehabilitation of Spirit Lake Outlet Tunnel at Spirit Lake near Mount St. Helens. The May 18, 1980 volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens resulted in blocking the natural outlet of Spirit Lake. To prevent an uncontrolled lake overtopping and probable catastrophic breach of the blockage, the Corps constructed the Spirit Lake Outlet Tunnel from 1984 to 1985. Continuous year round operations is critical as it provides the only means to safely discharge water from the closed Spirit Lake basin. During original tunnel construction, the most difficult tunneling conditions occurred within the 300-foot wide Julie and Kathy L. shear zone complex. This zone is comprised of sheared, weak, ashy volcanic tuffs and flow breccias that squeezed into the tunnel and required nearly continuous ribsets to provide tunnel support. Since completion, this zone has required multiple repairs due to continued squeezing ground conditions. Possible future options span the range of rehabilitation of the outlet or construction of a new outlet for Spirit Lake that is consistent with the objectives of the Mount St. Helens Volcanic National Monument.

Presenter: David Scofield is a senior engineer with the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers working in the Geotechnical Design Section. He has degrees in Geology and Civil Engineering and is a licensed Civil Engineer and Engineering Geologist. He has 41 years of professional experience with 28 years with the Corps of Engineers working on large complex civil works projects in Oregon and Washington. Some of the major projects he has been involved in are Applegate Dam, Bonneville second powerhouse and navigation lock, Fern Ridge Dam emergency repairs, John Day lock repairs, and Mount St. Helens volcano recovery. Mr. Scofield has spent about 3 years working on various aspects of Mount St. Helens investigating the Spirit Lake debris blockage, Spirit Lake Outlet Tunnel, and Toutle River Sediment Retention Structure. Since 2008, he has been extensively involved in the Corps dam safety risk assessment program serving five years on risk cadre traveling across the nation conducting evaluations of dams. For the last three years, he has focused on risk evaluation studies of Portland District dams.
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The Triple Nickel

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Your firm can appear in this space! If you would like to become a Sustaining Member of the Mount Tacoma Post, please contact Dave Newkirk at 253.606.1047
The mission of the Society of American Military engineers is “To promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public and private sector engineers, and related professionals.” One key avenue for the society to accomplish that mission is to make the expertise and capabilities of our members readily available to government agencies responsible for response to natural and manmade disasters. To accomplish that end the Mt. Tacoma and Seattle Posts established an Emergency Preparedness and Infrastructure Resilience (EO&IR) committee.

Historically, large-scale response to emergencies has been a partnership between government and private industry. The full support potential of the A/E and construction industry in the Puget Sound area can only be reached when the Government’s emergency managers and the executives of the member companies are aware of each other’s requirements and capabilities.

EP&IR committee members reach out to local, State and Federal agencies to inform them of the capabilities of our sustaining members. The committee has prepared a tri-fold leaflet explaining the mission and purpose of SAME emergency preparedness. The leaflet contains a listing of member firms who have indicated a readiness to respond to emergencies and disasters.

The committee needs to know if you or your firm will be available to respond with your resources in the event of a disaster. The key questions are: (1) what capabilities do you offer to emergency managers in the early stages of disaster response and (2) how responsive can you be given that a regional event, such as an earthquake, may damage your facilities including employees’ homes. Any member firm that would like to participate as a listed available resource to government emergency management agencies should contact the Mt. Tacoma or Seattle Post Co-Chair of the Emergency Preparedness and Infrastructure Resilience Committee. In addition, any individual member who would like to work with the Committee is encouraged to contact one of the same committee co-chairs.

If you have any questions about this effort please contact: John Haddick EP&IR Committee Co-Chairman at jehaddick@msn.com / (253) 565-1223 or Mike Moran EP&IR Co-Chair at michael.moran248@gmail.com / (253) 232-3087.

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday - October 10th**
Joint meeting with St. Martin’s Student Chapter in Lacey at St. Martin’s University. 11:30-1300.

**Friday - October 20th**
Monthly Board meeting, 0700 Elmer’s Restaurant in Tacoma.

**Tuesday - November 14th**
Regular monthly meeting at LaQuinta Inn Tacoma. 11:30-1300.

**Friday - November 17th**
Monthly Board meeting, 0700 Elmer’s Restaurant in Tacoma.