

PROJECT UPDATES – January 2016

Summary – Since Governor Abbott signed HB 2 into law on June 22, 2015, project personnel at the Bureau and across UT-Austin have been working to create the foundation for a successful program. Effort thus far has focused on several main areas - hardware acquisition, recruitment, partnerships, research and outreach - some of which are described below in greater detail.

Acquisition:

- A contractor to manufacture and install the TexNet monitoring seismic stations has been selected through a rigorous and competitive public bid process and we are moving forward toward a signed contract.
- Seismic station hardware and software, installation, and maintenance are being planned.
- Deployment of TexNet hardware will begin after the contract is signed and scouting of sites is finalized.
- Deployment locations of permanent and transportable seismic stations are in decision review. We anticipate working with the Governor's Advisory Council once it has been named.
- Project policy terms for public data accessibility are in decision review.

Recruitment:

- The Bureau continues execution of the TexNet/CISR recruitment plans. Recent additions include:
 - o The UT College of Communications has hired Dr. Mary Beth Deline, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, to assist with the baseline survey of audience knowledge and information needs related to induced seismicity. Dr. Deline is an environmental communication scholar who focuses on resistance to change and energy behaviors in communities and organizations.
 - o Casee Lemons has been added to the team as a Research Scientist Associate, providing technical and management support for TexNet and CISR, compiling and representing fluid injection and production rates for wells across Texas. Casee Lemons is a geologist who specializes in data mining, data analysis, and project management.
 - o UT-Austin has hired Dr. Alexandros Savvaidis as Project Manager to oversee installation, deployment and operation of the network. Dr. Savvaidis was formerly a Senior Research Seismologist, operating the largest seismic monitoring program in Greece, with over 100 real-time stations. He brings a wealth of practical knowledge to Texas.
 - o UT-Austin has hired Dr. Peter Hennings as Research Scientist to help create and run the Center for Integrated Seismicity Research (CISR) as Co-Principal Investigator. Dr. Hennings was formerly a consulting professor at Stanford University and the former manager of Geomechanics at Conoco-Phillips. He brings substantial research experience to the team.

Partnership:

- Critical to the success of TexNet-CISR is the establishment of an Industrial Associates program that provides a mechanism for which private industry can engage with talent, data and financial support for research. Although there are no contractual restrictions placed on the use of these funds, we are actively soliciting guidance and technical collaboration from the potential member group to ensure that the ultimate research products have appropriate practical value both to the State of Texas and industry, as well as scientific rigor. Six companies have committed to joining and many more are in the final stages of deliberation.
- SMU has provided UT access to SMU's active seismic waveform and hypocenter database via remote login. A low uncertainty version of the SMU catalog from November 2013 through mid-January 2016 has been prepared. The data are being used directly by the TexNet team, and in collaboration with researchers at Stanford University, who are working on a Texas stress map and Azle seismic history.
- A subcontract between UT College of Communications and Professor Gene Theodori at Sam Houston University began January 2016. Dr. Theodori will be contributing his expertise to survey design and execution for the TexNet/CISR Communication Strategy and Development Team.