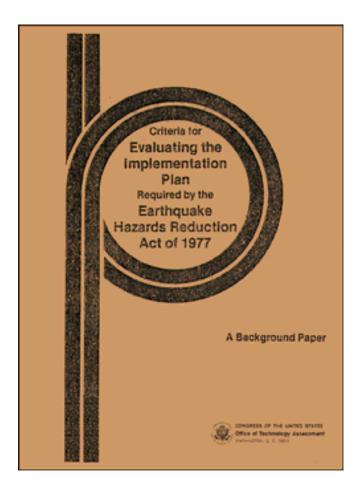
Criteria for Evaluating the Implementation Plan Required By the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977

January 1980

NTIS order #PB81-241663



Preface

Congressman Thomas L. Ashley, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development and Senator William Proxmire, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, requested that the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) undertake a study in the area of natural hazards. In response, OTA initiated a preliminary analysis to define what issues are or would be of congressional concern and where further study could be useful.

This Background Paper, "Criteria for Evaluating the Implementation Plan Required by the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977," is one result of that analysis.

For this study, a working paper was prepared as the basis for a workshop, which included a broad sweep of stakeholders in the public and private sectors, scholars concerned with the field, and members of various congressional committee staffs. On the basis of that workshop's recommendations, a revised working paper was prepared and sent to all participants, and to dozens of other experts, for extensive review. and comment. The final background paper is the responsibility of OTA, not of those who so ably advised us on its preparation.

After the completion of the work reported in this paper (May 1, 1978), the President transmitted to Congress a plan for a National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (June 22, 1978). This OTA paper was made available to and used by staff members of both the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and the House Committee on Science and Technology, in their evaluations of the implementation program. This OTA document may be of continuing use to the committees in their oversight and it may also assist the executive branch and State agencies in the evolution of their programs. (The President's Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program accompanies this background paper as an appendix.)

In addition to the general acknowledgment of the indispensable services to this project of the workshop attendees, the OTA staff wishes to express appreciation for the assistance and cooperation of the following individuals as reviewers, readers, commentators, and sources of information with regard to this document and previous draft materials: Gilbert White, University of Colorado; John Wiggins, Wiggins Associates, Redondo Beach, Calif.; Charles Thiel, National Science Foundation; and Charles Fritz, National Academy of Sciences.

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