

1 **The Oklahoma Geological Survey Statewide Seismic Network**

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24 **Abstract**

25 The Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) monitors seismicity throughout the state of Oklahoma
26 utilizing permanent and temporary seismometers installed by OGS and other agencies, while
27 producing a real-time earthquake catalog. The OGS seismic network was recently added to the
28 Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS) as a self-supporting regional seismic network
29 (RSN) and earthquake locations and magnitudes are automatically reported through USGS and
30 are part of the ANSS Comprehensive Earthquake Catalog. In Oklahoma, prior to 2009,
31 background seismicity rates were about 2 M3.0+ earthquakes per year, which increased to 579
32 and 903 M3.0+ earthquakes in 2014 and 2015, respectively. The peak in the seismicity rate has
33 since fallen to 624, 304, and 194 M3.0+ earthquakes in 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively. The
34 catalog is complete down to M2.2 from mid-2014 to present, despite the significant workload for
35 a primarily state-funded regional network. That astonishing uptick in seismicity has been largely
36 attributed to wastewater injection practices. The OGS provides the Oklahoma Corporation
37 Commission (OCC), the agency responsible for regulating oil and gas activities within the state,
38 with technical guidance and earthquake products that inform their “traffic-light” mitigation
39 protocol and other mitigating actions. We have initiated a citizen-scientist driven, educational
40 seismometer program by installing Raspberry Shake geophones throughout the state at local
41 schools, museums, libraries, and state parks. The seismic hazard of the state portends a continued
42 need for expansion and densification of seismic monitoring throughout Oklahoma.

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47 **1. Background**

48 **1.1. Geology and historical earthquakes**

49 The underlying geology of Oklahoma can be characterized by marine sedimentation with
50 brief periods of uplift and subsidence. The long period of subsidence created deep sedimentary
51 units that contribute to Oklahoma being a vast resource of hydrocarbon source rocks and deposits
52 (Lawson and Luza, 1995). Those periods of subsidence were terminated by protracted periods of
53 uplift, which brought granite to the surface in southern Oklahoma and formed the tectonic zone
54 known as the Amarillo-Wichita uplift. That tectonic feature, which includes uplifted granite,
55 extends west-northwest from south-central Oklahoma into the Texas Panhandle, and forms a belt
56 of seismicity active in the present (Walter et al., 2018). In central and northern Oklahoma, the
57 subsurface geology consists of fractured intrusives and crystalline basement (Shah and Keller,
58 2017) overlain by the sediments from the aforementioned periods of subsidence and marine
59 sedimentation.

60 Oklahoma is riddled with structural features comprised of steeply dipping north-south
61 fault systems that separate geologic provinces (e.g. Northcutt and Campbell, 1995). The
62 structural features include zones that act as traps for hydrocarbons and thus, considerable effort
63 has gone into mapping the geology in these areas. The Nemaha fault system, one such north-
64 south feature, that crosses central Oklahoma formed from a tectonic event in the Mississippian
65 and consists of uplifted blocks 5-8 km wide bounded by faults on either side (Lawson and Luza,
66 1995). East of the Nemaha uplift there are a series of several grabens separated by (from west to
67 east) the Wilzetta, Keokuk, Wewoka, Weleetka, and East Mountain fault zones (Dycus, 2013;
68 Dudek, 2014). These named faults, while easily identified through well log analysis, include
69 subtle surface expressions of small antithetical faults along the main trace.

70 In southern Oklahoma, the Meers Fault is a large fault that is plausibly capable of
71 rupturing in a M7.0+ earthquake. The most recent evidence of rupture has been dated to as
72 recently as ~1,300 years ago (Crone and Luza, 1990). The fault is one of two faults in North
73 America, east of the Rocky Mountains, with visible surface offset that displaces Holocene
74 sediments and thus possibly represents the largest known earthquake hazard in the Central
75 United States. Over the last few decades, OGS scientists and other collaborating institutions have
76 engaged in paleoseismological and shallow geophysical surveys to ascertain the seismic
77 sequence history. Trenching and surface mapping suggests that the rupture length would be
78 consistent with at least a M7.0+ event (Luza et al., 1987). Preliminary probabilistic seismic
79 hazard analysis (PSHA) from the Meers Fault suggests that such an earthquake might cause
80 widespread damage, though additional studies on recurrence interval, rupture lengths, and other
81 variables are needed if PSHA were conducted for building design guidance or other purposes
82 (Baker and Holland, 2013).

