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SUBJECT: Forwards response to request for addl info re area vs  
 magnitude relationship. Info prepared by Woodward-Clyde  
 consultants.

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## Washington Public Power Supply System

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Docket No. 50-397

Mr. A. Schwencer, Chief  
Licensing Branch No. 2  
Division of Licensing  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Schwencer:

Subject: NUCLEAR PROJECT NO. 2  
AREA VERSUS MAGNITUDE RELATIONSHIP

Enclosed are sixty (60) copies of the information requested by the NRC concerning Area Versus Magnitude Relationship.

Very truly yours,

G. D. Bouchey  
Deputy Director, Safety and Security

CDT/jca  
Enclosure

cc: R Auluck - NRC  
WS Chin - BPA  
R Feil - NRC Site

Boo!





12/2

## TASK 7b AREA VERSUS MAGNITUDE RELATIONSHIP

Introduction

The purpose of this task is to develop an empirical relationship between earthquake magnitude and fault area that can be used to estimate earthquake magnitudes in the range  $4 \leq M_s \leq 6$  for faults having limited dimensions. The existing empirical relationships are based primarily on data for large magnitude earthquakes ( $M \geq 6$ ) and associated fault parameters (e.g., rupture length, displacement, and rupture area). The data sets for these relationships do not include sufficient information to allow meaningful estimates of earthquake magnitude for faults having relatively limited dimensions. Therefore, the worldwide historical seismicity record was examined to obtain fault parameter data in this lower magnitude range.

Because the magnitude threshold at which surface rupture occurs is about  $M$  5 to 6, fault parameters that are developed from observations of surface rupture, such as rupture length and maximum displacement per event, are often not reliable indicators of energy release for earthquakes of  $M \leq 6$ . Observations of earthquakes of  $M \leq 6$  do not show a consistent relationship between magnitude and the occurrence, length, or amount of surface displacement associated with these earthquakes. This suggests that the surface faulting associated with these earthquakes may be more a function of local conditions (e.g., fault type, material properties, depth of focus) than of the magnitude of the event. For these reasons, magnitude-related fault parameters that depend on geologic evidence of surface rupture were not used in developing an empirical relationship in this study.

Recent studies (Wyss, 1979) have shown that for earthquakes of  $M_s \geq 5.7$  earthquake magnitude is related to the rupture area on the fault surface. Rupture areas have been assessed for



historical earthquakes from the dimensions of aftershock sequences, seismic wave analysis, and geodetic modelling. Based on a worldwide data set of about 90 historical earthquakes of all fault types, Wyss (1979) presents a well-defined relationship of the form:

$$M_S = \text{Log } A + 4.15$$

where A is the rupture area in square kilometers. Wyss (1979) notes that both the length of the rupture area and the rupture area itself are more reliable indicators of the size of an earthquake than is surface rupture length.

Rupture area is closely related to seismic moment (Purcaro and Berckhemer, 1982) and, therefore, to the amount of energy released during an earthquake. Rupture area versus seismic moment relationships have been established for seismic moments from  $10^{30}$  dyne-cm to as small as  $10^{13}$  dyne-cm (Pearson, 1982). On this basis, it is apparent that the rupture area versus magnitude relationship can be extended below M 6. In addition, rupture area may be assessed for historical earthquakes without relying on evidence of surface rupture. For these reasons, the rupture area versus magnitude relationship was judged to be an appropriate empirical approach magnitude for faults having limited dimensions.

The estimation of future rupture areas on a particular fault can be made based on assessments of rupture length and downdip fault width. Fault rupture length is usually estimated from geologic evidence for segmentation of the fault zone or from assumptions regarding the fraction of the total fault length that may rupture during a single event. Downdip fault width is assessed from: 1) the maximum depths of historical seismicity; 2) geophysical data that constrain the local crustal model; 3) geodetic data regarding the maximum depths of fault slippage; or 4) the

regional tectonic model. In addition, if the fault rupture length can be estimated, compilations of data relating rupture length to downdip fault width for worldwide historical earthquakes (e.g., Purcaro and Berckhemer, 1982) may be used to assess downdip fault width.

