

# THE NEW NORMAL FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

**Tom O'Rourke**  
Thomas R. Briggs Professor of  
Engineering  
Cornell University



**EERI Distinguished Lecture**



# TOPICS

- **Tohoku Earthquake**
- **Canterbury EQ Sequence**
- **Hurricanes**
  - **New Orleans**
  - **New York City**
- **New Normal**

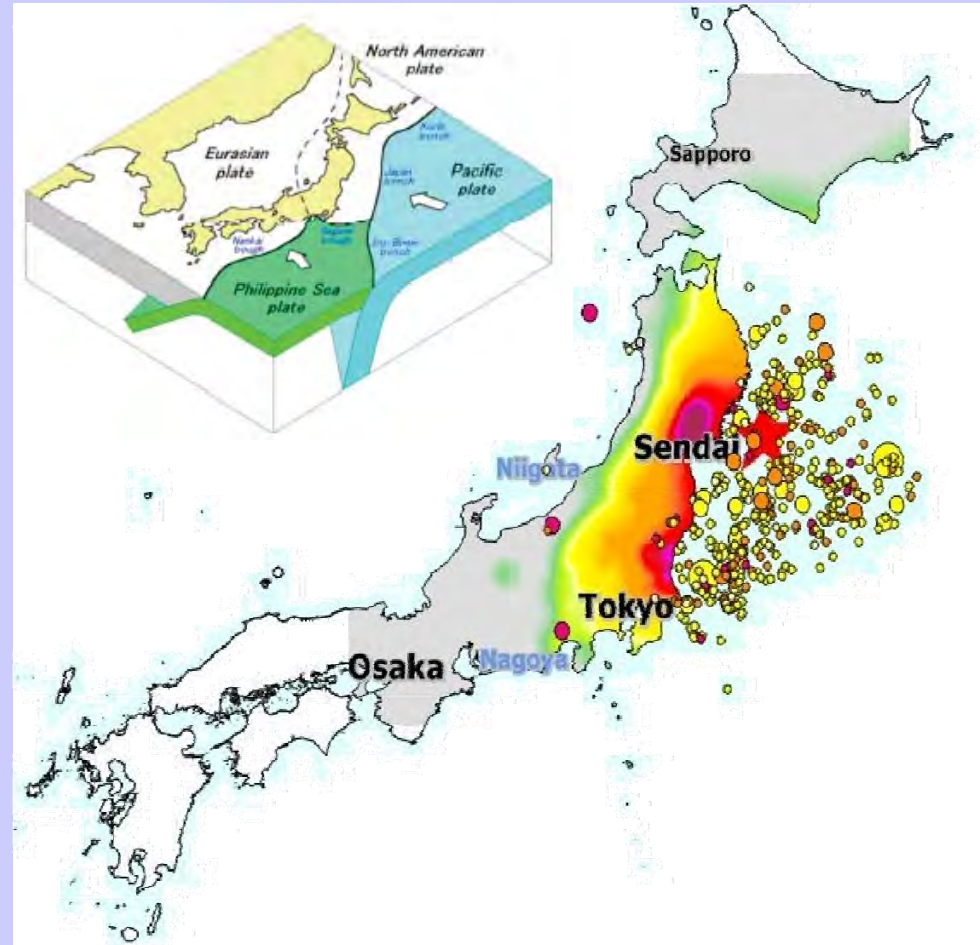
# TOPICS

- **Tohoku Earthquake**
- **Canterbury EQ Sequence**
- **Hurricanes**
  - **New Orleans**
  - **New York City**
- **New Normal**



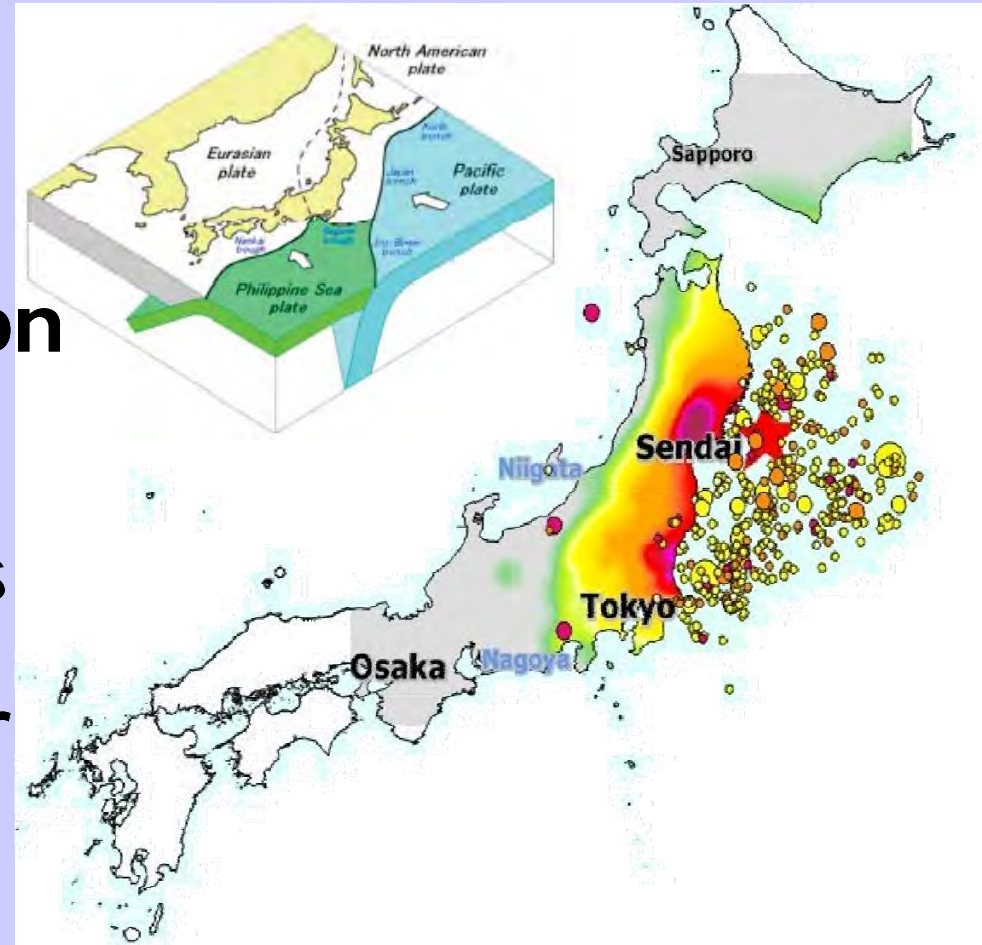
# TOHOKU EARTHQUAKE

- 9.0 Mw (~ 4<sup>th</sup> Largest EQ Measured)
- 10-25 cm Shift in Earth's Axis
- 1000 x more power than 1995 Kobe EQ
- 600 million x more power than Hiroshima bomb



# TOHOKU EARTHQUAKE

- 15,870 Deaths
- 2,814 Missing
- 129,225 Buildings Destroyed; > 1 Million Heavily Damaged
- \$235 B Direct Losses
- ~ \$620 B for Nuclear Decontamination & Decommissioning

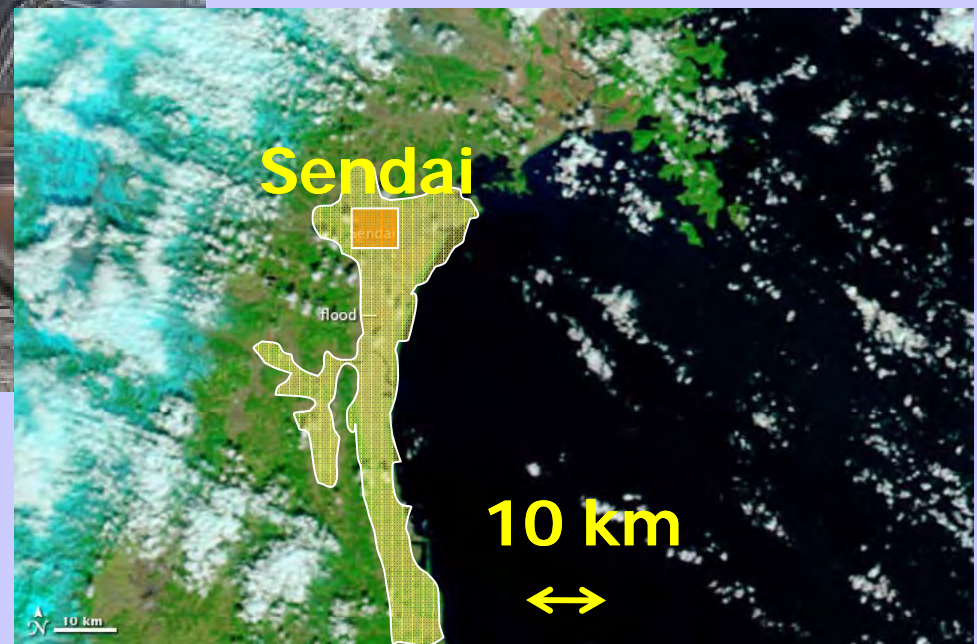


# TOHOKU TSUNAMI



- Inundation = 561 km<sup>2</sup>
- Tsunami Heights = 3 to 7.3 m
- 50 km Run-up on Kitakami River

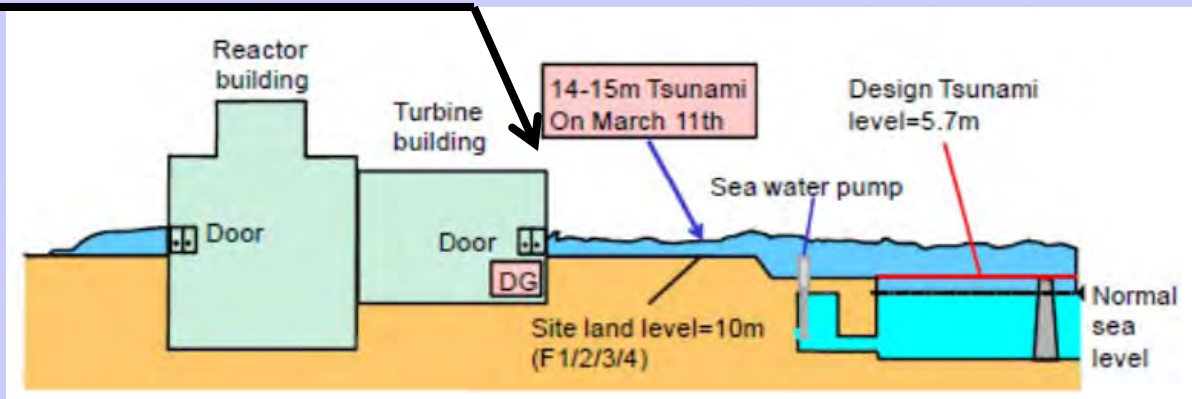
- 190 of 300 km Seawalls Heavily Damaged