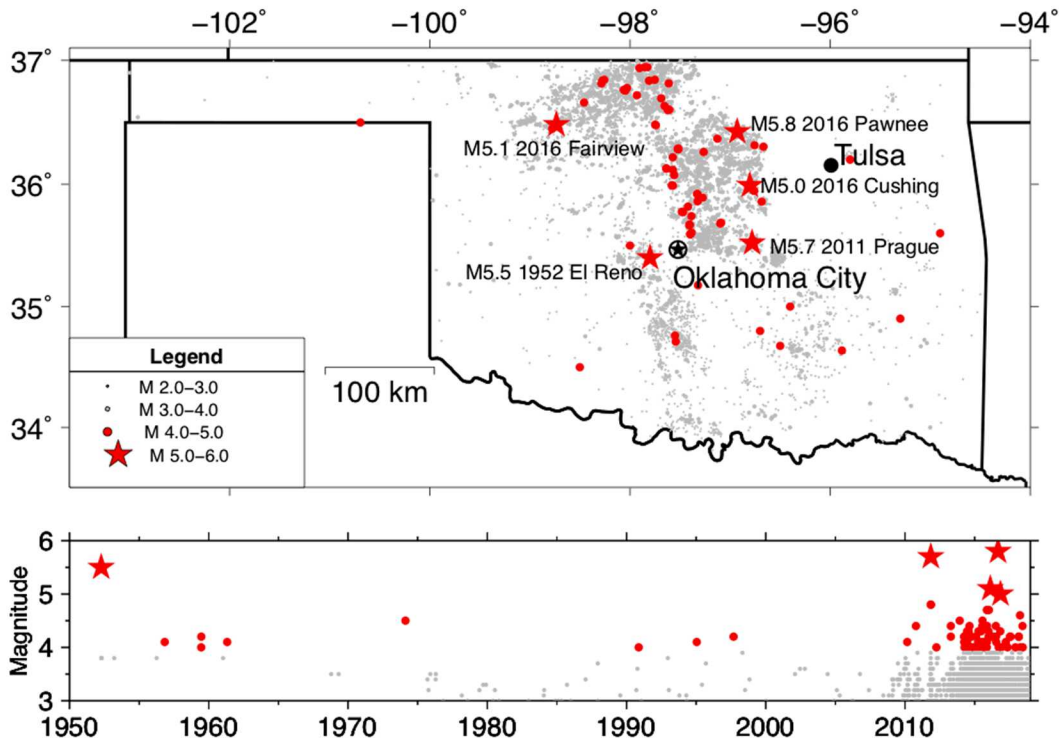
83 Oklahoma has experienced at least 5 magnitude 5.0 or greater earthquakes within the
84 written historical record. Of those earthquakes, 4 of the 5 M5.0+ earthquakes have occurred
85 within the last 8 years. The large earthquake that occurred outside of the last 8 years was the
86 M5.5 El Reno earthquake (Figure 1) that caused moderate damage in El Reno and Oklahoma
87 City including toppled chimneys and smokestacks, cracked and loosened bricks on buildings,
88 and broken windows and dishes, including a crack in the State Capitol that was approximately 15
89 meters long. Shaking was reported across Oklahoma, including in Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa,
90 Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas. It reportedly triggered a landslide in eastern Oklahoma
91 (Regmi and Walter, 2019). Based on the presence of a few wastewater injection wells within the
92 same county as the event and the nature of the macroseismic reported intensities from

93 newspapers and other archives, Hough and Page (2015) suggested that the El Reno earthquake
 94 was possibly induced. They based this suggestion on the spatial proximity of wells and the
 95 limited historical macroseismic observations seem to be consistent with similar observations
 96 from more modern measurements of induced earthquakes. However, wastewater injection was
 97 common across the state and the macroseismic signature of induced earthquakes results from the
 98 shallowness of the source, as suggested by Hough and Page (2015). Depth is not a particularly
 99 diagnostic criteria for determining causation since most Oklahoma earthquakes, both tectonic
 100 and induced, are shallow relative to other tectonic zones.

101

Date	Name	Magnitude	County
September 3, 2016	Pawnee Earthquake	5.8	PAWNEE
November 6, 2011	Prague Earthquake	5.7	LINCOLN
April 9, 1952	El Reno Earthquake	5.5	CANADIAN
February 13, 2016	Fairview Earthquake	5.1	WOODS
November 7, 2016	Cushing Earthquake	5.0	PAYNE
October 22, 1882	Choctaw Nation Earthquake	4.8	SE Oklahoma
November 5, 2011	Prague foreshock	4.8	LINCOLN
January 7, 2016	Fairview foreshock	4.8	WOODS
November 8, 2011	Prague aftershock	4.8	LINCOLN
November 19, 2015	Alfalfa County Earthquake	4.7	ALFALFA

102 **Table 1:** Significant Oklahoma earthquakes



104

105 **Figure 1:** Historical earthquakes in Oklahoma from the OGS catalog

106 (https://ogswb.ou.edu/eq_catalog) with symbols corresponding to earthquake magnitudes and
 107 labels for those earthquakes greater than or equal to M5.0. Note that seismicity from adjacent
 108 states is not mapped.

