The Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC) provides a national forum to advance earthquake-resistant design and construction. BSSC develops seismic provisions for adoption into the nation’s building codes and standards. Since becoming part of the Institute in 1979, BSSC has served the building community and the public by ensuring that lessons learned from building performance in earthquakes and new research are reflected in state-of-the-art seismic requirements.
BSSC consists of volunteer members that represent the broad seismic community, including engineers, architects, academics, researchers, code officials, manufacturers and suppliers.

BSSC’s member experts participate in a number of BSSC committees. The Provisions Update Committee (PUC) plays a key role in developing the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Recommended Seismic Provisions for New Buildings and Other Structures for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Since 1985, BSSC has produced nine editions of the Provisions. BSSC’s PUC is currently developing the 2020 Provisions and has been instrumental in its successful FEMA-funded efforts to encourage adoption of the Provisions concepts in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) standard, ASCE/SEI 7 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures referenced by model building codes, and in other national standards.

Through its Codes Resource Seismic Committee (CRSC), BSSC accomplishes its mission to improve the regulation of seismic-resistant planning, design and construction. This group of volunteers develops, submits, monitors and supports code changes for both new and existing buildings, particularly in the International Building Code (IBC), International Existing Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC).

BSSC’s Project 17 Planning Committee also is engaged in a multi-year effort with FEMA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to coordinate USGS hazard maps with engineering design values and maps that are considered for adoption in ASCE/SEI 7 and the building codes.

In addition, BSSC creates training manuals and courses to help building professionals better understand application of the Provisions concepts. The NEHRP Recommended Seismic Provisions: Design Examples, based on the Provisions, are intended for those who are experienced structural designers, but are relatively new to the field of seismic design. Practitioners and academics also find the companion training and educational slides useful.

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