On October 29, 2003, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Ole Miss announced that a grant had been awarded to the Center For Community Earthquake Preparedness (CCEP) to begin the process of evaluating potential earthquake losses in Mississippi. The press conference was held in the Butler Auditorium in the Alumni Center. Mr. Robert Latham, MEMA Executive Director, was on hand to answer questions regarding the State's need for this type of work. Mr. Latham noted that the CCEP will be using the HAZUS computer code, produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the results will be incorporated into Mississippi's Emergency Management Plan. Dr. Chris Mullen, CCEP Director and civil engineering professor pointed out that the partnership between academia and State government will benefit the citizens of Mississippi by providing guidance to the job of preparing for the next major earthquake.

The CCEP is planning to begin producing the basic input data for the modeling project in December and will be evaluating results shortly thereafter. The initial HAZUS modeling effort will encompass the entire state and will be used for preparing the earthquake portion of Mississippi's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The completion of the state-wide HAZUS modeling effort will be the first time potential earthquake-induced losses have been estimated for the entire state using a standard loss-estimation methodology.

The CCEP is an earthquake center supported by several Ole Miss departments including the MMRI, Department of Civil Engineering, and the Department of Geology and Geological Engineers. The MMRI began earthquake work in North Mississippi by completing a project in 1999, evaluating selected structures on the Ole Miss campus.
This conclusion certainly suggests that additional study needs to be made regarding the assumption that barite is insoluble under surface conditions. This project will also produce the most detailed publically-accessible information regarding co-produced naturally occurring radioactive materials in Mississippi. The project will end in December of 2003 and the Final Report is expected to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in early 2004.

Please visit our web site at the address shown below to download and view the PowerPoint presentation made at the industry briefing earlier this year.

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