109

110 **1.2. Induced seismicity**

111 Late in the evening at 10:53 PM local time on November 5, 2011, Oklahomans east of
 112 Oklahoma City were awakened by what was then the largest earthquake in recorded history. That
 113 earthquake, a M5.7 with an epicenter near Prague, was later eclipsed in size by the September 3,
 114 2016 M5.8 earthquake near Pawnee, OK. The Prague earthquake, which actually occurred on

115 November 6, 2011 03:53 UTC, caused some injuries and damage was substantial, including
116 famously collapsing a turret and damaging other turrets at St. Gregory's University in Shawnee,
117 OK. The larger mainshock was preceded by a strong M 4.8 foreshock about 20 hours prior. The
118 scientific community largely agrees that the Prague earthquake was probably induced by nearby
119 wastewater injection (Keranen et al., 2013; Sumy et al., 2017). While increased seismicity in
120 central Oklahoma was suspected as being induced by wastewater injection, this earthquake
121 ushered in a wave of scientific studies that more solidly established the relationship.

122 Subsequent to the Prague earthquake, the seismicity rate continued drastically rising
123 across various regions of Oklahoma (Figure 2) in what was later understood to be a rise
124 concurrent with an increase in saltwater disposal (Walsh and Zoback, 2015; Weingarten et al.
125 2015). Several clusters of previously unmapped faults had significant seismic activity including
126 areas that culminated in several large earthquakes including the November 2011 Mw 5.7 Prague
127 earthquake (Holland et al., 2012; Keranen et al., 2013), the February 2016 Mw 5.1 Fairview
128 earthquake (Yeck et al., 2016), the September 2016 Mw 5.8 Pawnee earthquake (Yeck et al.,
129 2017; Walter et al., 2017; Chen et al., 2018), and the November 2016 Mw 5.0 Cushing
130 earthquake.. The rate of earthquakes (M3.0+) across the United States mid-continent and
131 especially in Oklahoma has dramatically increased since 2009 (Ellsworth, 2013). In Oklahoma
132 prior to 2009, background seismicity rates were about 2 M 3.0+ earthquakes per year which
133 increased to 579 and 903 M 3.0+ earthquakes in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

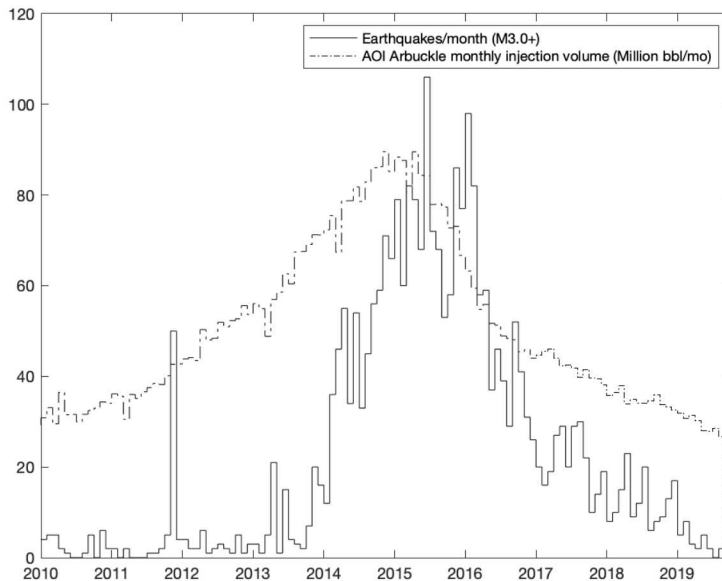
134 The increase in seismicity in Oklahoma was roughly coincident with the last oil and gas
135 boom focused around the Mississippian Limestone and Hunton Limestones. Those formations
136 contain substantial amounts of co-produced formation brines (Murray and Holland, 2014). The
137 widespread use of horizontal production wells and hydrofracturing to make those wells

138 economical also led to extracting vast amounts of brine byproducts, which required subsequent
139 disposal. Common disposal practices involved disposing of wastewater in deep underground
140 injection wells completed into upper parts of the basement and the karst Arbuckle Group, which
141 directly overlies the basement. From 2010 to late 2014, statewide disposal rates increased from
142 ~30 million bbls/month to ~90 million bbls/month. The increase in seismicity rate roughly
143 corresponded to the increase in monthly injection rates, though with sometimes a lag greater than
144 a year or so in many sub-regions of Oklahoma (Langengruch and Zoback, 2016; Goebel et al.,
145 2017). That observation, coupled with the depth of the seismicity mostly occurring within
146 basement rocks and sometimes along previously-mapped basement faults led to the general
147 conclusion that wastewater disposal within the Arbuckle Group was inducing earthquakes across
148 Oklahoma (Walsh and Zoback, 2015).