### Analysis and Results

In order to compile a sufficiently large number of data points, the seismologic literature was reviewed for all earthquakes having magnitudes of 4 to 6 for which fault rupture areas had been, or could be, assessed. From these, earthquakes were selected that had well-constrained magnitudes and aftershock locations. Aftershock sequences are defined by the seismicity occurring during the first few days after the main shock. In most cases, the rupture area was estimated from the distribution of aftershocks. In some cases, the rupture area was constrained by seismic wave analysis and/or geodetic data. In the present analysis, the rupture area associated with the main shock is assumed to be defined by a rectangular region on the fault surface that encloses the aftershock sequence, unless more rigorous estimates have been made for a specific earthquake in the literature to define an irregularly shaped rupture area. It is assumed that the distribution of slip is uniform over the rupture surface defined by the aftershocks, although it is recognized that the rupture may actually be complex (Aki, 1979).

The 24 earthquakes that were selected for the analysis are summarized in Table 1 and are plotted in Figure 1. The empirical relationship between rupture area and earthquake magnitude is of the form:

$$M_s = 0.656 \log A + 4.257$$



The correlation coefficient is 0.834. Local magnitudes,  $M_L$ , have not been converted to surface wave magnitudes,  $M_S$ , because there is little difference between the two scales in this magnitude range. The rupture area versus magnitude relationship is well-defined by the data, particularly in the magnitude range of 5 to 6. The slope of the regression of magnitude on the logarithm of rupture area is about 0.7, whereas it is about 1.0 for  $M \geq 6$  (Wyss, 1979). This difference may reflect differences in the stress drops of earthquakes in the magnitude ranges  $M \geq 6$  and  $M < 6$ .

The relationship presented in Figure 1 can be used to estimate earthquake magnitude for rupture areas as small as about 5 km<sup>2</sup>. For example, the Central fault on Gable Mountain is estimated to have a maximum inferred area of 9 km<sup>2</sup> (Response to 360.20). Assuming that this entire area ruptures during an earthquake, the estimated magnitude from Figure 1 is about  $M_S$  4.9.



TABLE 1

Event	Date	Location	M <sub>s</sub>	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Reference
1	12/21/56	Mizakejima, JP	6.0	550	Utsu (1969)
2	3/22/57	San Francisco, CA	5.3 (M <sub>L</sub> )	45	Tocher (1959)
3	5/7/61	Hyogo Prefecture, JP	5.9	570	Utsu (1969)
4	9/14/63	Watsonville, CA	5.4 (M <sub>L</sub> )	210	McEvelly (1966)
5	11/16/64	Corralitos, CA	5.0	18	McEvelly (1966)
6	9/10/65	Antioch, CA	4.9 (M <sub>L</sub> )	18	McEvelly and Casaday (1967)
7	6/27/66	Parkfield-Cholame, CA	5.5 (M <sub>L</sub> )	520	Eaton et al (1970)
8	9/12/66	Truckee, CA	5.9	100	Kanamori and Anderson (1975)
9	11/12/66	South of Hokkaido, JP	5.9	210	Utsu (1969)
10	7/1/68	Saitama, JP	5.6	60	Abe (1975); Kanamori and Anderson (1975)
11	5/28/69	Coyote Mountain, CA	5.9 (M <sub>L</sub> )	30	Thatcher and Hamilton (1973)
12	10/16/70	SE Akita, JP	6.0	165	Mikumo (1974); Hasegawa et al (1975)
13	9/4/72	Stone Canyon, CA	4.7 (M <sub>L</sub> )	12	Wesson and Ellsworth (1972)
14	2/21/73	Pt. Mugu, CA	5.2	15	Ellsworth et al (1973); Boore & Stierman (1976); Stierman & Ellsworth (1976); Castle et al (1977)
15	3/25/73	Gulf of California	5.5	40	Reichle et al (1976)



Table 1 - continued

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>M<sub>S</sub></u>	<u>Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</u>	<u>Reference</u>
16	3/28/75	Pocatello Valley, ID	6.0 (M <sub>L</sub> )	144	Arabasz et al (1981)
17	7/12/75	Maniwaki, Quebec	4.2 (M <sub>L</sub> )	1	Horner et al (1978)
18	8/1/75	Oroville, CA	5.6	150	Lahr et al (1976); Clark et al (1976); Langston & Butler (1976); Hart et al (1977)
19	8/17/76	Kawazu, JP	5.4	31.5	Abe (1978)
20	1/8/77	Briones Hill, CA	4.3 (M <sub>L</sub> )	8(9)	Johnston et al (1978); Savage & Prescott (1978)
21	8/13/78	Santa Barbara, CA	5.6	50	Lee et al (1978); Wallace et al (1981)
22	8/6/79	Coyote Lake, CA	5.7	200	Lee et al (1979)
23	1/24/80	Livermore, CA	5.9 (M <sub>L</sub> )	264	Scheimer et al (1982)
24	2/29/80	Arudy, France	5.0	35	Souriau et al (1982)