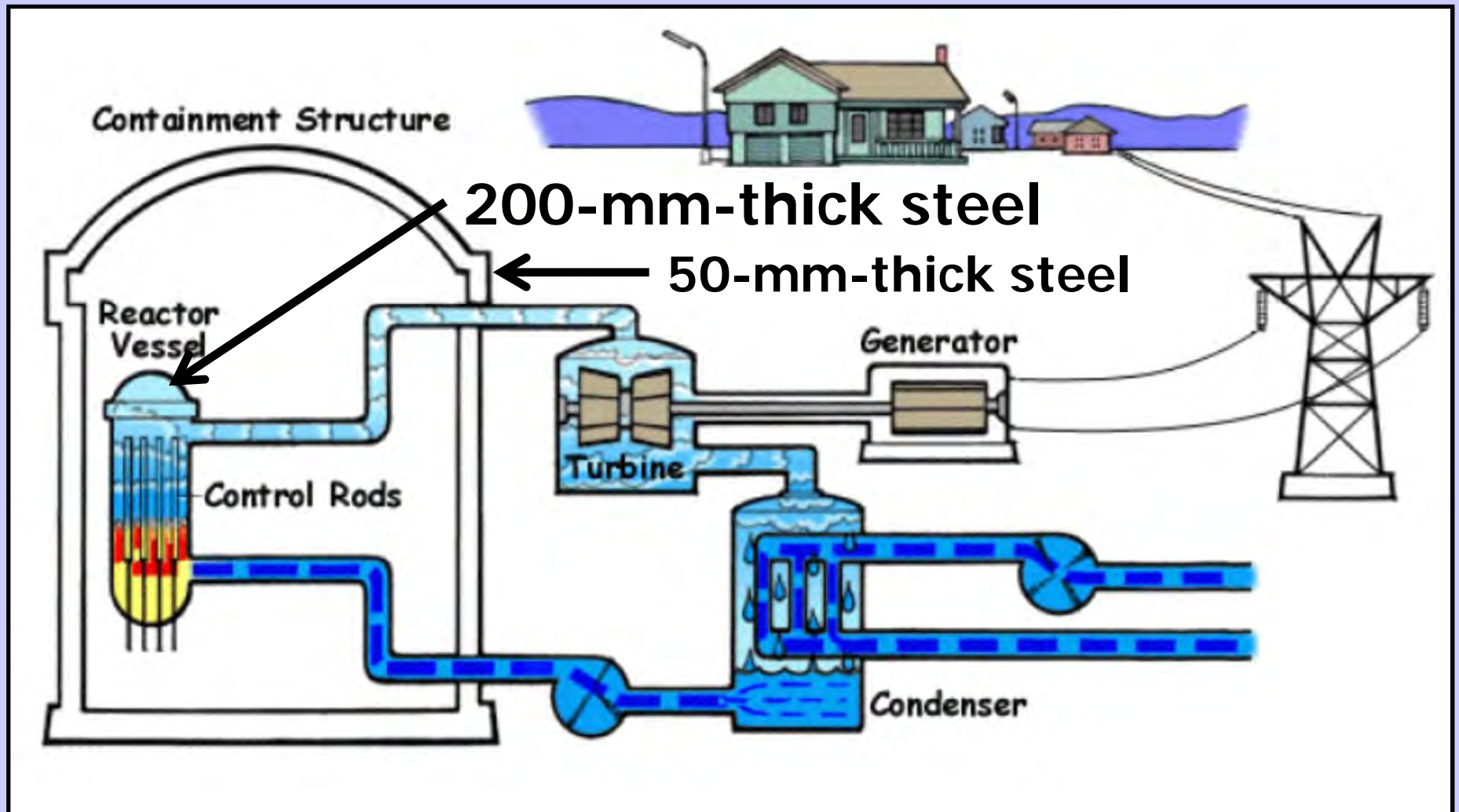


# FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR PLANT

46-m-high splash



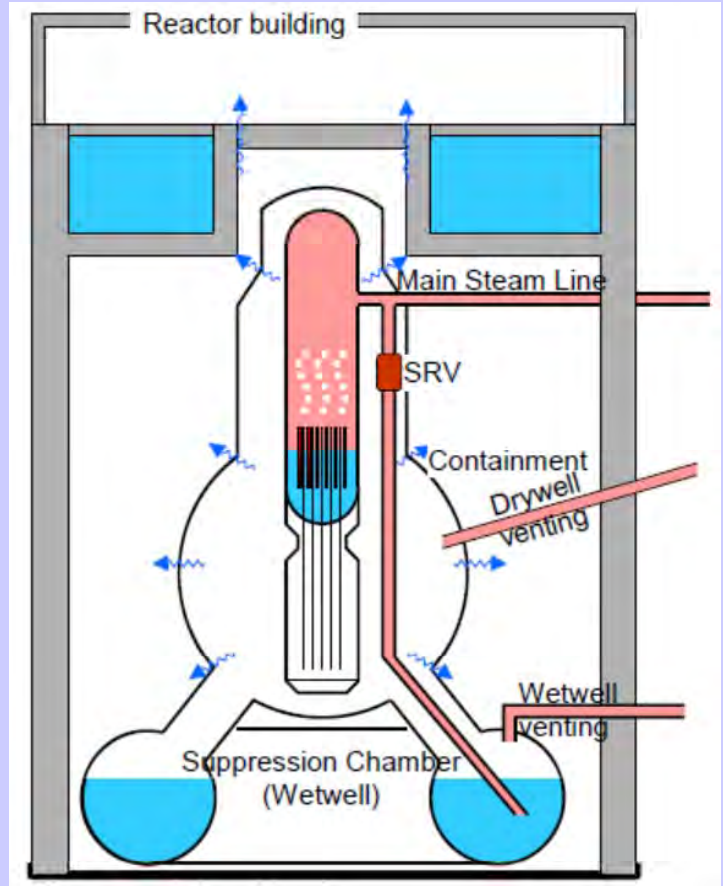
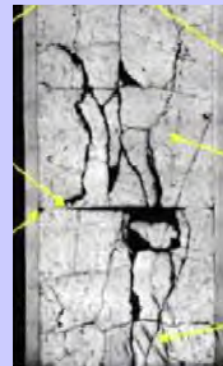
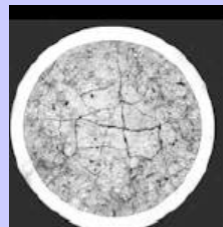
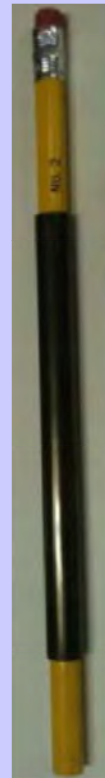
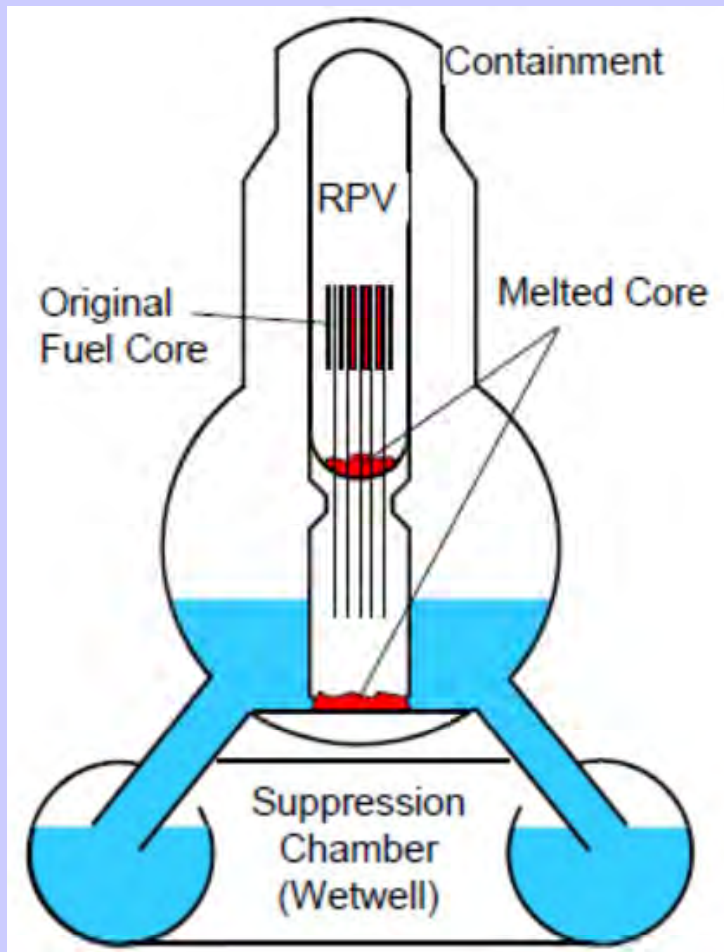
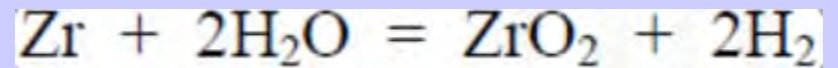
# BOILING WATER REACTOR



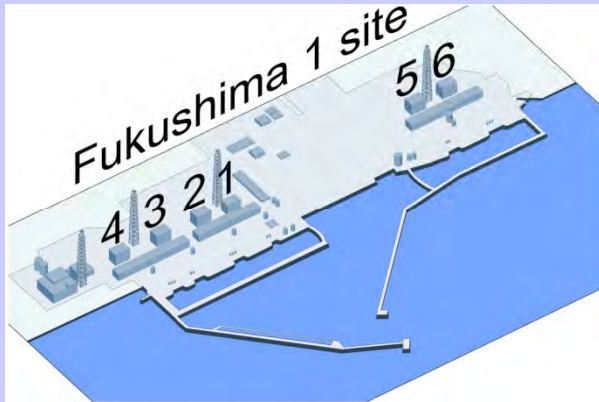


# BOILING WATER REACTOR

Zirconium cladding of fuel rods decomposes to generate hydrogen



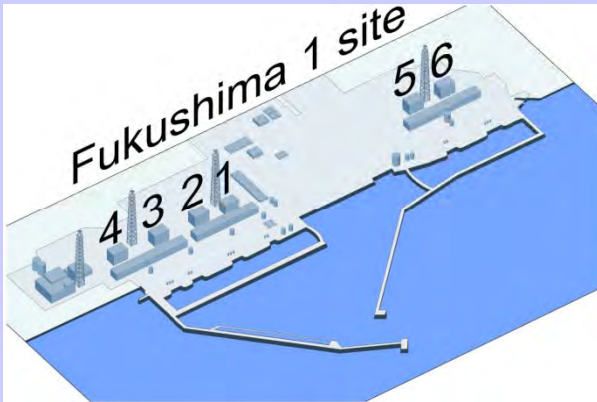
# FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR PLANT



- Electric power to plant lost, including steel tower failure
- Tsunami flooded all diesel generators (DGs) except one air-cooled DG at higher elevation
- Sea water cooling system destroyed



# FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR PLANT



- Partial meltdowns in Units 1, 2, & 3 in primary reactor pressure vessels (RPVs) and primary containment vessels (PCVs)
- Loss of cooling in Unit 4 spent fuel pool
- Hydrogen explosions at all 4 units



# FUKUSHIMA INDEPENDENT PANEL

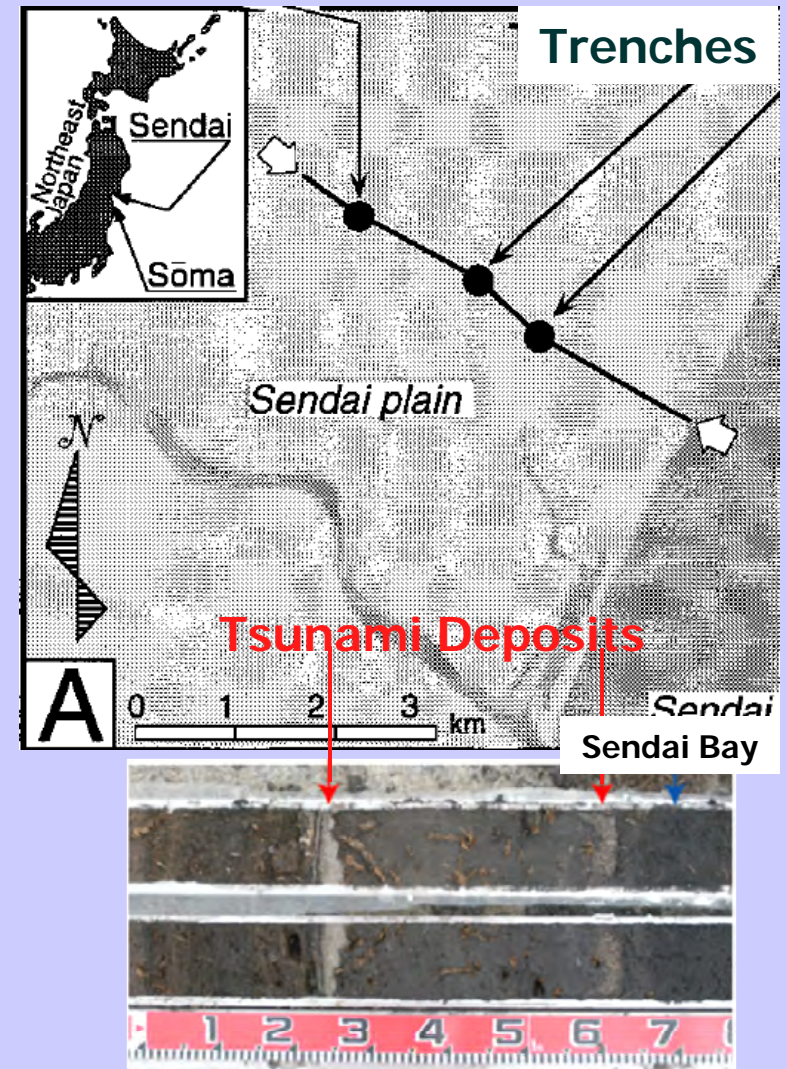
## (Hatamura Panel)

- Loss of Off-Site Emergency Center
- Failure to Delegate Authority
- Poor Coordination with Prime Minister's Office
- Errors in Use of Critical Equipment
- Inadequate Radiation Monitoring & Dissemination of Information
- Evacuation Mistakes



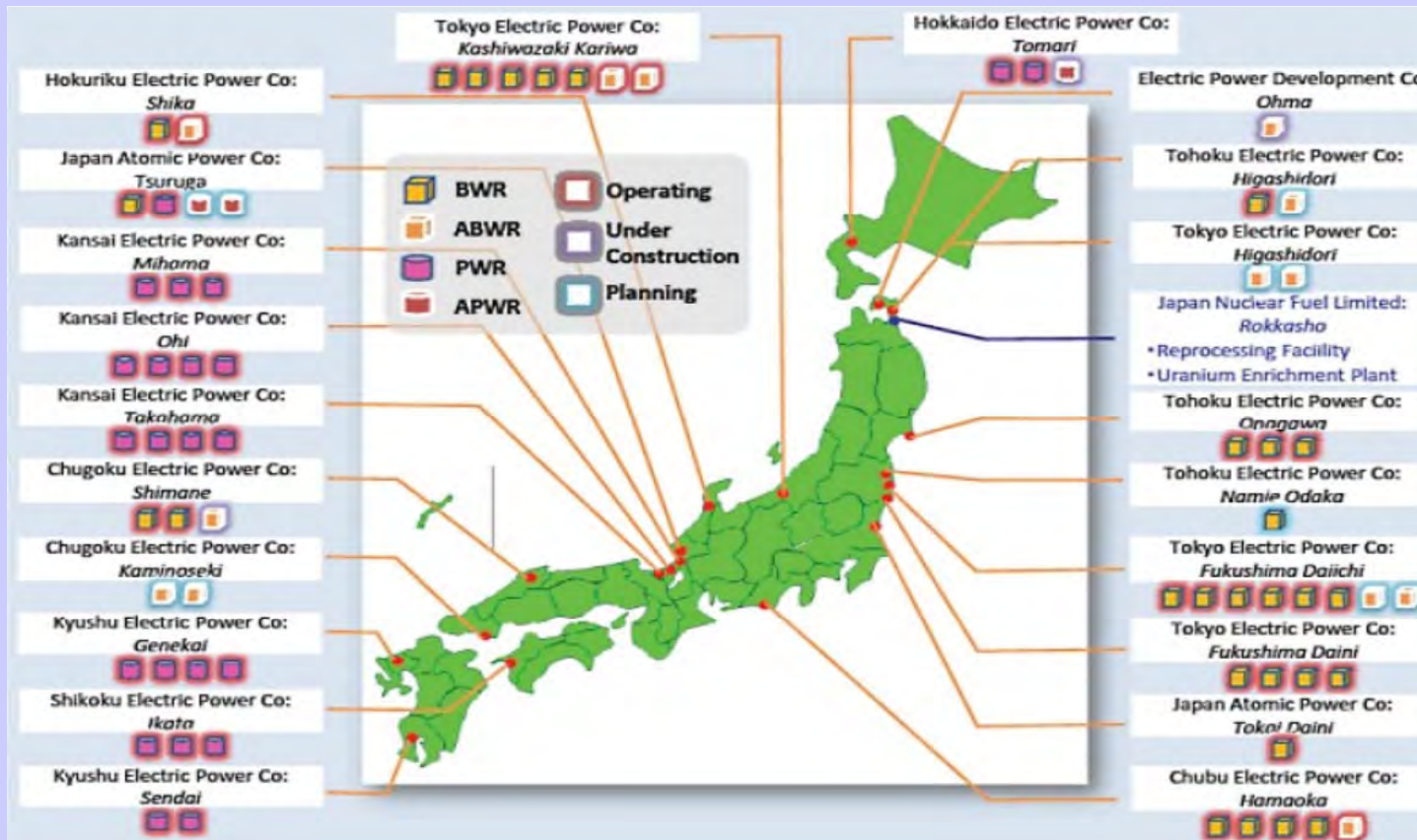
# 869 SANRIKU EQ AND TSUNAMI

- Trenches & Soil Coring Revealed Tsunami Deposits
- Sand Layers Between Peat Layers, Carbon Dating of Organics
- Historical Documents Confirm Tsunami
- Models Show ~ 8.4 Mw EQ
- Current Studies Suggest Tsunami Run-up > Extent of Sand Deposits
- ~1100 Yr. Recurrence





# JAPAN'S NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS



- On 5 May 12 all 54 nuclear reactors down working, or 0 % of total nuclear; 1 reactor on line 1 July 12

- Japan imports 84% of energy
- Nuclear reactors supplied ~ 30% electricity
- Japan planned to increase to 40% by 2017
- Nuclear was part of CO2 reduction strategy



EERI Distinguished Lecture





# WORLDWIDE EFFECTS: NUCLEAR POWER



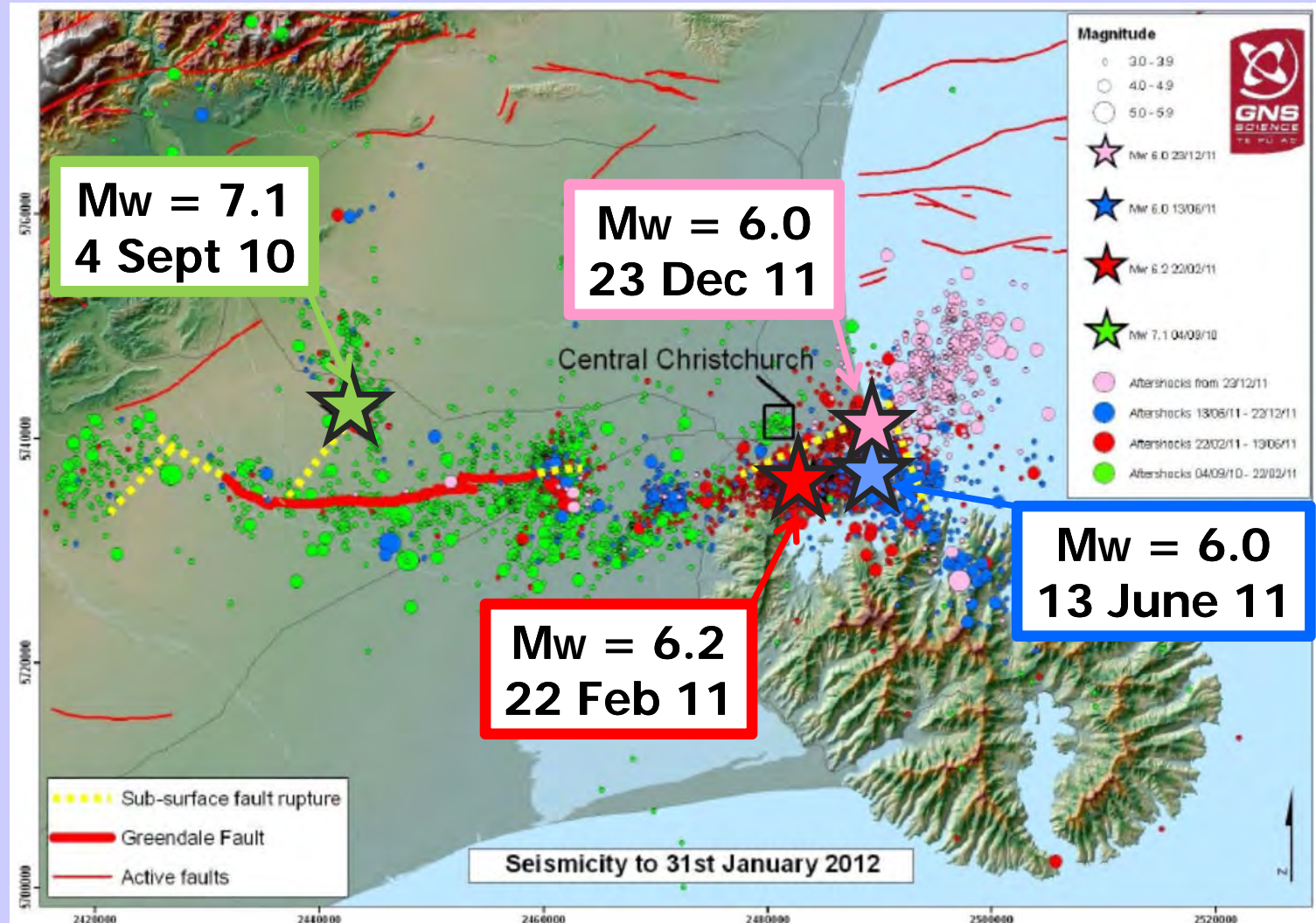
- Germany to Close Out Nuclear Power (22.4% Electricity, 2010)
- Switzerland to Terminate Nuclear (40% Electricity, 2008)
- Italy Referendum (2011): > 94% Voters Oppose Plans to Resume Nuclear Power (abandoned 1980s)