149 Since peaks in wastewater injection and seismicity in late 2014 and late 2015,
150 respectively, wastewater injection and seismicity rates have fallen substantially to ~40 million
151 bbl/mo and less than 10 earthquakes M3.0+ per month. The decrease in injection, which
152 plausibly drives the decrease in seismicity, is in part due to state-mandated reductions in
153 allowable daily disposal rates (OCC, 2016a) and oilfield economics; the technical achievements
154 of hydrofracturing and horizontal wells that fueled the domestic mid-continent energy boom
155 contributed to a global oversupply and subsequent industry downturn as the price of oil collapsed
156 in 2014/2015 (Stocker et al., 2018).

157 Much of the activity in the last 8 years corresponds to a broad area in north-central
158 Oklahoma where most of the deep wastewater injection disposal occurs into the Arbuckle Group.
159 However, several large events have occurred across southern Oklahoma associated with the
160 aforementioned Amarillo-Wichita uplift in southwest Oklahoma (Walter et al., 2018) and

161 Ouachita thrust belt in southeast Oklahoma, including the M4.8 1882 Choctaw Nation
162 earthquake (Hough and Page, 2015). The historical earthquake catalog includes small
163 earthquakes (< M4.0) across mapped and unmapped fault structures in Oklahoma, including in
164 areas without any hydrocarbon extraction or disposal activities. Thus, the tectonic seismicity rate
165 across Oklahoma is possibly elevated relative to other regions in the Central United States. Since
166 developing hydrocarbons from unconventional shale plays seems to lead to an increase in
167 seismicity (e.g. Ellsworth, 2013), it is perhaps no surprise that industrial activities in the last
168 decade exacerbated the underlying seismic hazard in Oklahoma.
169



170
171 **Figure 2:** Seismicity rate (earthquakes M3.0+ per month) from the OGS catalog in black and
172 Arbuckle Group wastewater disposal monthly volumes within the OCC area of interest (AOI)
173 that comprises much of north-central Oklahoma.

174 2. Regional seismic network

175 2.1. Leonard facility and past regional studies

176 The Oklahoma Geological Survey has been in existence since 1908, having been
177 included in the State's Constitution that was ratified in 1907. While some early earthquakes were
178 recorded as having been felt by eyewitness reports, most earthquakes in the state were not
179 instrumentally detected prior to the 1960s (Lawson and Luza, 1995). In 1961, the Jersey
180 Production Research Company installed a seismograph in Leonard, Oklahoma about 40 km
181 southeast of Tulsa. The seismograph and surrounding land were later donated to the University
182 of Oklahoma and it was called the Leonard Geophysical Observatory, staffed and administered
183 by the OGS. This seismograph had the station code TUL and borehole instrumentation now
184 monitors ground motions on the same site adjacent to the surface site with station code TUL3
185 operated by the USGS as part of the N4 network. When installed, TUL was a long-period sensor
186 and not particularly suited to recording local earthquakes for regional monitoring purposes. In
187 1973, a short-period seismograph was also installed at TUL, though the ability to detect local
188 earthquakes relied on felt reports with the instrumental record providing further location and
189 magnitude constraints.

190 In the period between 1977-1993, OGS operated a statewide network with radio
191 telemetry for stations near the Leonard facility. Those stations were later converted to digitally
192 transmit their data or digitally record locally. From the period of about 1976-2010 there were
193 about 8 permanent seismographs operating in the state. During this time period OGS scientists
194 conducted a regional study on the feasibility for nuclear power facilities was funded by the
195 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Luza and Lawson, 1982) that identified microseismicity across
196 the Nemaha fault zone. In addition, other local studies were supported by various agencies for
197 identifying local earthquakes along specific features, such as near the Meers Fault (Luza et al.,
198 1987), for example.

199

200 **2.2. Transportable Array and early seismic network**

201 In the period between 2009-2012, Transportable Array (TA) stations as part of the
202 USArray initiative, funded by the National Science Foundation, were installed at ~70 km spacing
203 throughout the state. Stations were intended to operate for a period of ~2 years and be utilized for
204 structural seismology studies. Serendipitously for seismologists with interests in induced
205 seismicity, the arrival of TA stations corresponded with the aforementioned rise in earthquake
206 activity associated with the rise in unconventional oil and gas operations across the mid-
207 continent, and later, in the Appalachian Basin of the eastern US (e.g. Brudzinski and Kozłowska,
208 2019). Since much of the NSF investment was incurred during construction of the sites, local
209 agencies were given the opportunity to purchase or “adopt” some permanent stations. In 2011-
210 2012, the OGS adopted and continues maintaining stations U32A, W35A, X34A, and X37A as
211 part of the OK network. The OK network serves as the permanent station network code for the
212 OGS RSN.