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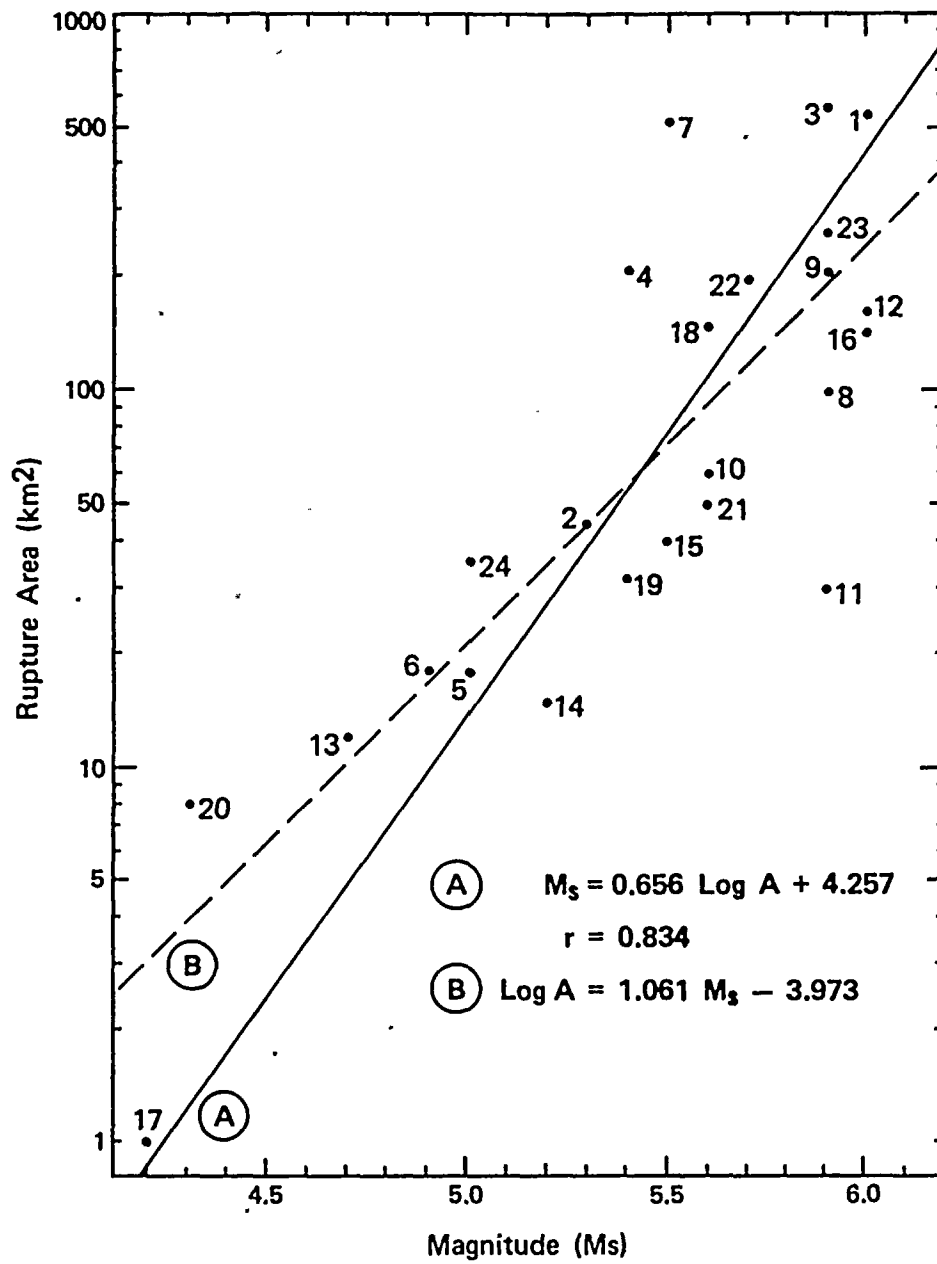
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WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM  Nuclear Project No. 2	PLOT OF RUPTURE AREA VERSUS MAGNITUDE	Figure 1
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