# NEW ZEALAND





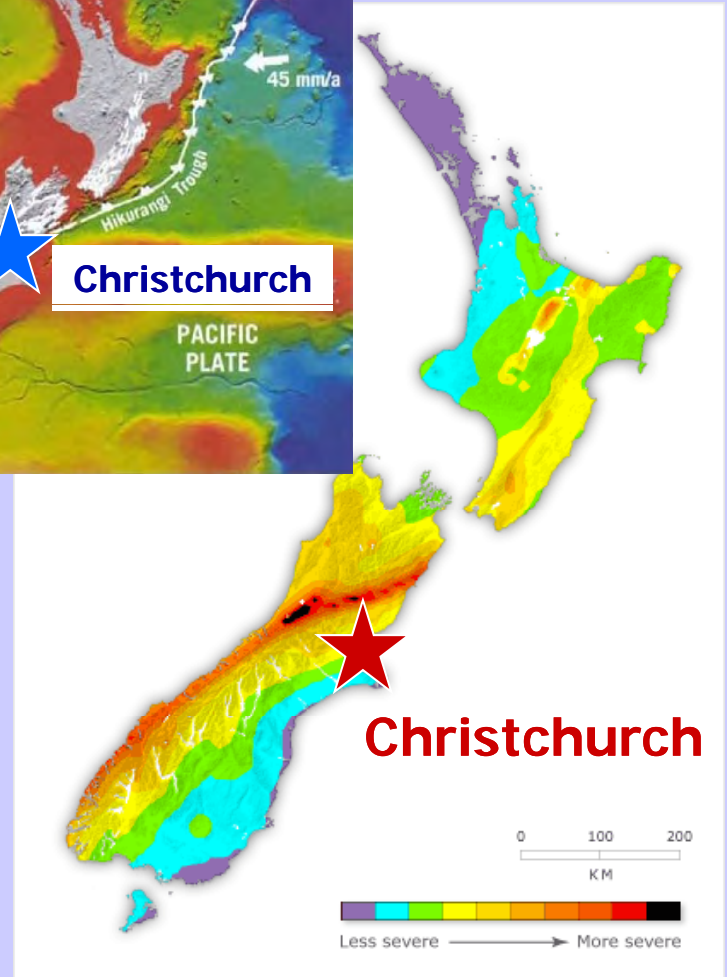
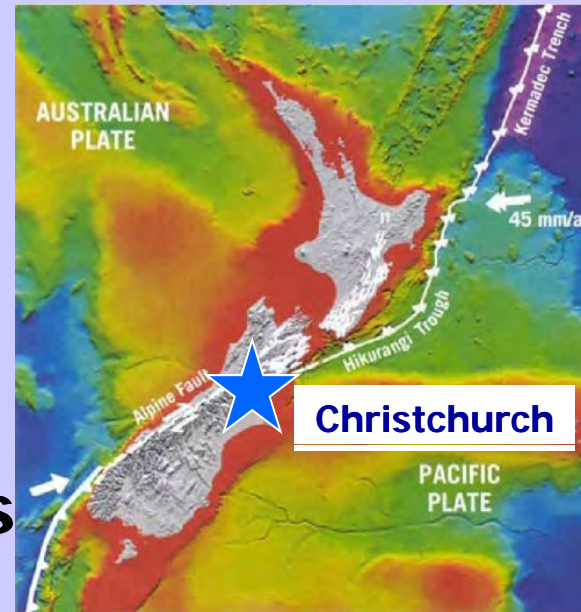
# CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE SEQUENCE



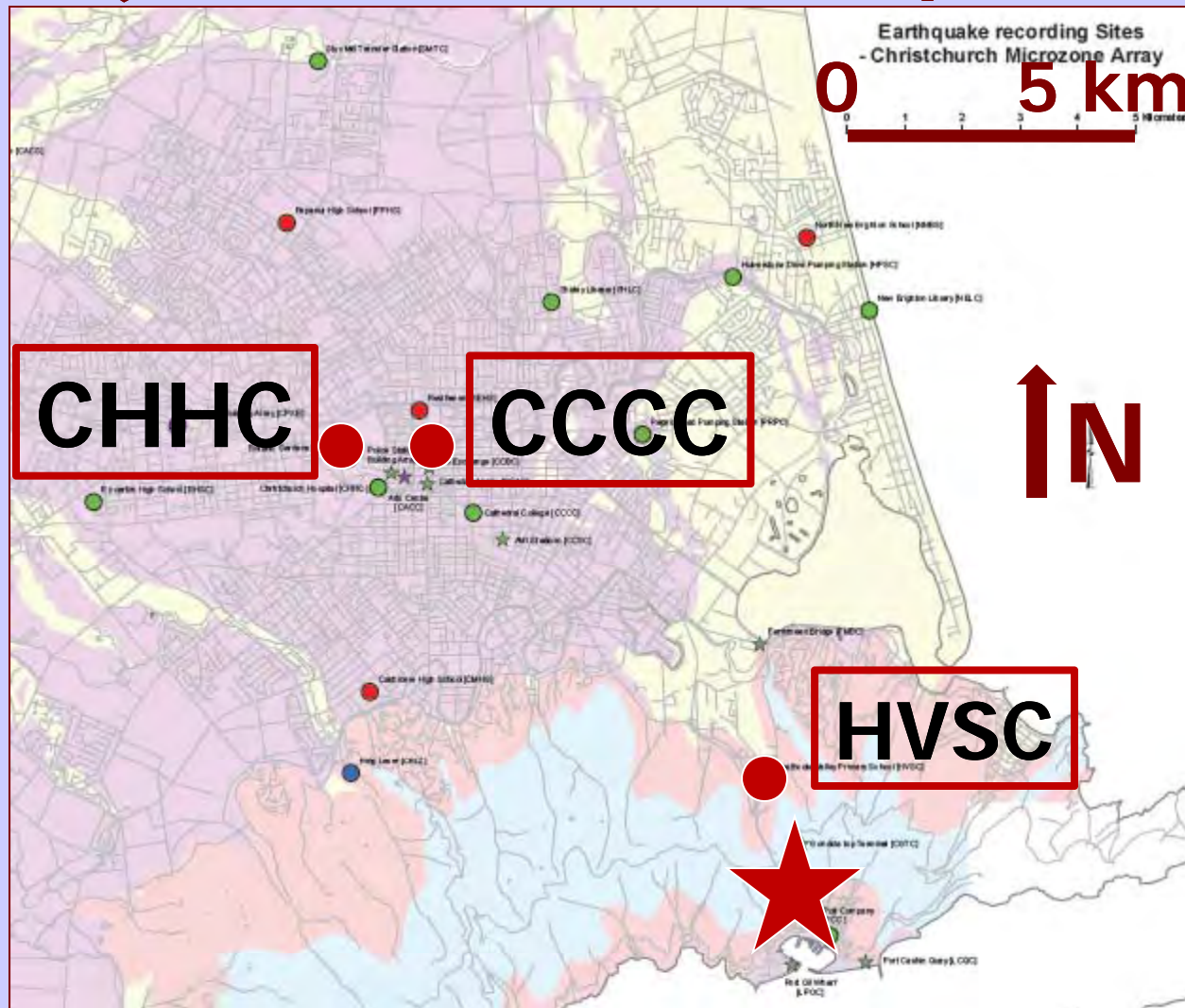


# CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE SEQUENCE

- ~ 190 Deaths
- CBD Destroyed
  - ~ 1800 CBD Bldgs. Demolished
  - ~ 55,000 Residences Damaged
- \$25-30 B Direct Losses, >20 % GDP
- Massive Liquefaction & Infrastructure Damage

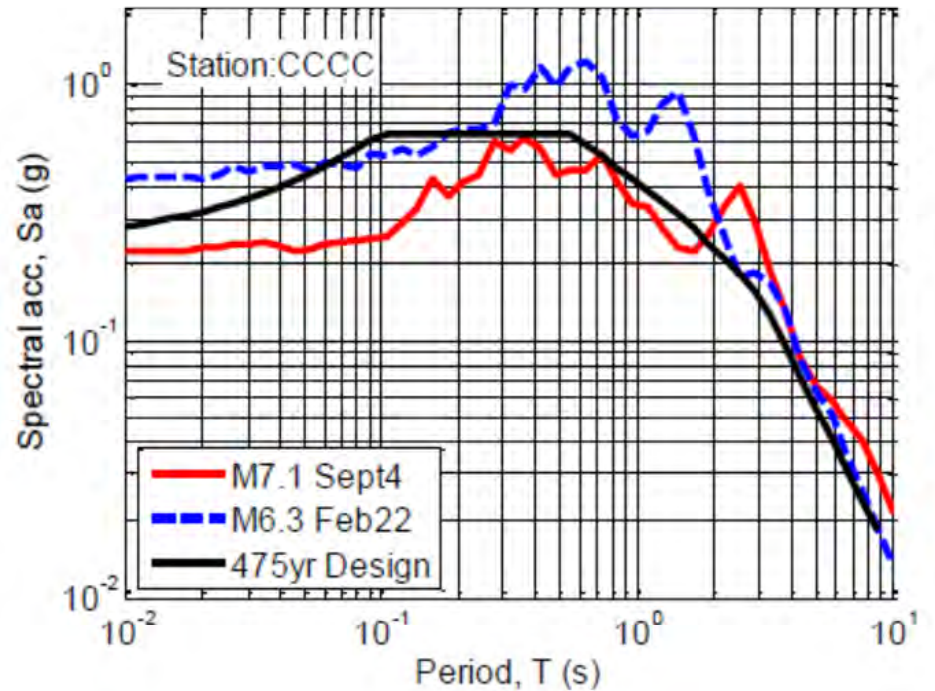
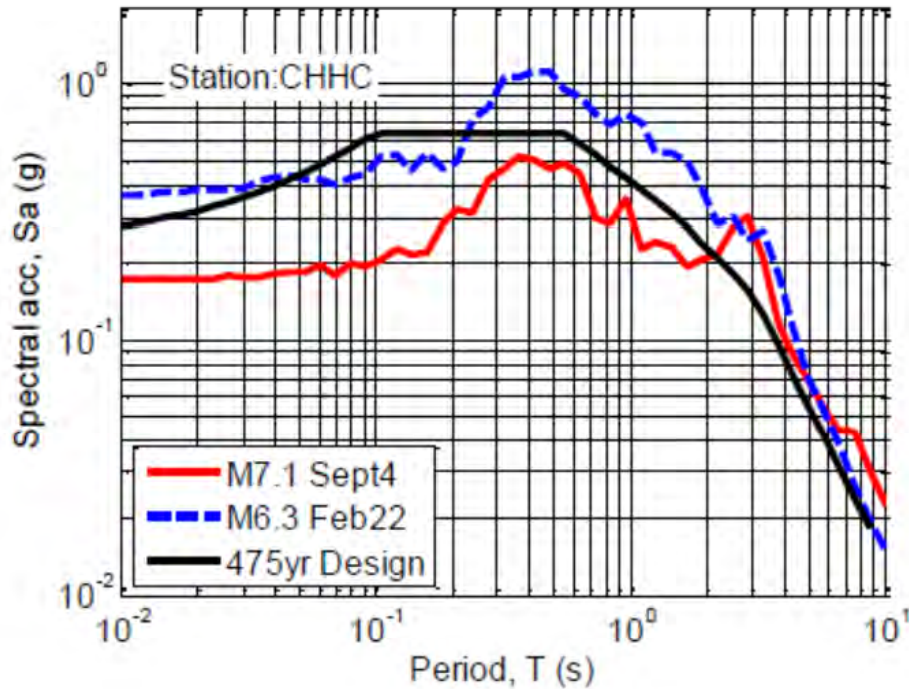
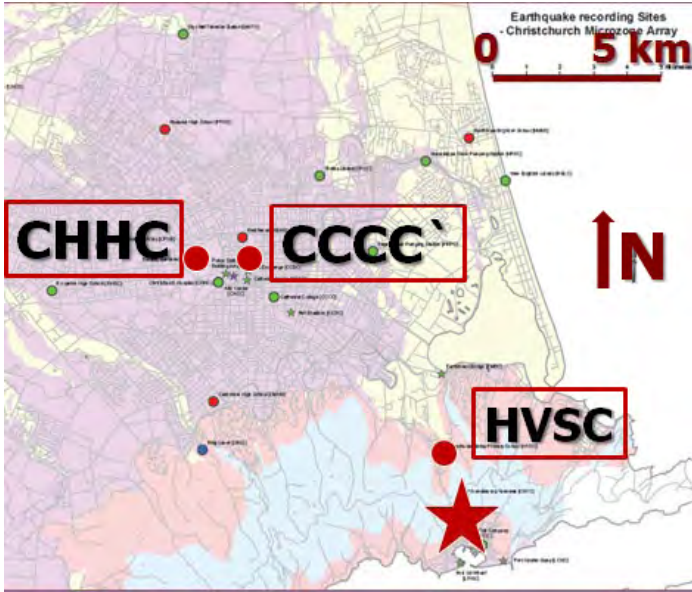


# STRONG MOTION RECORDS (Christchurch Earthquake)



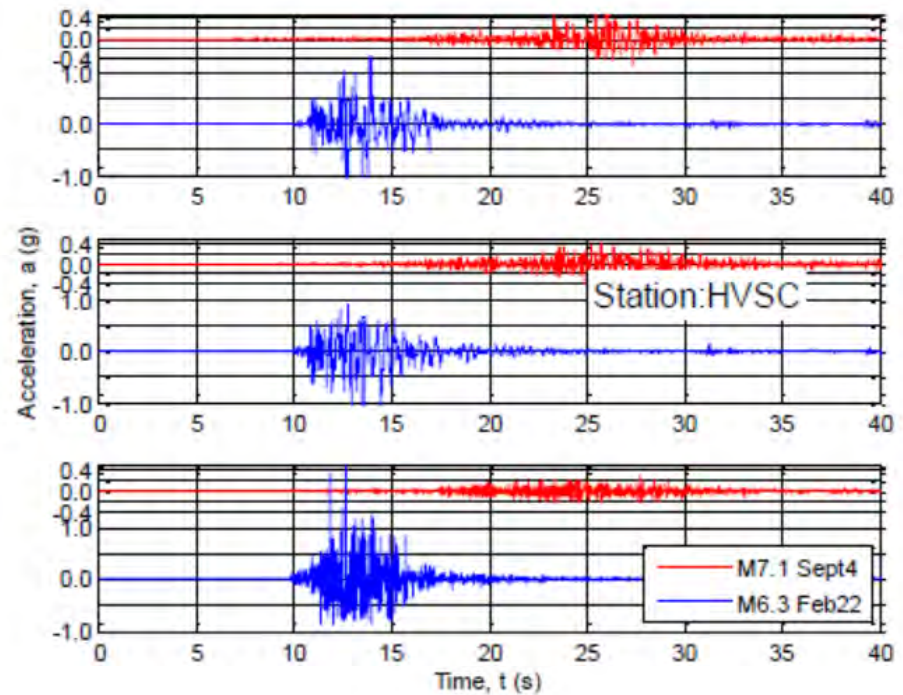
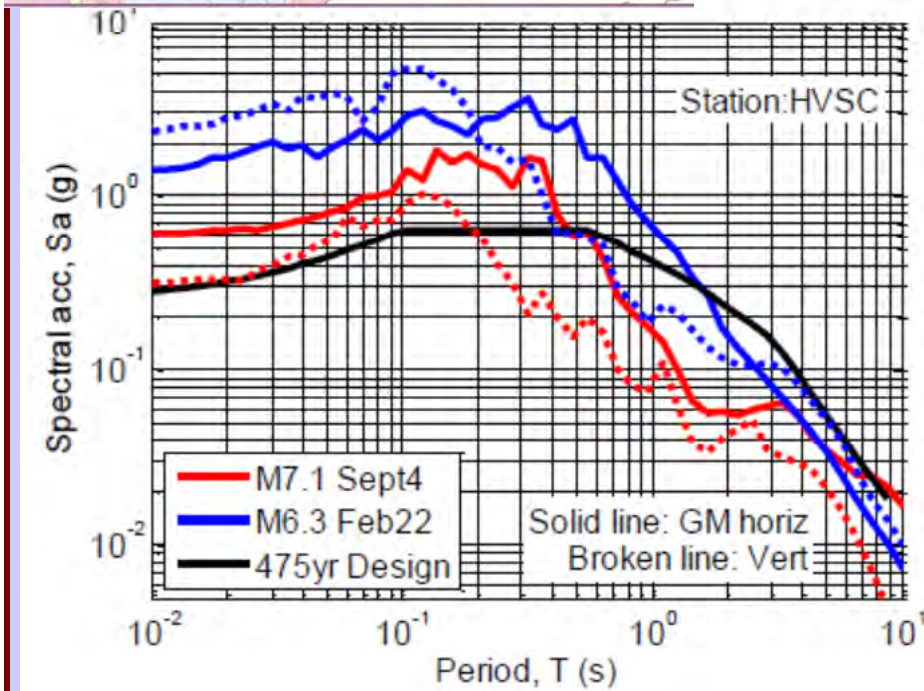
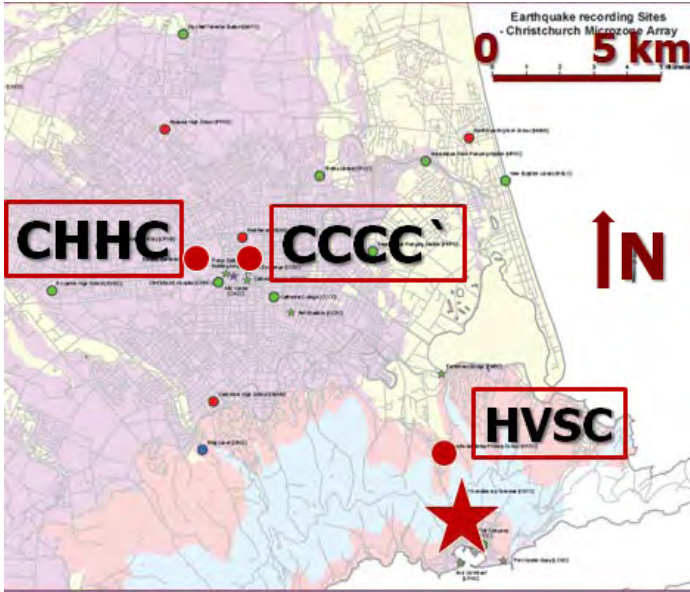