213 The adopted TA stations and stations operated by other agencies (e.g. WMOK) formed
214 the core nucleus of the monitoring stations for the OGS network. In addition, some TA stations
215 continued operating as the N4 network with maintenance handled by IRIS and funded by NSF
216 before being transferred to USGS, including two stations in Oklahoma (T35B and the
217 aforementioned TUL3). Around this time, as funds were made available, several additional
218 stations were added over the next several years, including a subset of stations donated by a local
219 energy company near the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. After large earthquakes, USGS also
220 added several temporary stations across the state and those stations (network code GS) were
221 incorporated into OGS monitoring. Shortly after the Fairview and Pawnee earthquakes and

222 related swarm activity, the Y9 and Y7 networks, respectively, consisting of temporary stations
223 provided by IRIS/PASSCAL, were installed to capture aftershock activity as part of NSF-funded
224 rapid response programs.

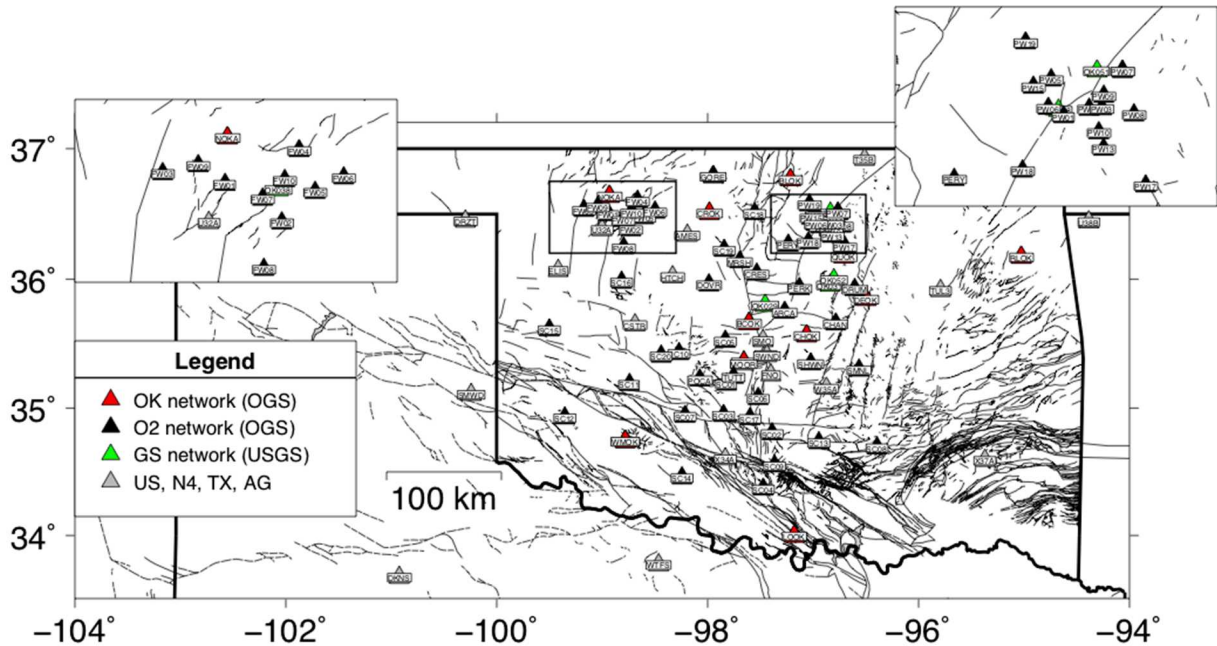
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226 **2.3. Current network**

227 In anticipation of hydraulic fracturing across a new unconventional play called the
228 SCOOP/STACK in a region to the west and southwest of Oklahoma City, OGS installed
229 additional IRIS/PASSCAL stations (ZP) starting in early 2016. Later, we consolidated all the
230 temporary networks under one network code (O2) in 2018 (Figure 3). All OK and O2 stations
231 are streamed in real-time on a public seedlink buffer (rtserve.ou.edu port 18000) that the
232 Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS) Data Management Center (DMC)
233 utilizes for archival and USGS utilizes for detection purposes at the National Earthquake
234 Information Center (NEIC). Metadata for these stations are available through IRIS. While the O2
235 and OK networks consist of stations the OGS manages directly, data from the AG, C0, GM, GS,
236 N4, TX, and US networks are also accessed through the IRIS real-time seedlink buffer.

