

CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF CODES AND STANDARDS

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ABSTRACT

The guidelines presented in the U.S. Department of Energy, "General Design Criteria" (DOE 6430.1A), and the "Design and Evaluation Guidelines for Department of Energy Facilities Subject to Natural Phenomena Hazards" (UCRL-15910) provide a consistent and well defined approach to determine the natural phenomena hazards loads for U.S. Department of Energy site facilities. The guidelines for the application of loads combinations and allowables criteria are not as well defined and are more flexible in interpretation. This flexibility in the interpretation of load combinations can lead to conflict between the designer and overseer. The establishment of an efficient set of acceptable design criteria, based on U.S. Department of Energy guidelines, provides a consistent baseline for analysis, design, and review. Additionally, the proposed method should not limit the design and analytical innovation necessary to analyze or qualify the unique structure. This paper investigates the consistent application of load combinations, analytical methods, and load allowables and suggests a reference path consistent with the U.S. Department of Energy guidelines.