# STRONG MOTION RECORDS



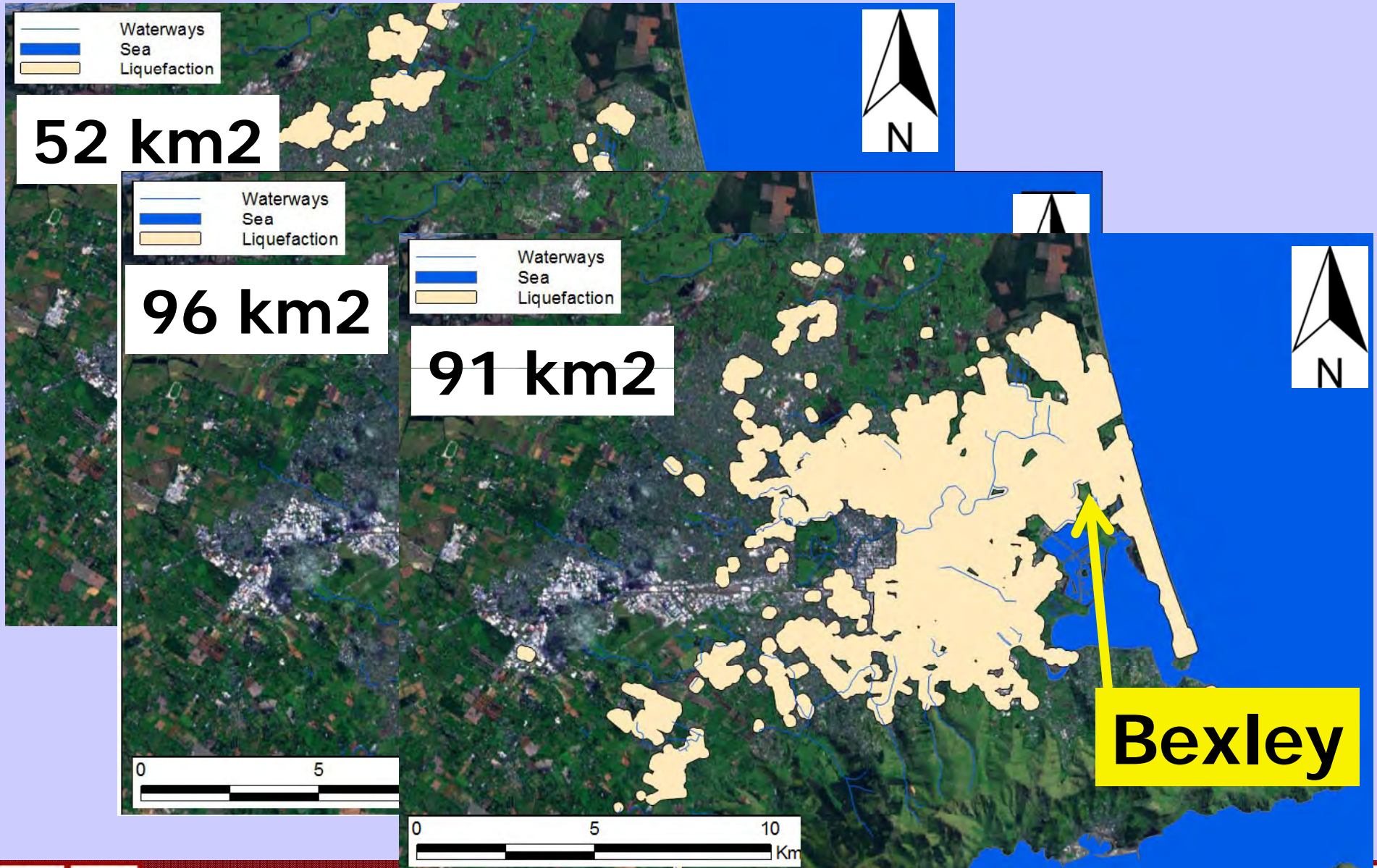


# STRONG MOTION RECORDS





# CHRISTCHURCH LIQUEFACTION





# CHRISTCHURCH LIQUEFACTION

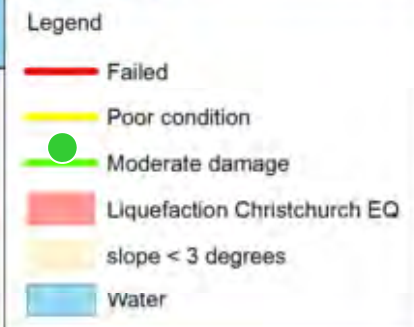
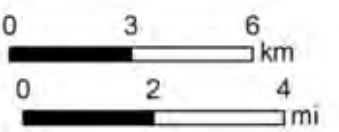
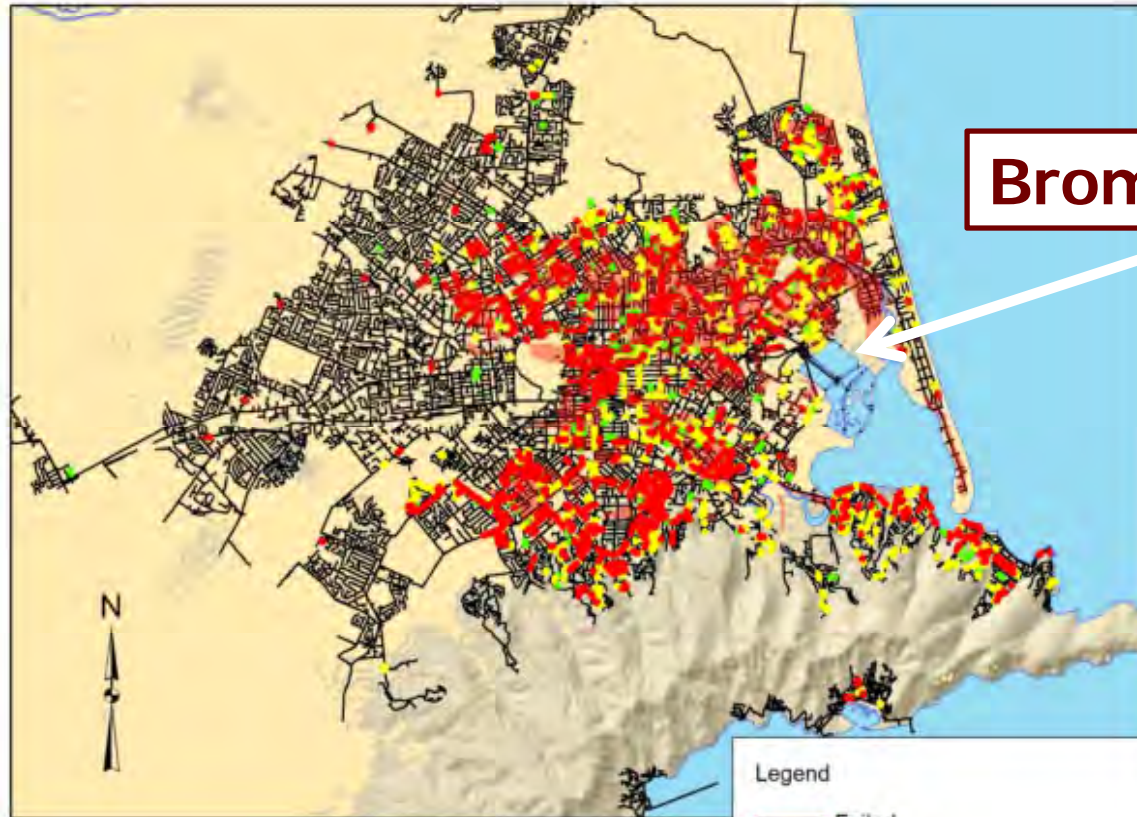


EERI Distinguished Lecture





# WASTEWATER SYSTEM



**Bromley Plant**

Lagoons



Grit Tanks

Primary Settlement Tanks

Trickling Filters

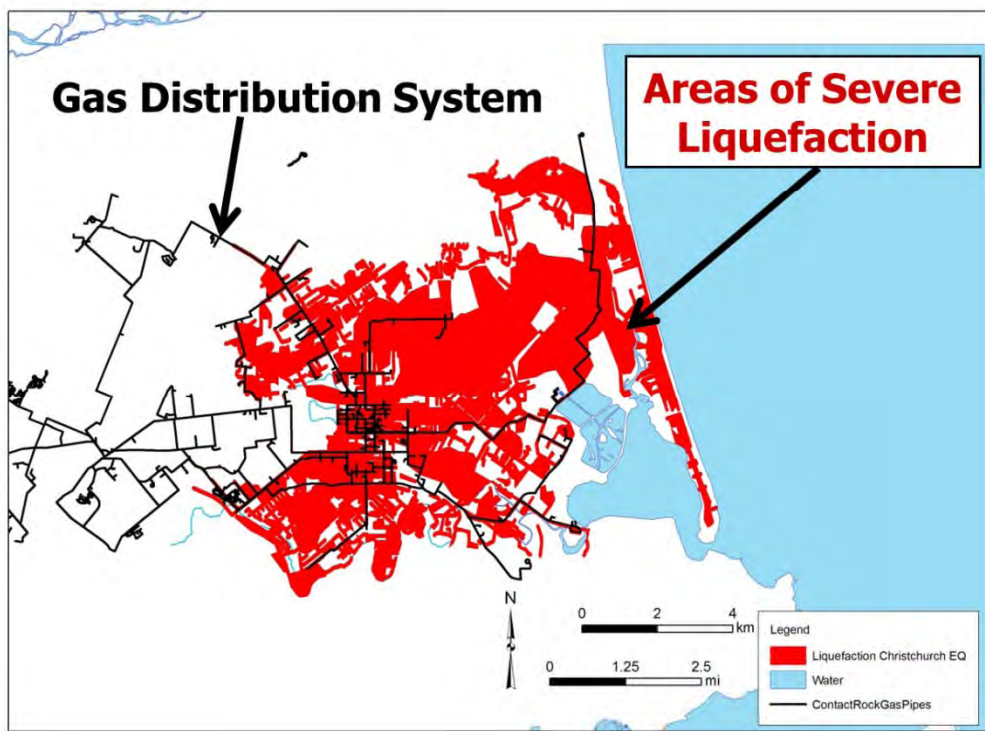
Clarifiers



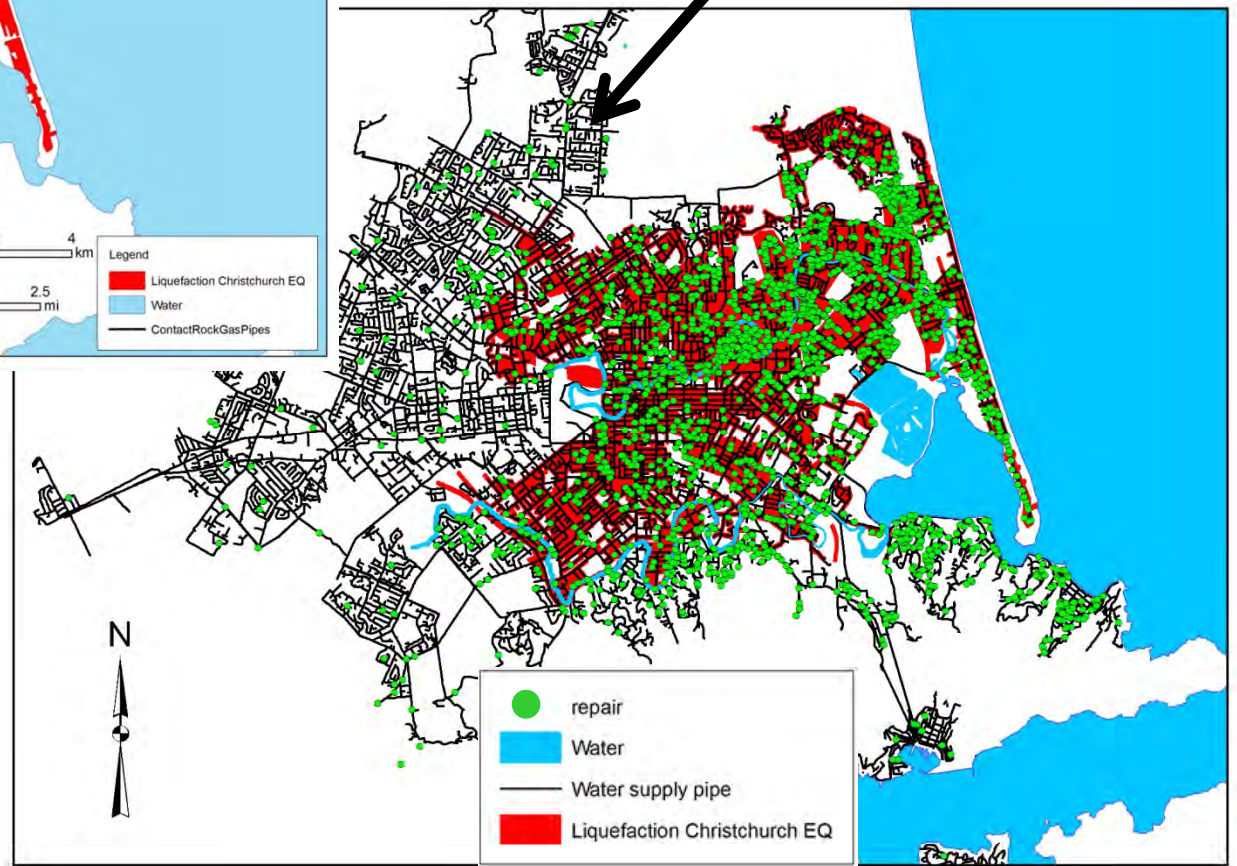
EERI Distinguished Lecture







## Water Distribution System





# **NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE**

- **~80% Insurance Coverage Before Earthquakes**
- **After EQs, Renegotiation of Reinsurance**
- **Four-fold Increase in Insurance EQC Rates, with More Projected**
- **Termination of Local Authorities Protection Program (LAPP)**