237 In addition to the professional grade seismometers used in these networks (i.e.:
238 Streckeisen STS-2, Guralp CMG-6T, Guralp CMG-3T, etc.), Raspberry Shake 1D seismometers
239 have been installed at various locations around the state. We purchased several of these one
240 component sensors primarily for outreach and education. We have installed them in schools,
241 libraries, museums, and state parks, along with accompanying monitors that show the real-time
242 data and also daylong helicorder plot for the installed stations. Surrounding the monitors, we
243 install explanatory placards describing seismograms, how to locate earthquakes, why wastewater
244 injection induces earthquakes, etc. In addition to the educational role, they may serve to

245 supplement some of the detection capabilities for the primary seismic network (e.g. Anthony et
246 al., 2018). Provisionally, we have tested using these streams for locating earthquakes when
247 coverage by primary stations is lacking, for example, in eastern Oklahoma.



248
249 **Figure 3:** Current OGS Statewide Network configuration, including stations operated by OGS
250 (OK, O2) and stations operated by other agencies that are utilized in real-time earthquake
251 analysis. Oklahoma faults are mapped from Marsh and Holland (2016).

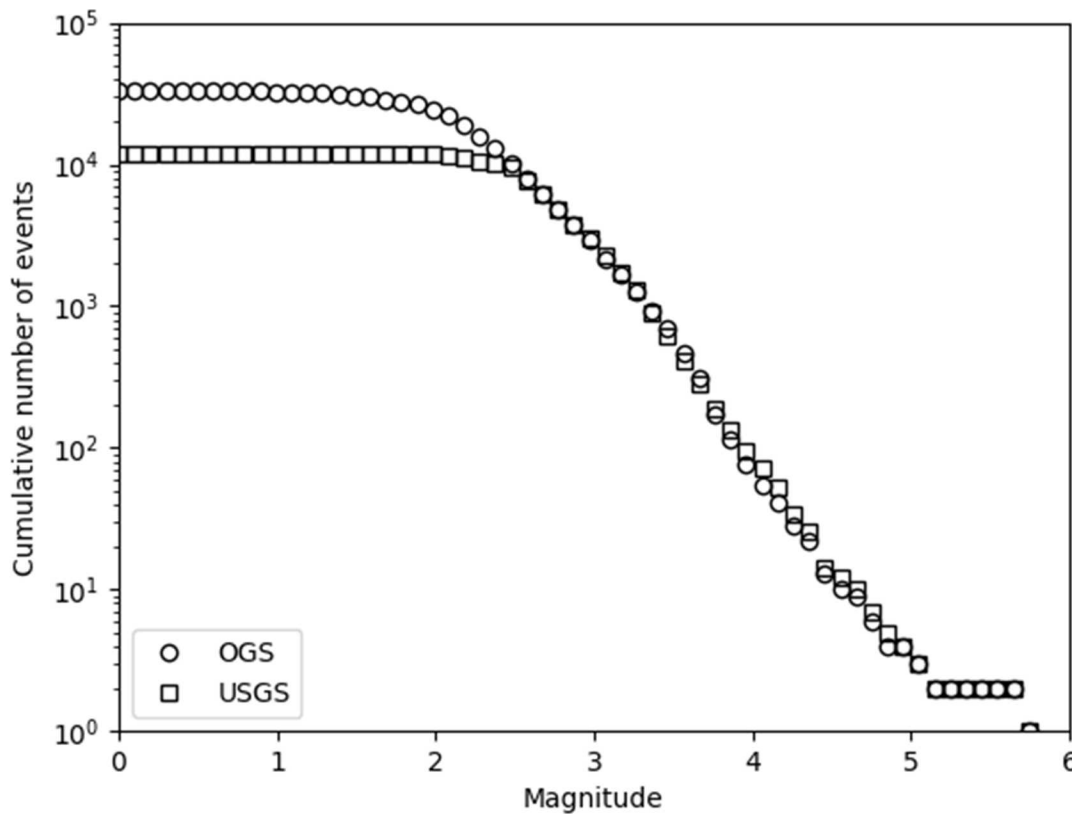
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253 3. Earthquake monitoring

254 3.1. Real-time earthquake location and magnitude reporting

255 Prior to late 2018, automatic earthquake picking and association was performed using a
256 python-based picker and associator largely built in-house (Chen and Holland, 2016). After events
257 were identified, analysts would refine phase picks, pick polarities, and compute focal
258 mechanisms through the SeisAn software (Havskov and Ottermöller, 1999). Once reviewed,

259 events would populate an OGS database and then be transmitted to USGS through their Product
260 Distribution Layer (PDL). At the time, OGS had no official role within the ANSS and thus
261 USGS analysts at NEIC that received EQXML files would sometimes include earthquake
262 solutions derived from OGS or from NEIC. In other cases, the OGS event location would be
263 used in conjunction with USGS moment tensor analysis for magnitude. Thus, the ANSS
264 Comprehensive Catalog for Oklahoma downloaded at USGS
265 (<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/data/comcat/>) versus OGS (https://ogsweb.ou.edu/eq_catalog/) may
266 contain several inconsistencies and these should be noted for hazards analysis or research
267 purposes (Figure 4). In late 2018, OGS joined ANSS as a self-funded network and there are
268 tentative plans to resolve some of these historical incongruities between the earthquake catalogs.

