

NEWS RELEASE

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CUSEC ADDS MEMBER STATE

Indianapolis, IN: For the first time in its nearly 20 year history, the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) added a new member to its group of core states yesterday.

The CUSEC Board of Directors, meeting in Indianapolis, IN, voted unanimously to grant full membership to Alabama.

CUSEC was formed in 1984 to coordinate efforts to reduce the loss of line and property in the seven states that would be affected by a major earthquake centered in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ). The charter states were Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Missouri.

Chairman of the Board Patrick R. Ralston of Indiana noted scientific research shows the threat of a major earthquake extends beyond the NMSZ. Recent events have proven the research to be correct. "On April 29, 2003 an earthquake in Fort Payne, Alabama near the Georgia border, that registered 4.6 on the Richter scale, was felt as far away as southern Indiana and Illinois. CUSEC bylaws call for the coordination of hazard reduction activities in *all* states vulnerable to earthquakes in the central United States, not just the ones near the New Madrid Fault."

In a letter of support for Alabama, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Mitigation Division, Anthony Lowe wrote, "The Alabama Emergency Management Agency is postured to be a major contributor to the array of initiatives that CUSEC already has underway and will embark upon in the future."

For more information about CUSEC visit its web site at <http://www.cusec.org> .