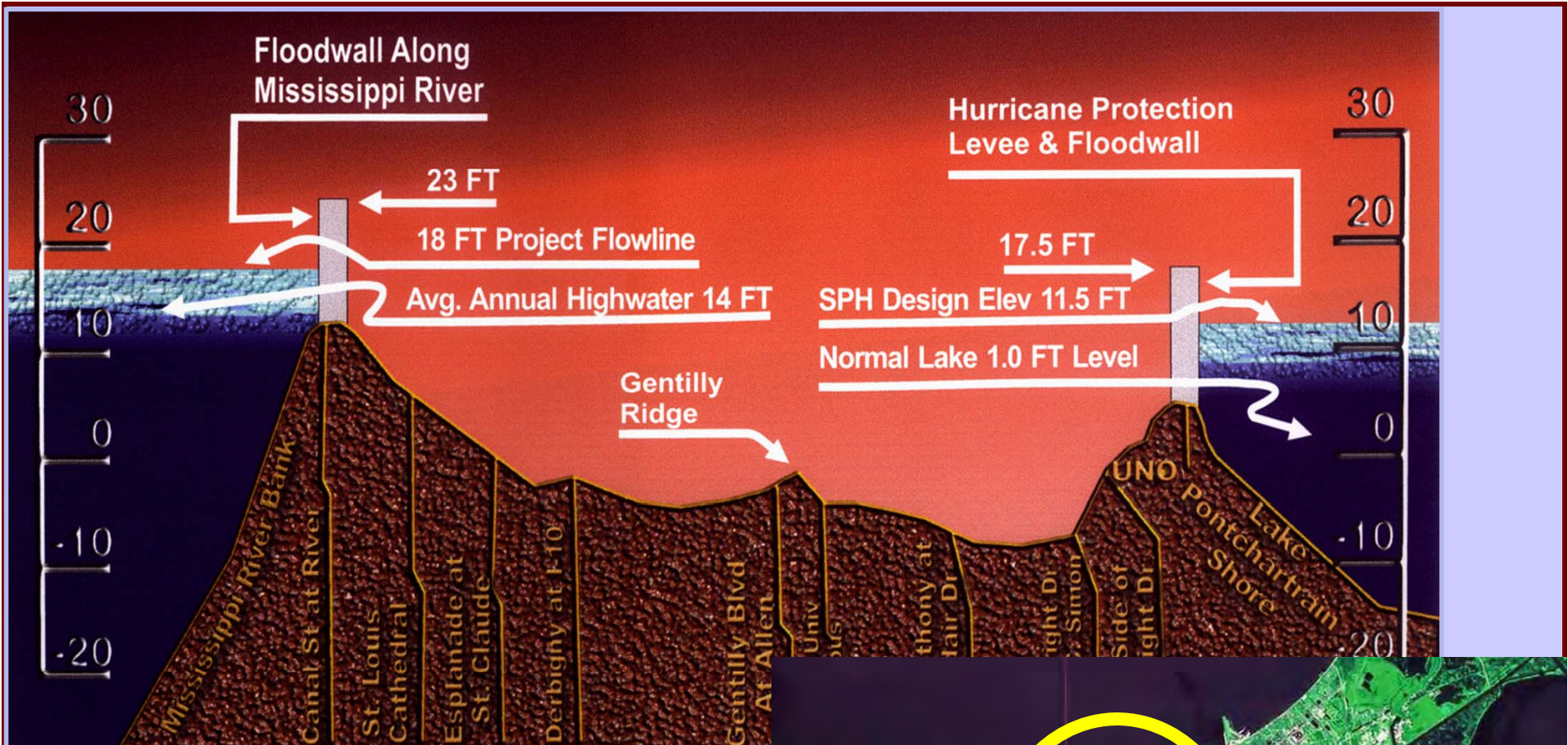
# TOPICS

- Tohoku Earthquake
- Canterbury EQ Sequence
- **Hurricanes**
  - **New Orleans**
  - **New York City**
- New Normal

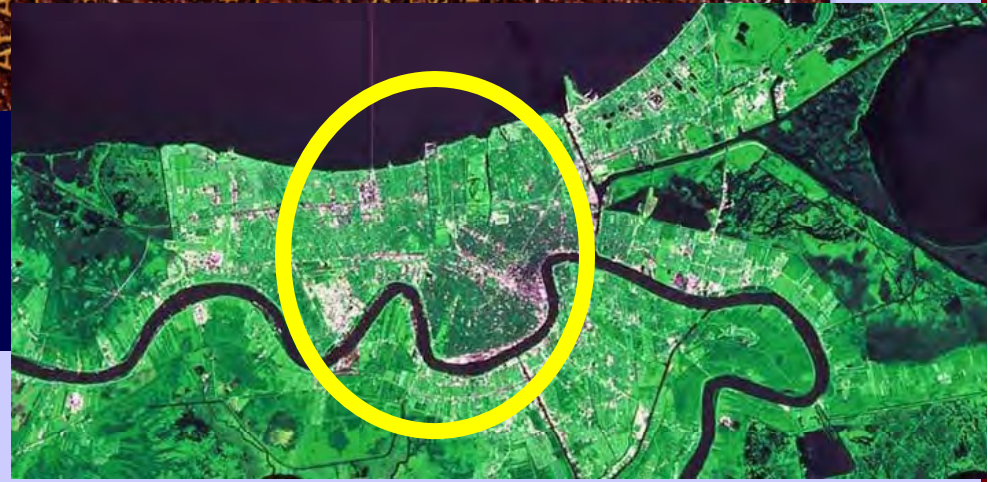








# New Orleans Elevation Cross-Section



Entergy (2006)



## EERI Distinguished Lecture





# HURRICANE KATRINA

- Greatest U.S. Disaster
- 2000 Dead & Missing
- > \$ 120 Billion Losses
- 80% New Orleans Flooded, 53 Days to Dewater
- Impacts on Gulf Offshore Infrastructure & Energy Delivery System
- Complete Failure of Hurricane Protection System
  - Hurricane Hazard
  - Incomplete Design & Construction
  - Poor Maintenance
  - I Walls & Foundations
  - Poor Preparation
  - Inadequate Response



# EVOLUTION OF CONCEPT

## September 11:

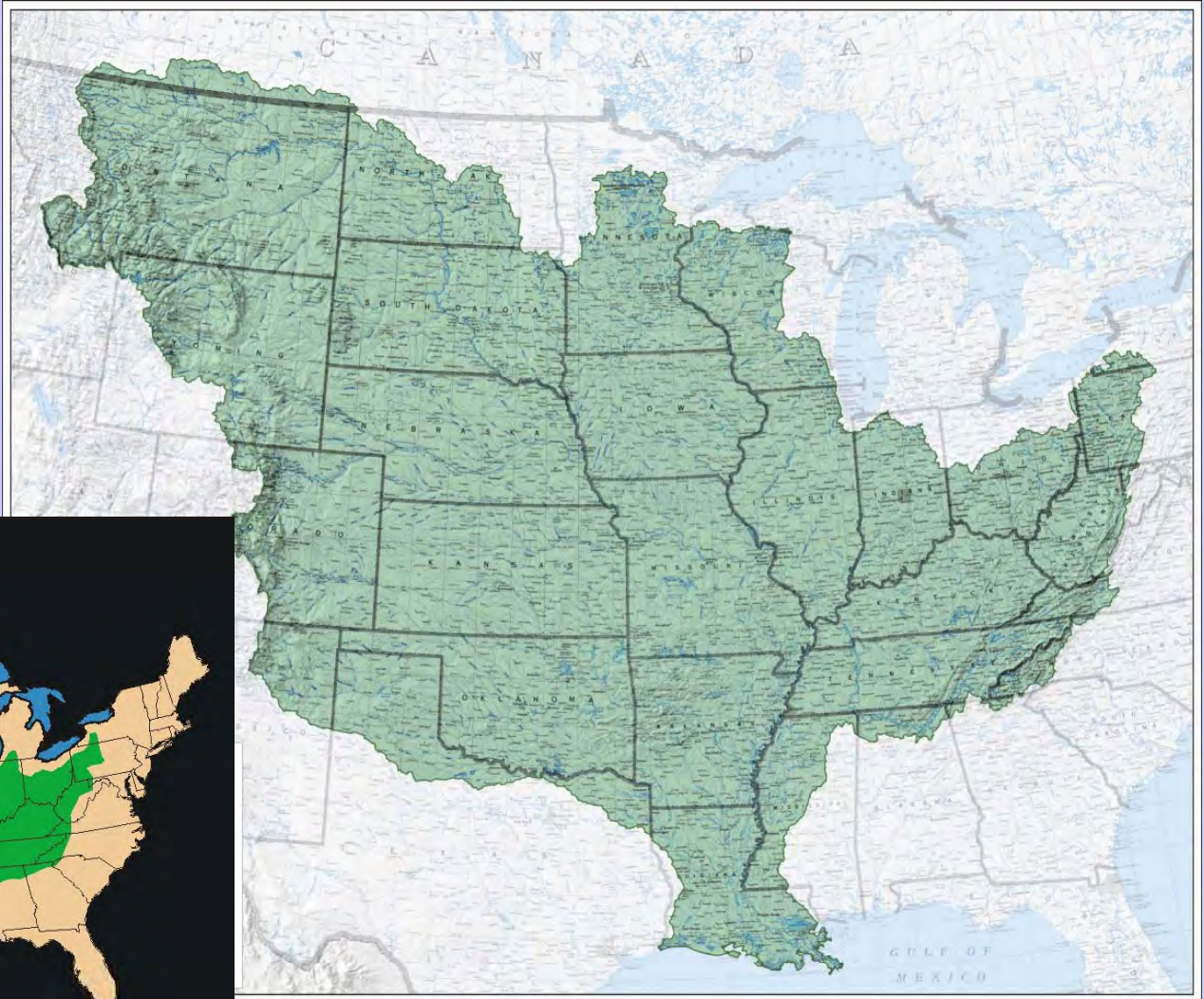
- Protection of Critical Infrastructure



- ## Hurricane Katrina:
- Resilient Communities



# Mississippi River Drains 41% of US



**65 Kilo-tonnes/s  
1927, '37. '73**



**EERI Distinguished Lecture**







**100 km<sup>2</sup>, 1-2m  
Deep per Year**

**200 Million Tonnes  
of Sediment/Yr.**



**EERI Distinguished Lecture**





NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER  
ATLANTIC · CARIBBEAN · GULF OF MEXICO · HURRICANE TRACK CHART

# 2005 Hurricanes

NUMBER	TYPE	NAME	DATE
1	T	ARLENE	8 Jun.-13 Jun.
2	T	BRET	28 Jun.-30 Jun.
3	H	CINDY	3 Jul.-7 Jul.
4	H	DENNIS	4 Jul.-13 Jul.
5	H	EMILY	11 Jul.-21 Jul.
6	T	FRANKLIN	21 Jul.-29 Jul.
7	T	GERT	23 Jul.-25 Jul.
8	T	HARVEY	2 Aug.-8 Aug.
9	H	IRENE	4 Aug.-18 Aug.

## Rita

## Katrina

## Wilma

## Emily

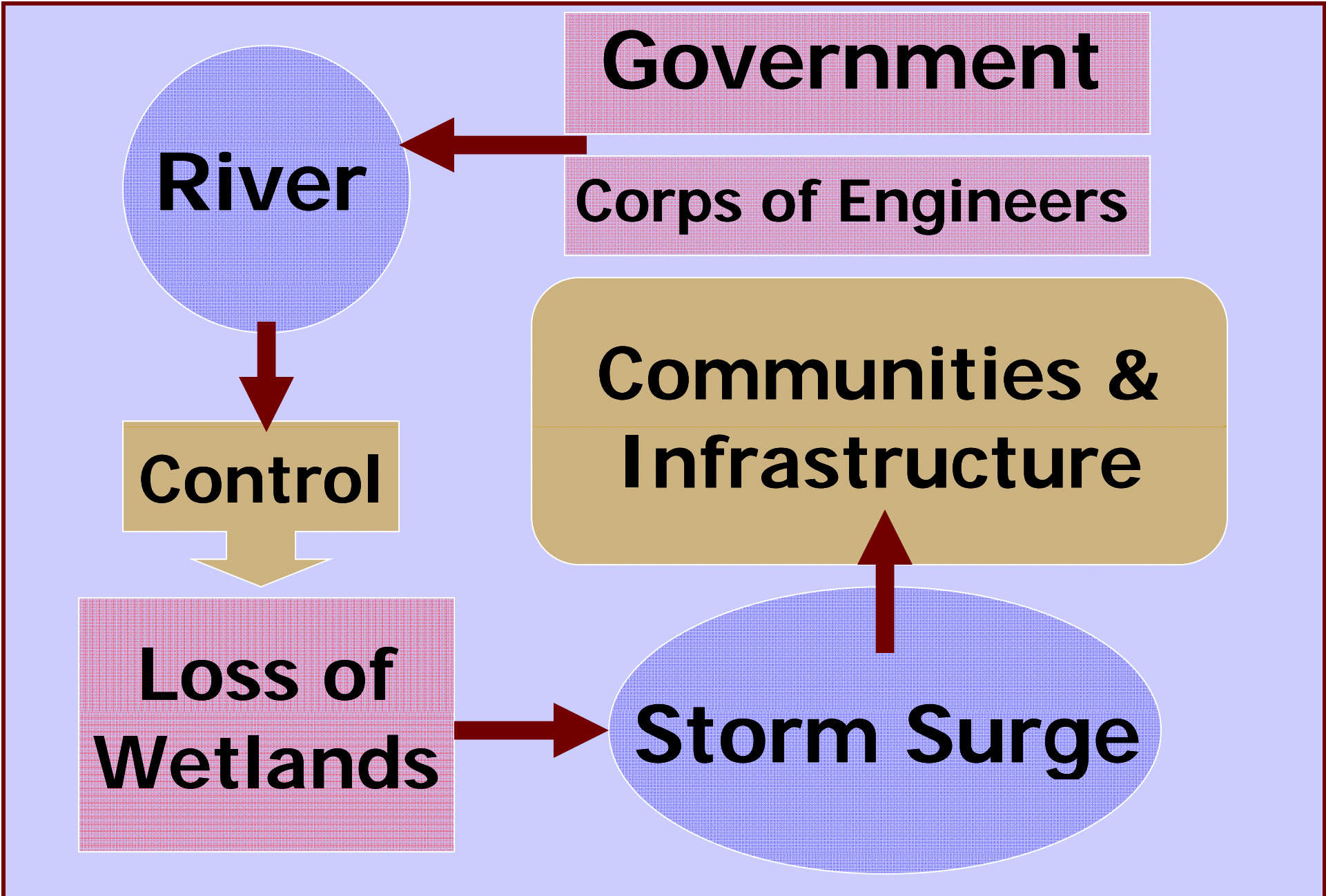
- 28 Storms
- 15 Hurricanes
- > \$120 Billion

— Hurricane (H)  
— Tropical Storm (T)  
— Trop  
+++ Extr  
--- Wav  
— Subt  
— Subt  
● Positi  
○ Positi  
5 Tropica



# EERI Distinguished Lecture

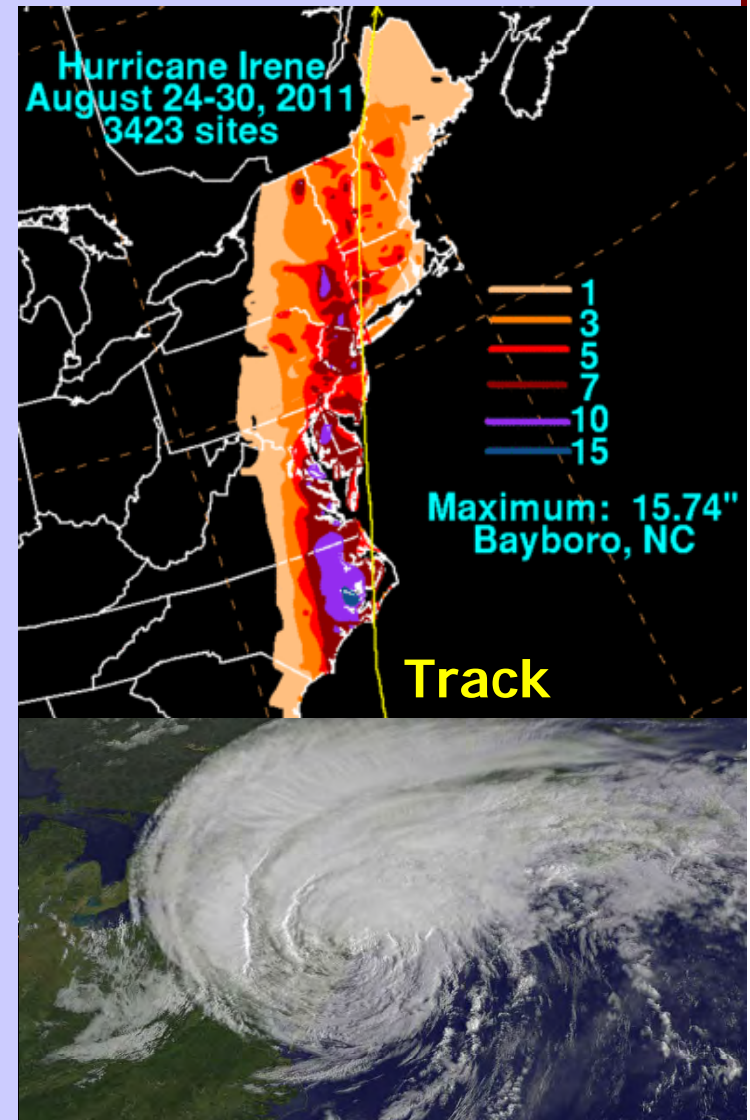






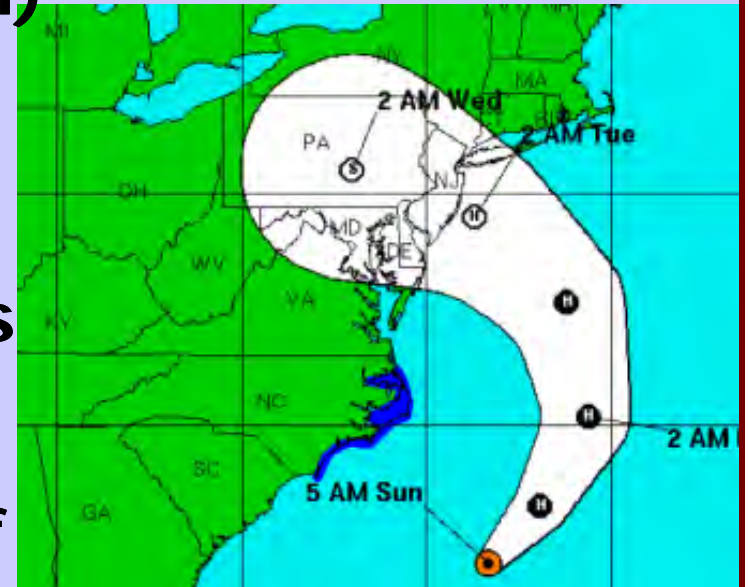
# HURRICANE IRENE

- 56 Killed
- \$10-15 Billion Direct Losses
- 7.4 Million Homes & Businesses Without Power
- NYC Evacuation & Shutdown of MTA & Public Transportation
- Record Flooding
- Near Miss