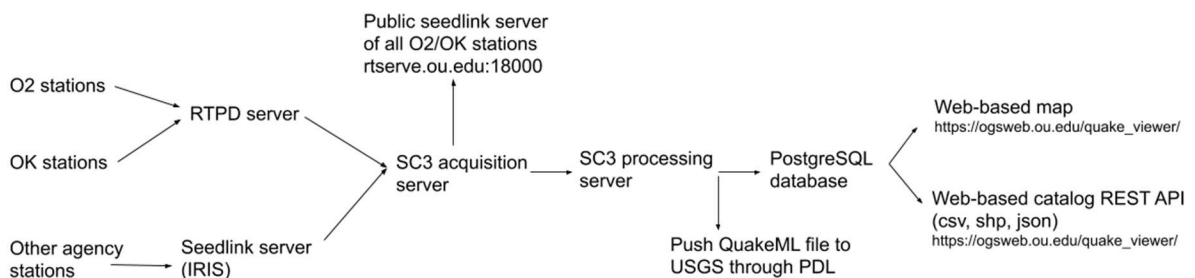


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271 **Figure 4:** Cumulative Gutenberg-Richter style plot of both the USGS (green) and OGS (red)
272 earthquake catalogs.

273

274 Current OGS earthquake monitoring consists of a SeisComP3 (SC3) system capable of
275 detecting, locating, and computing an earthquake magnitude within seconds of an earthquake
276 occurring (Weber et al., 2007). The preliminary localization and magnitude determination is
277 completed even before body waves reach all stations within the state. As time progresses and
278 further data is collected, the automatic locator system modifies the estimated magnitude, depth,
279 and location with the acquisition of additional data. We distribute the SC3 workload across
280 several virtual machines (VMs) within a private cloud managed at the University of Oklahoma
281 (Figure 5). Data flow comes from network stations to an RTPD server and a server running
282 acquisition modules connects to that RTPD server as well as outside seedlink connections to
283 either IRIS or individual stations that utilize Q330 dataloggers. A separate VM connects to the
284 SC3 acquisition VM and runs the public seedlink connection. The SC3 processing VM processes
285 the waveform data and produces candidate automatic locations and magnitudes. Core
286 components of SC3 are open source and we also utilize proprietary modules commercialized by
287 gempa GmbH to improve the reliability of earthquake association.



288

289 **Figure 5:** Flow diagram of earthquake monitoring system.

290

291 During regular business hours, manual processing of earthquakes in SC3 is streamlined
292 such that events can be processed within minutes. Due to the lack of resources to staff
293 earthquake monitoring at all hours, we have made several operational decisions related to public
294 publishing of automatic solutions. First, in order to provide timely earthquake information, we
295 initially post automatic earthquake solutions. We developed a python listener script that runs
296 continually within the SC3 processing VM and determines whether automatically-located events
297 should populate the public database that meet certain minimum criteria, such as phase count and
298 association quality. Once these criteria are met, an event is written to a separate PostgreSQL
299 database on a separate VM. Once written to the database, the public is able to view these events
300 by downloading the catalog (https://ogsweb.ou.edu/eq_catalog/) or viewing the OGS recent
301 earthquakes webpage (https://ogsweb.ou.edu/quake_viewer/), but are listed as *'preliminary.'*
302 Once an event is reviewed by an analyst, the event is updated within the PostgreSQL database
303 and the public designation changes to *'reviewed.'* In cases of larger events (M 3.8 or greater)
304 during off-business hours, the processing system is accessed remotely to verify and review
305 events.

306 Through our official inclusion in ANSS, earthquake locations and magnitudes pushed to
307 USGS through PDL and are authoritative within Oklahoma. For internal purposes, we still locate
308 and review events within approximately one county in surrounding states as shaking from these
309 earthquakes could plausibly be felt within the state and we are charged with providing that
310 timely information to Oklahoma citizens. These state-adjacent events are not forwarded through
311 PDL but available through OGS web applications.

312 While we have tuned our local magnitude (M_L) calculation so that estimates of local
313 magnitude should be equivalent to USGS moment magnitude (M_w) estimates, for larger events

314 we defer to the moment magnitude calculated at NEIC because they are using waveform-based
315 approach to estimate M_w . It is widely accepted in the community that a waveform-based
316 approach is preferred relative to a Richter-like approach that effectively averages several
317 maximum-amplitude observations.

