

Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

2009 Policy Proposal Adopted 7/14/09

Reliability of Lifeline Services

Issue:

Lifeline services, such as electricity, gas, telecommunications, water, and transportation, can be critical to a community's wellbeing. Many new lifelines are being constructed without any or with inadequately low seismic design provisions. Many existing lifelines have been constructed using old methods and technologies that are known to be inadequate by seismic experts.

Findings:

Much of Oregon's existing infrastructure has not been designed to tolerate extreme conditions exerted by major earthquakes, or earthquake-induced tsunamis, large landslides and liquefaction. Certain lifeline services should have reliable performance to ensure that the region can withstand future earthquake damage without crippling consequences. Critical infrastructure require vulnerability studies in order to understand potential damages and consequences. Mitigation of infrastructure with a high likelihood of failure with extreme consequences should be addressed.

Policy:

OSSPAC encourages reliable lifeline services and hereby supports:

- Seismic design provision requirements for new lifeline infrastructure
- Seismic vulnerability studies of existing lifeline infrastructure
- Seismic risk management programs by lifeline owners, operators and/or stakeholders
- Seismic mitigation activities to improve reliability and resiliency of critical infrastructure
- Collaborative community preparedness to improve lifeline infrastructure of especially vulnerable regions for economic resilience to earthquake risks