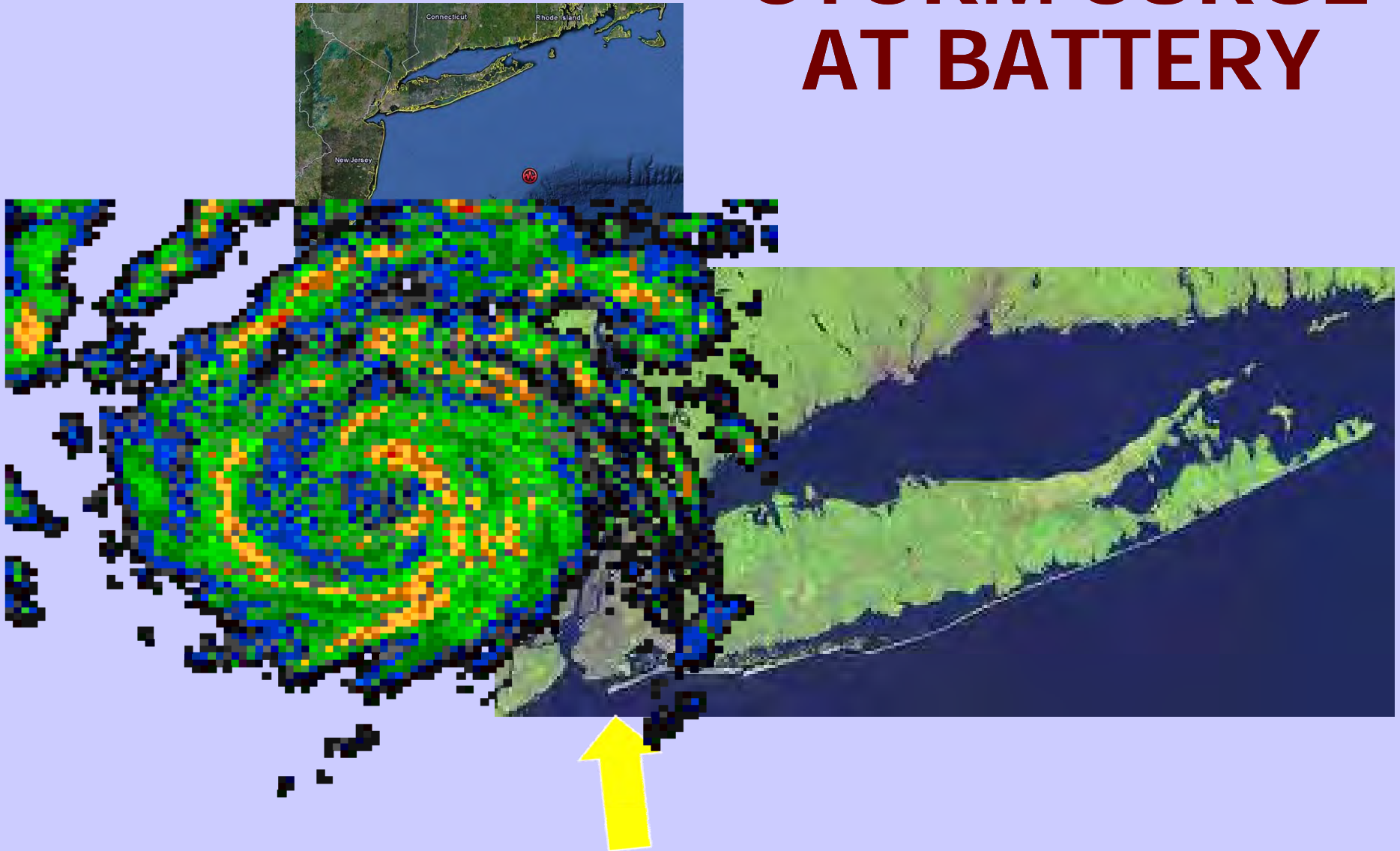
# HURRICANE SANDY

- > 120 Killed US (~70 Caribbean)
- > \$60 Billion Property and Business Losses
- 8.5 Million Homes & Businesses Without Power
- NYC Evacuation & Shutdown of MTA & Public Transport
- Wall Street Shut 2 Days
- Record Flooding (Surge)
- Direct Hit

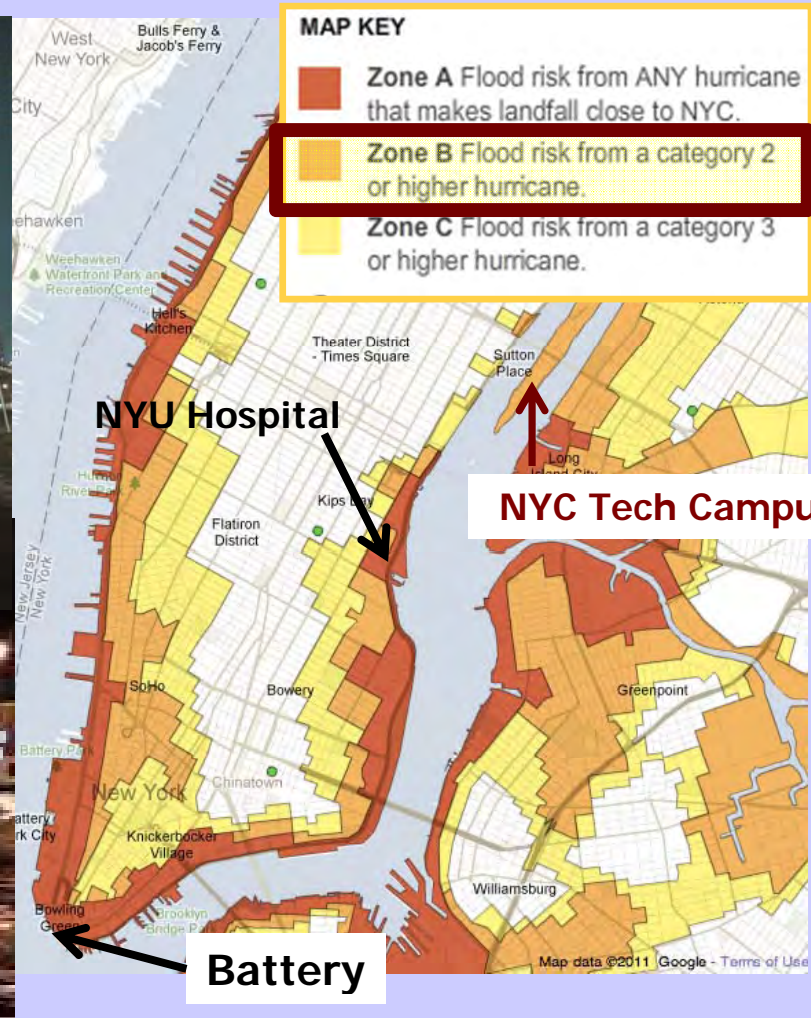
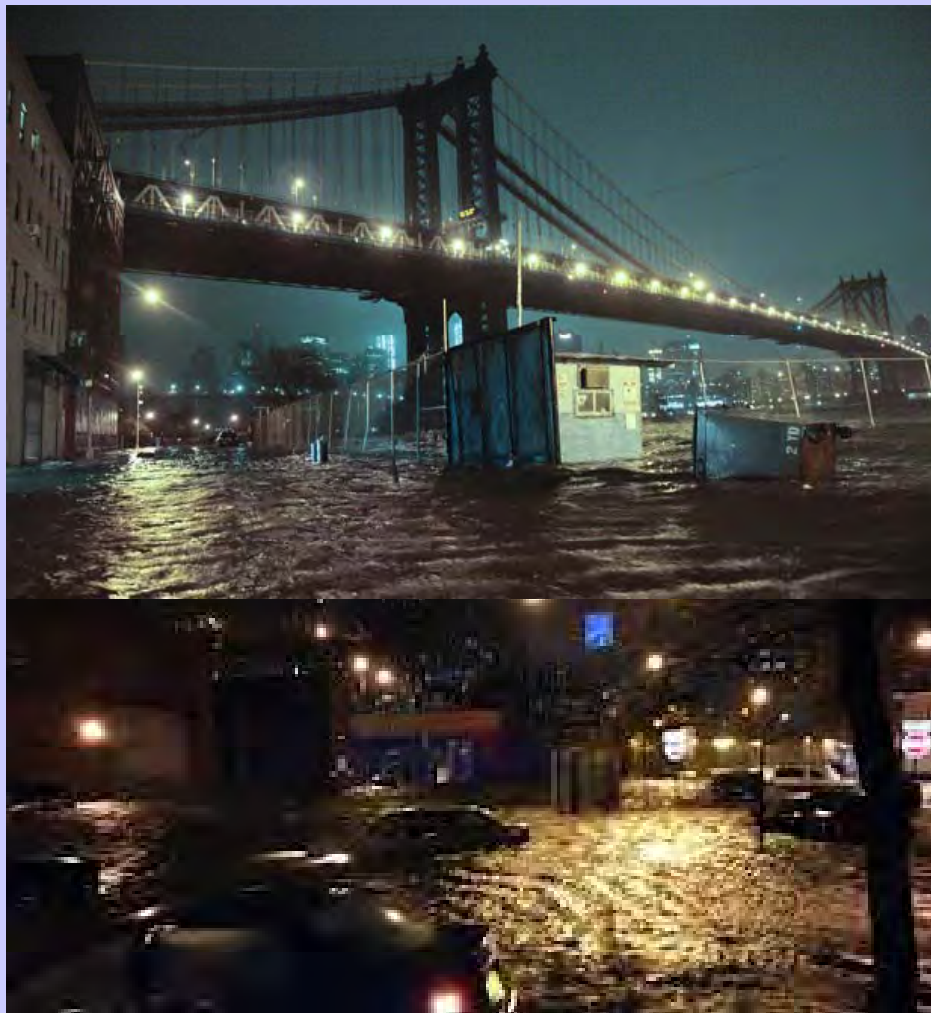




# STORM SURGE AT BATTERY

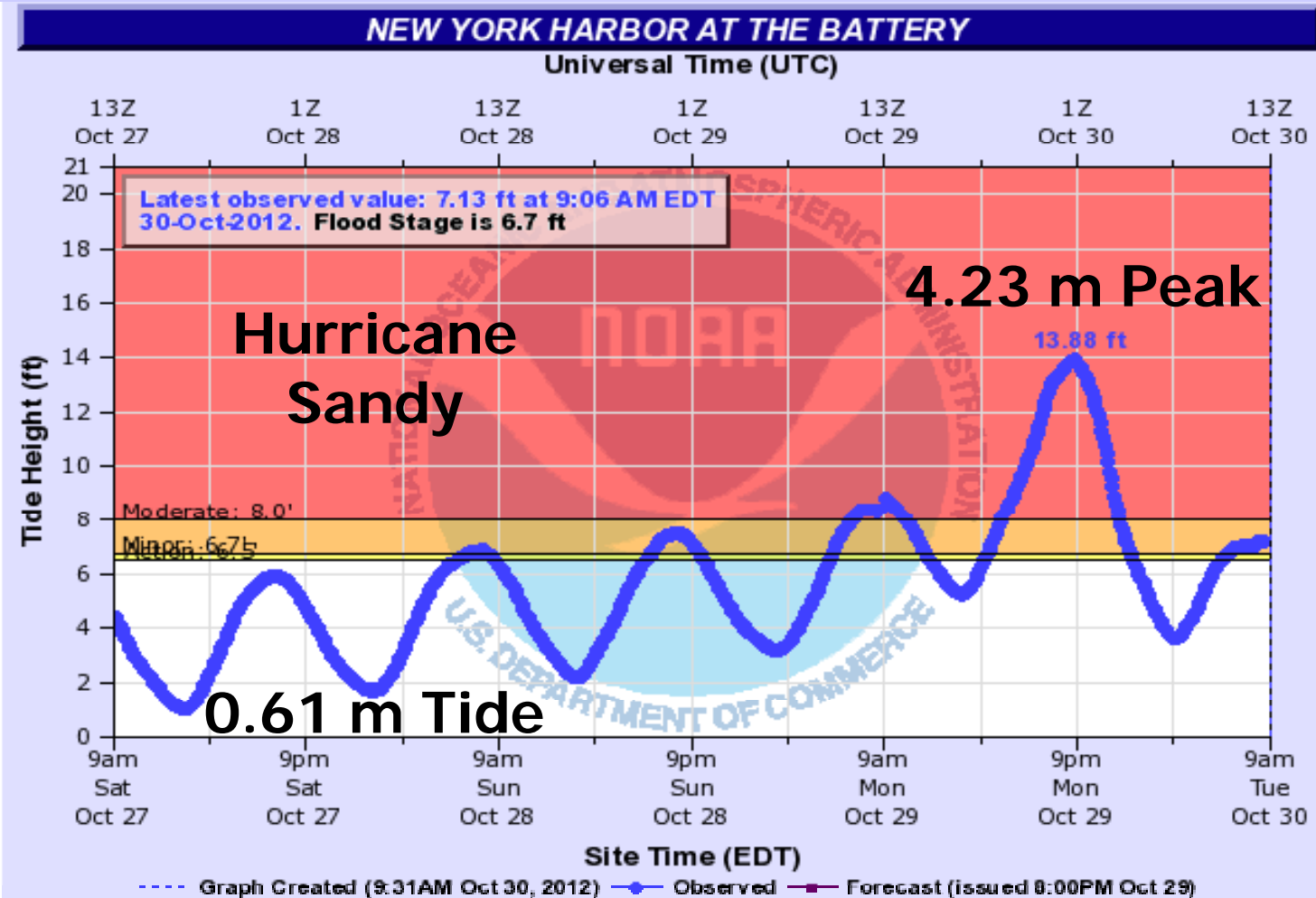


# NEW YORK CITY HURRICANE FLOOD ZONES





# STORM WATER AT BATTERY



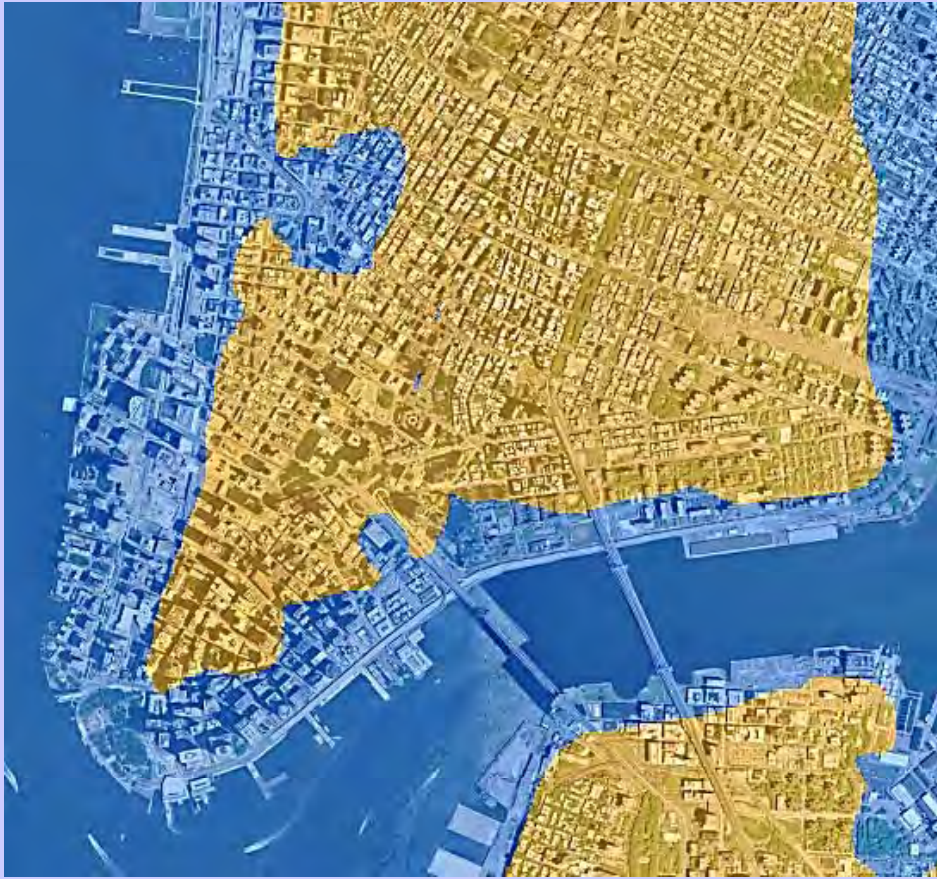
4.23 m  
 - 0.61 m  
 -----  
 ~ 3.62 m  
 Surge

