



November 17, 2011

For Immediate Release

The Pacific Northwest Seismic Network and the U.S. Geological Survey, in coordination with OR Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries, are looking for volunteer homeowners or businesses in the greater Portland metro area to host “NetQuakes” seismographs. The goal is to make a denser, more uniform seismograph network in selected urban areas. This network will provide better rapid measurements of the strength shaking during earthquakes improving post-earthquake assessments of residential and commercial areas likelihood of damage. The network will also contribute to the continuing development of appropriate engineering standards for construction.

The USGS sponsored NetQuakes project uses a new type of digital strong-motion seismograph that communicates with the PNSN via the Internet. The NetQuakes seismograph accesses and transmits data via a wireless router connected to an existing broadband Internet connection. Volunteers will be able to access ground motion records online from their NetQuakes station and share them with friends and neighbors.

Volunteer hosts must be able to provide:

- An out-of-the-way location in a 1- to 2-story building that is less than 4000 square feet in size with no significant basement. The building must have a concrete slab foundation in some location, such as a garage “on grade,” to which the NetQuakes box will be bolted. Shallow dug basements with concrete floors are also acceptable. Buildings within a half-mile of significant business districts or near active faults are highly desirable.
- A local network with a permanent broadband connection to the Internet. If you do not have a wireless network, we will install a WiFi router for you. NetQuakes use low bandwidth and should not have any noticeable impact on your broadband service.
- AC power to the seismograph (about 5 watts of power is used).
- Performance of occasional minor servicing of the instrument, such as battery replacement. The PNSN will provide instructions and parts, and will be available to answer any questions that arise.

More information about NetQuakes in the Pacific Northwest is posted on the PNSN website, <http://www.pnsn.org/OPS/netquakes.html>

If you are interested in hosting a NetQuakes instrument and meet the above qualifications, please fill out a volunteer form at <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/waveforms/netq/pnw2.php>

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