# HURRICANE SANDY INNUNDATION





# HURRICANE SANDY INNUNDATION





# HURRICANE SANDY INNUNDATION

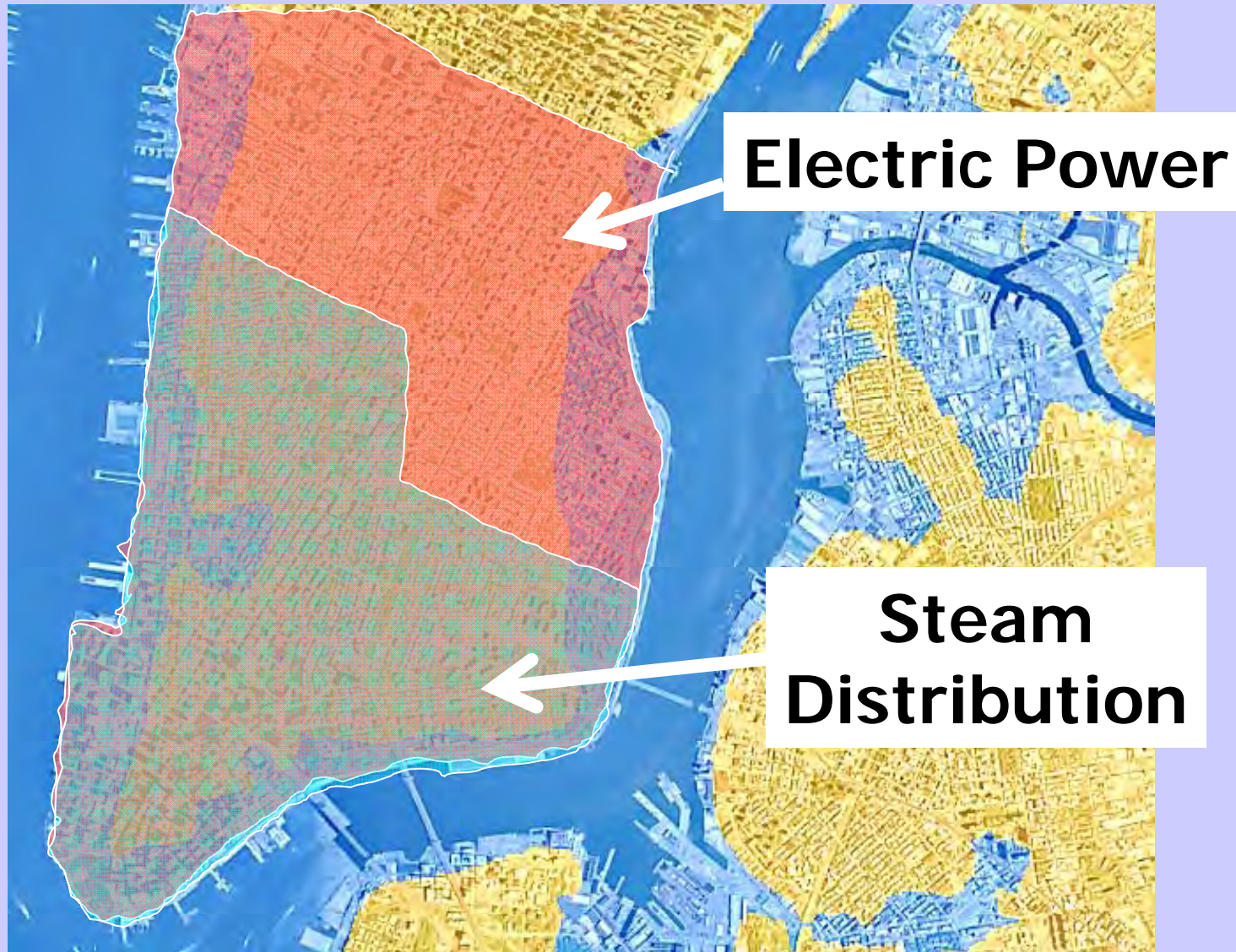
## Flooded Tunnels

- 7 Subway Tunnels
- Brooklyn Battery
- Midtown Tunnel
- PATH Tunnels
- Holland Tunnel



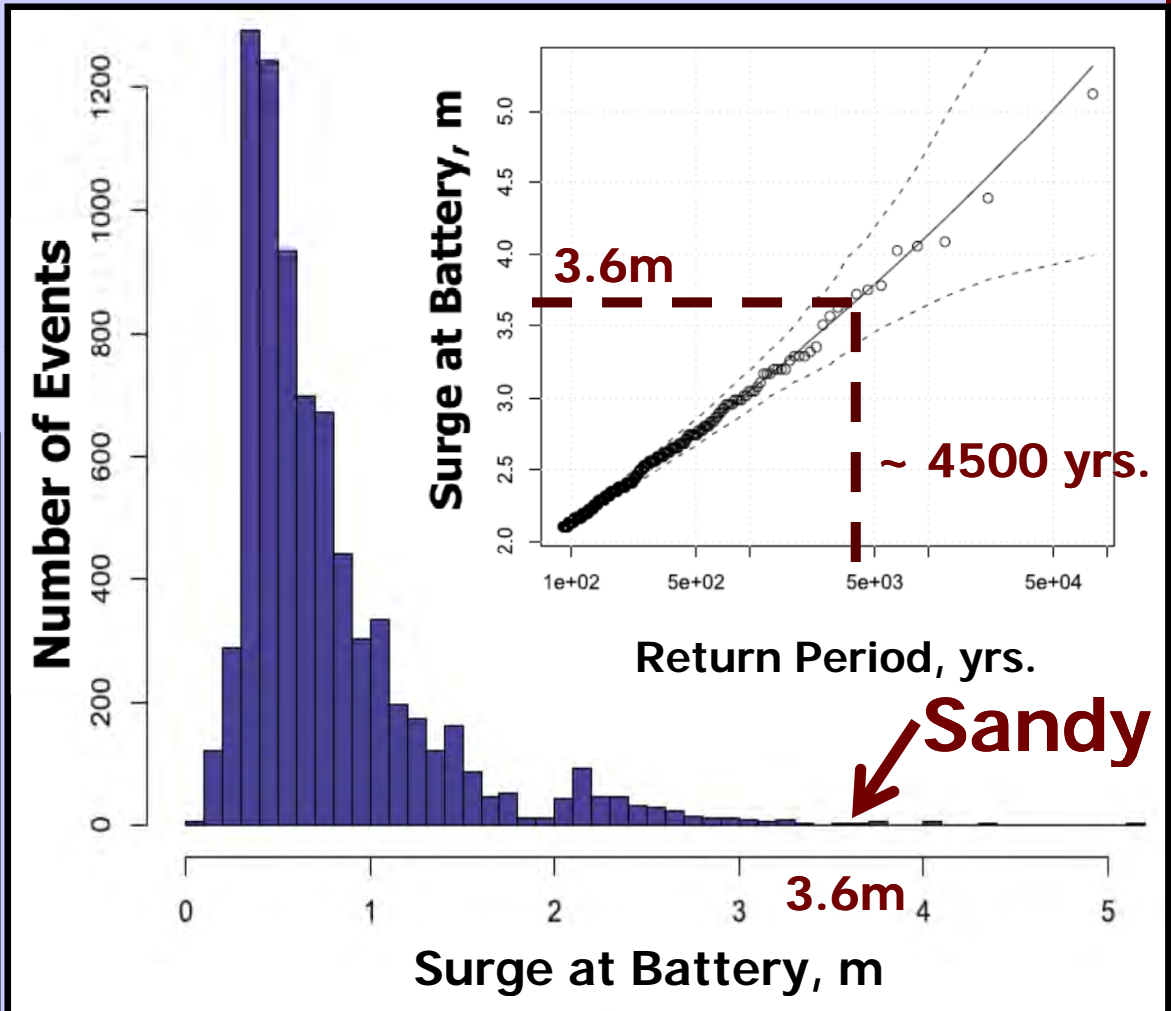
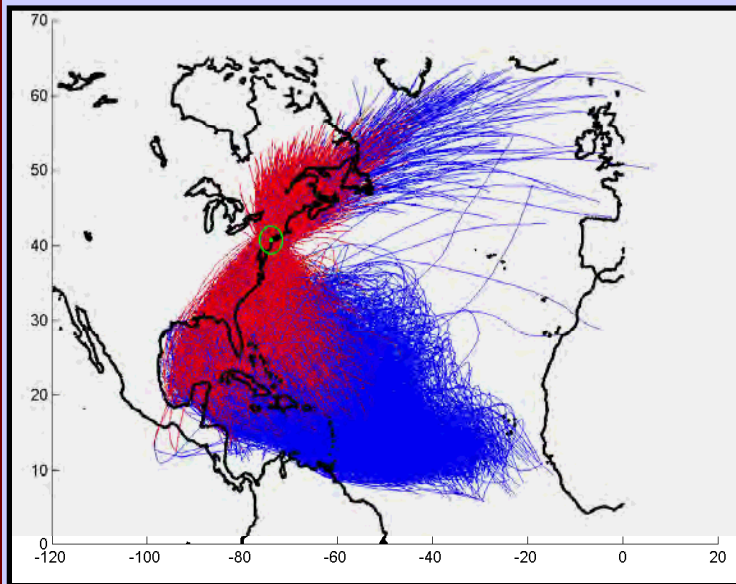


# HURRICANE SANDY INNUNDATION



# HURRICANE SIMULATION (Lin et al. , 2010)

- Simulated 7555 Storm Tracks Within 200 km of Battery
- Hydrodynamic Models: SLOSH and ADCIRC



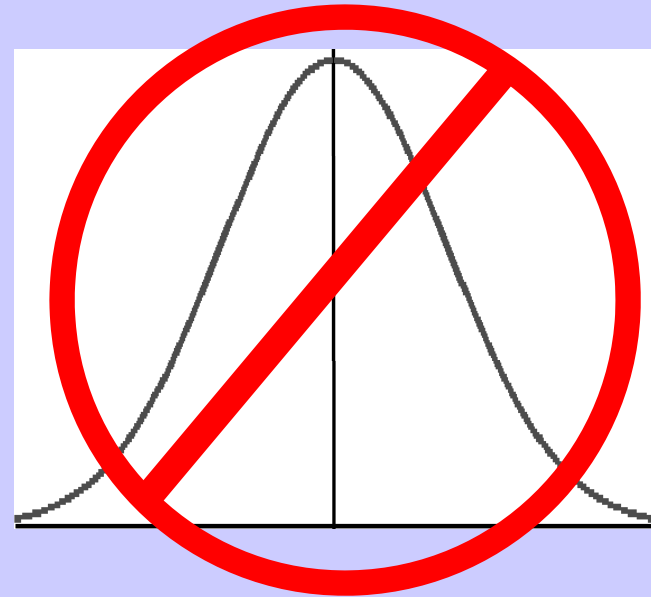


# TOPICS

- Tohoku Earthquake
- Canterbury EQ Sequence
- Hurricanes
  - New Orleans
  - New York City
- **New Normal**

# OBSERVATIONS

- **Anything But Normal**
  - Target nuclear failure probability  $\approx 1 \times 10^{-6}/\text{yr}$
  - 5 major nuclear releases in 14,000 reactor years =  $3 \times 10^{-4}/\text{yr}$
  - Probability tails control
- **Problems Compounded by Institutional Constraints, Politics, Lack of Perspective, & Dysfunction**

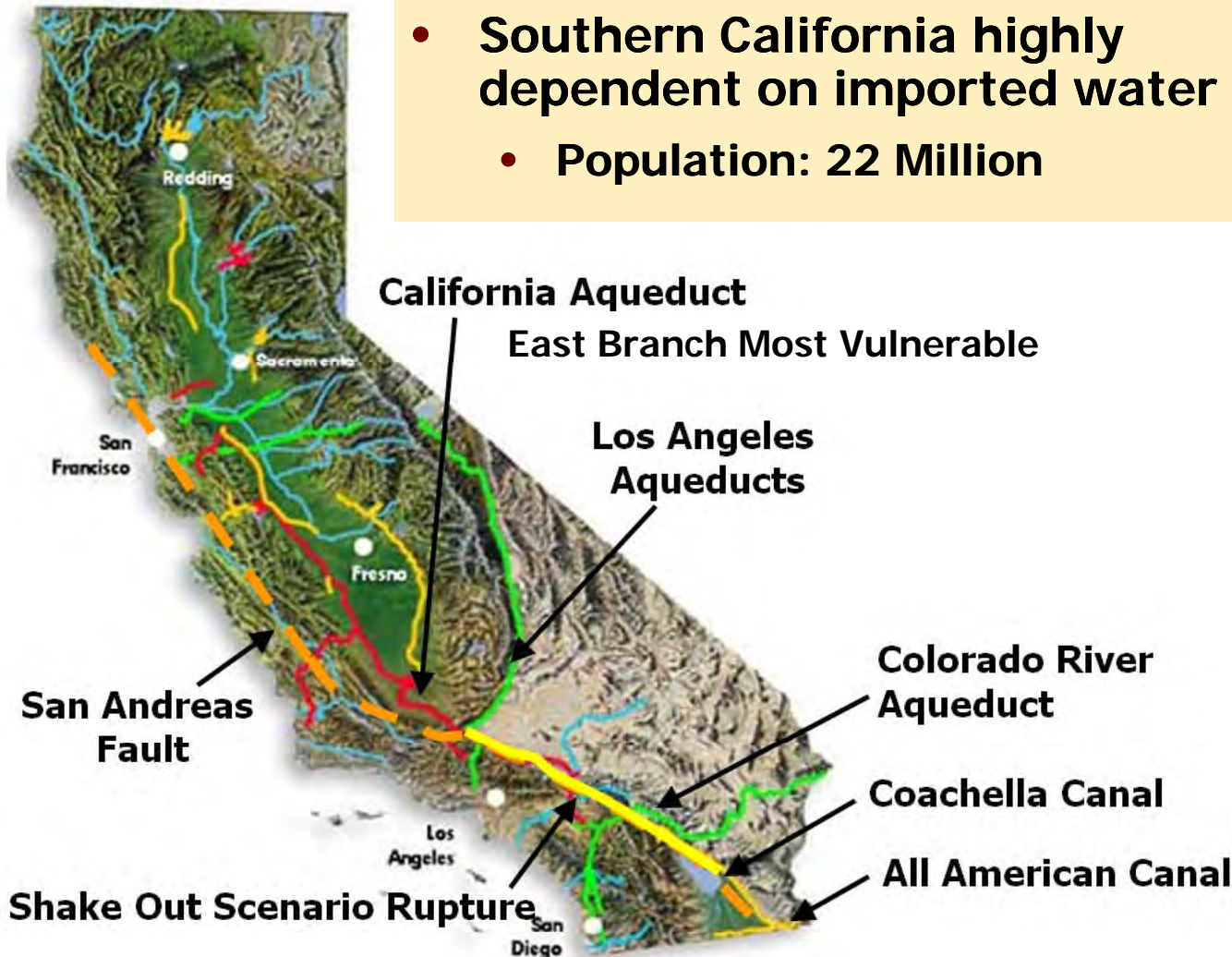




# NEW NORMAL

- **Too Big To Fail**
  - Reassess Risk Related to Critical Infrastructure
  - Reassess & Identify *Critical* Infrastructure
- **Local Coalitions**
  - Coalitions to Protect Critical Infrastructure Too Big to Fail
- **Punctuated Resilience**

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER SUPPLY



- Southern California highly dependent on imported water
  - Population: 22 Million

## 70% Imported Water:

- California Aqueduct
- Los Angeles Aqueducts
- Colorado River Aqueduct

## 30 % Ground Water



# SHAKEOUT SCENARIO

## 7.8 $M_w$ San Andreas Fault Earthquake



EERI Distinguished Lecture



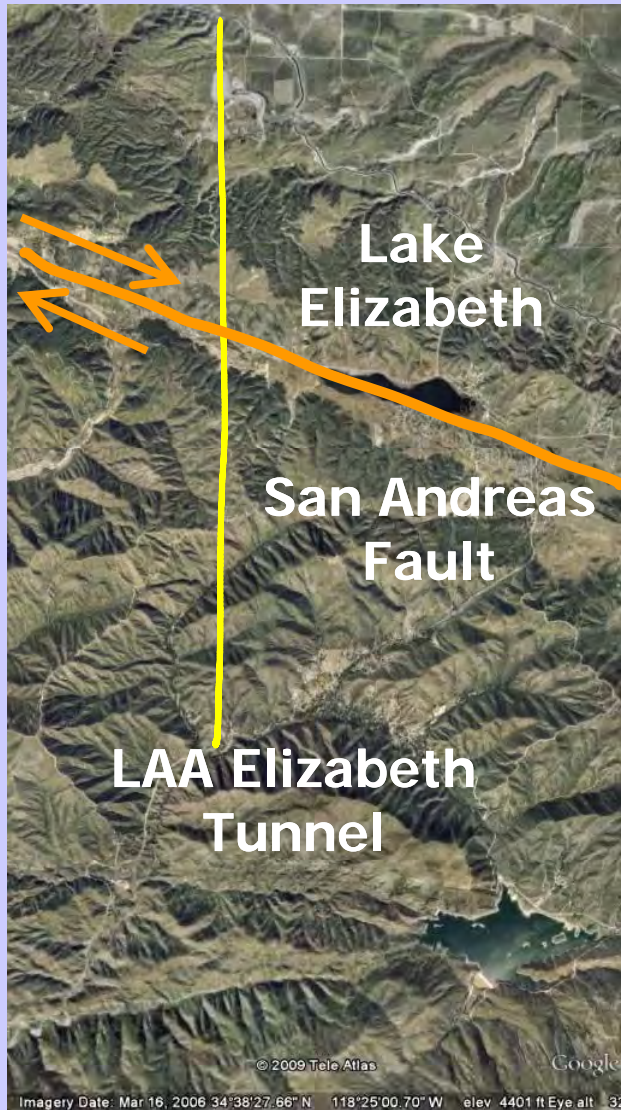
# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER SUPPLY (after Davis, 2010)

- **CA Aqueduct (CA DWR)**
  - 49 billion m<sup>3</sup>/yr
  - Faulting Rupture in >15 places
- **LA Aqueducts (LADWP)**
  - 390 million m<sup>3</sup>/yr
  - Elizabeth Tunnel
- **Colorado River Aqueduct (MWD)**
  - 900 million m<sup>3</sup>/yr
  - Multiple fault ruptures & ~ 4 m uplift





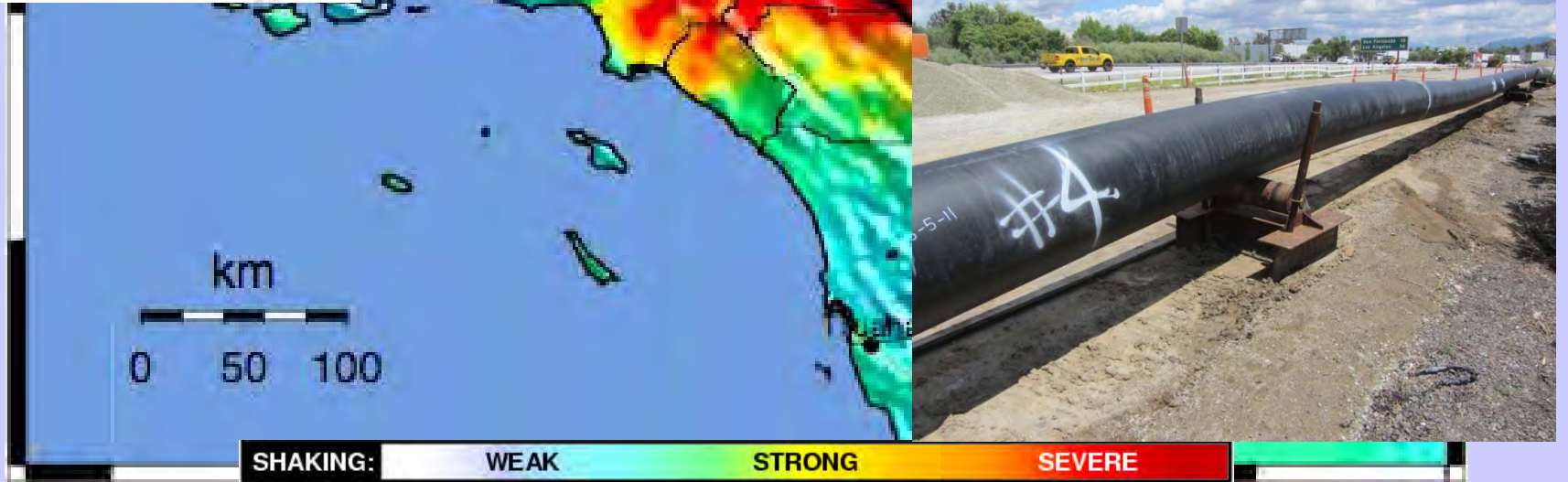
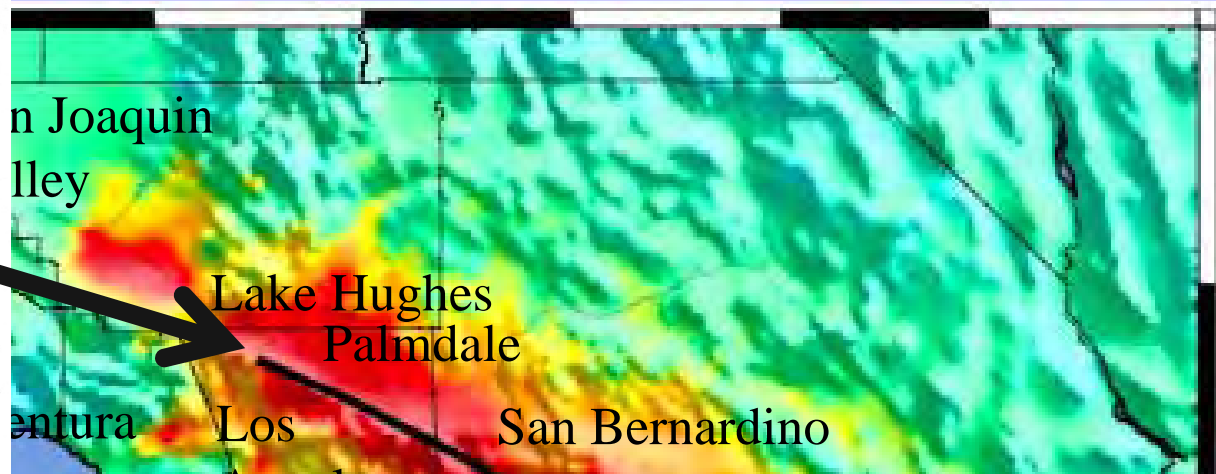
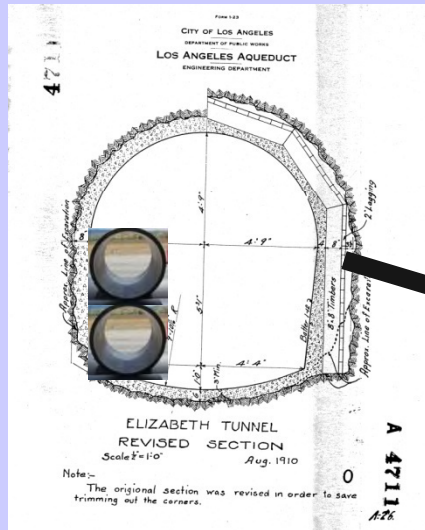
# LOS ANGELES AQUEDUCTS



- 3.3m Horizontal Fault Displacement
- 2.9m Wide Elizabeth Tunnel
  - Cuts off tunnel



# LA WATER SUPPLY CROSSES SAN ANDREAS FAULT



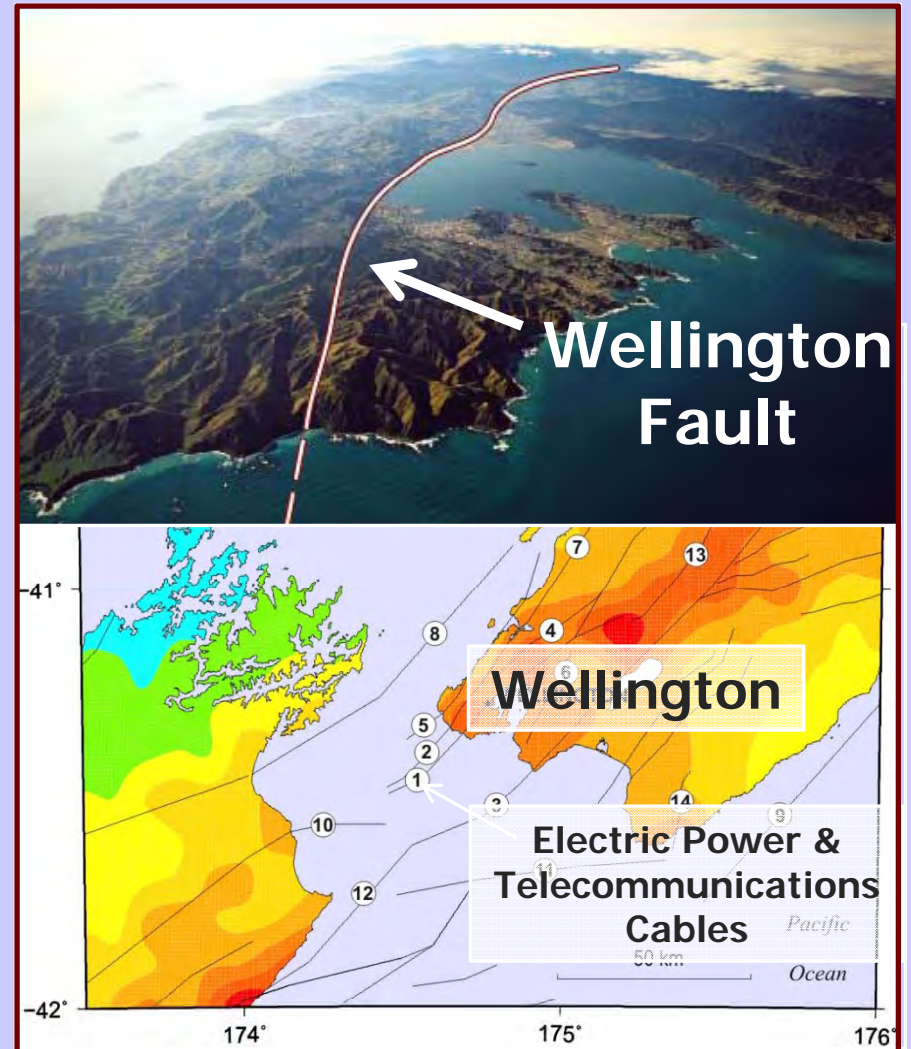
EERI Distinguished Lecture





# WELLINGTON SEISMIC RISK

- Urgent Need to Apply Christchurch Lessons
  - Harbor Facilities
  - Water Supply
  - Fire Hazards
  - Major Highways
  - Electric Power System
  - Telecommunications
  - National Government



# **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

- **Southern California Water Supply**
- **Sacramento River Delta Flood Protection System**
- **San Francisco Fire Protection System & Auxiliary Water Supply**
- **New York City Water Supply**
- **New Madrid Zone Transportation & Liquid Fuel Lifelines**
- **Mississippi Delta Flood Management**



# MULTIDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUE

The Future of Cities 2011  
*Centres of innovation for urban solutions*  
28 February - 1 March 2011 | Chatham House, London



No Engineers of 28  
Speakers

The Economist THE IDEAS ECONOMY  
IDEAS THAT PRESS FORWARD

HOME ABOUT IDEAS EVENTS BLOG PRESS CHALLENGES VIDEOS

You are here: Home > Events > Intelligent Infrastructure

**Intelligent Infrastructure**  
By The Economist

**Intelligent Infrastructure**  
THE ARCHITECTURE OF PROGRESS  
FEBRUARY 16 - 17, 2011  
PACE UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK CITY

Date: 16 February 2011 - 11:30am - 17 February 2011 - 6:45pm

**Intelligent Infrastructure**  
THE ARCHITECTURE OF PROGRESS  
February 16 - 17, 2011  
Pace University, NYC

< 10 % Engineers

century of the city  
**city**  
NO TIME TO LOSE

3 Engineers  
of 300  
Participants



EERI Distinguished Lecture

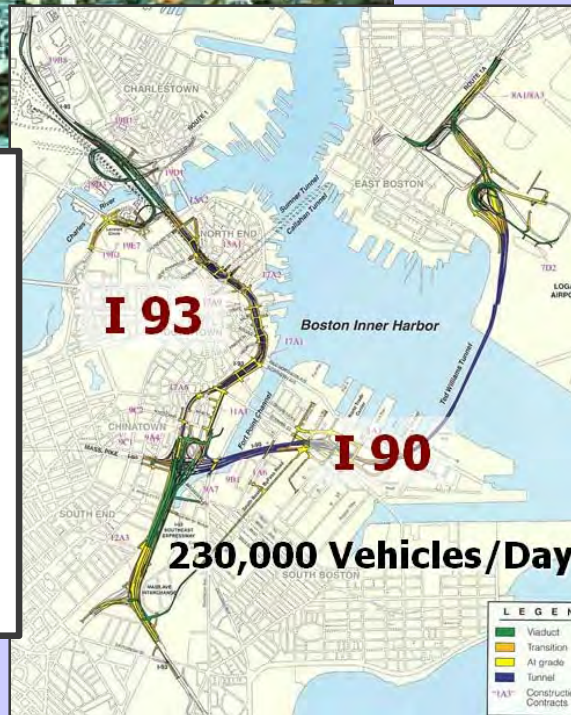


# INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

## Boston Central Artery/Tunnel

190,000 Vehicles  
(1990s)

- \$ 2.8 B (1982)
- \$ 6.0 B (1996)
- \$14.8 B (2007)



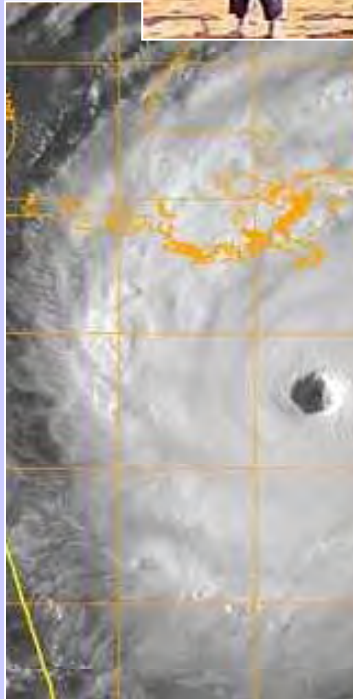
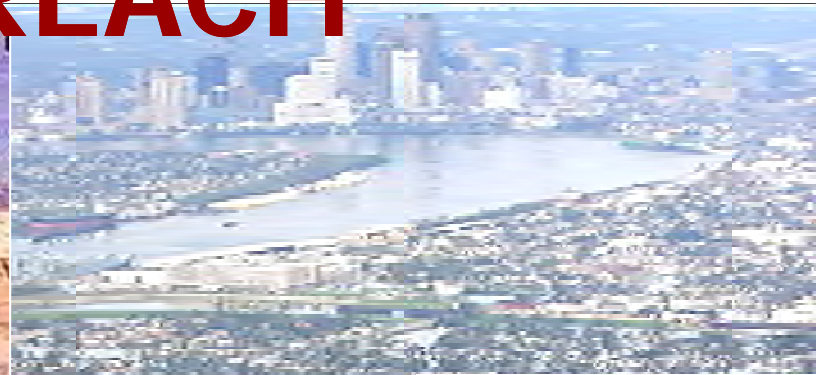
## Access to Region's Core ARC Project

- \$ 8.7 B among Federal & state governments
- *Canceled*





# LEADERSHIP & PUBLIC OUTREACH



EERI Distinguished Lecture



# NEW NORMAL FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

**Canterbury  
Earthquake  
Sequence**



**Tohoku  
Earthquake**



**Punctuated Resilience to  
Protect Against What is  
Possible Beyond What is  
Probable**