318

319 **3.2. Local magnitude (M_L) calculation**

320 For each horizontal component, we compute the one-half the peak-to-trough amplitude,
321 A , on the WA simulated displacement (in mm) with 2080 sensitivity and damping constant of
322 0.7, rather than the manufacturer-reported sensitivity of 2800 and damping constant of 0.8
323 (Uhrhammer and Collins, 1990). Amplitudes are measured, automatically, within a 25 second
324 window from the P-wave pick and the peak-to-trough amplitude is divided by a factor of 2.
325 During regular business hours, during event review an analyst will manually select a window
326 corresponding to the maximum and minimum values of the S arrival for each horizontal
327 component. Amplitudes are measured for each horizontal component at a station and then
328 averaged for the station magnitude estimate.

329 As is commonly done in regional networks we formulate an amplitude distance-
330 correction so that magnitude may be determined at each station within the network where:

$$331 \quad M_L = \log_{10} \left(\frac{A(x)}{A_0} \right) + 1.6 \log_{10} \left(\frac{x}{10} \right)$$

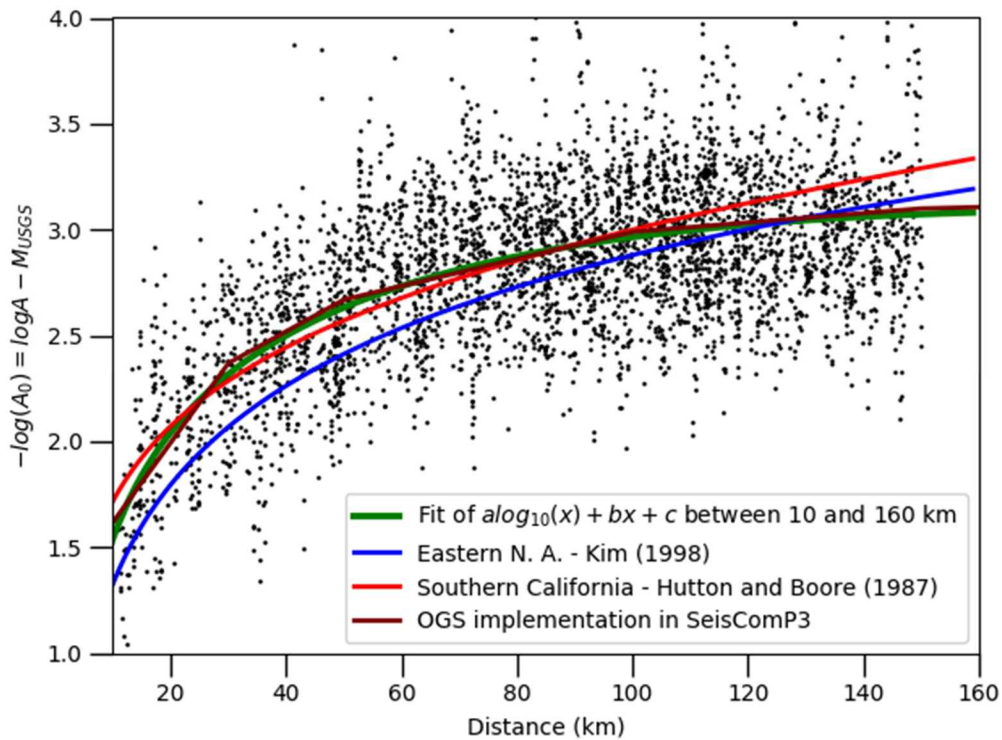
332 where x is the distance (km) from the epicenter. The final event magnitude is median of all
333 station magnitudes within 10-160 km epicentral distance. We choose a minimum of 10 km
334 epicentral distance because at close epicentral distances, and within the WA synthetic passband,
335 there may be source-radiated energy in the spectrum above the Nyquist frequency. Thus, the
336 maximum trace amplitudes that are used to calculate the station M_L could be underestimated. We

337 choose 160 km as the maximum window because this corresponds to the epicentral distance at
338 which the P_n head wave traveling along the uppermost mantle would arrive at a station before the
339 direct P wave (See supplementary material). Local magnitude should be determined from direct
340 body waves (Hutton and Boore, 1987) and so we do not consider more distant estimates of
341 earthquake magnitude where the first P arrival would have traveled as a head wave along the
342 crust-mantle interface.

343 We determined the fit to the previous equation by using amplitudes from local network
344 stations for earthquakes with a corresponding USGS-determined W-phase moment magnitude
345 (M_{ww}) or regional moment tensor magnitude (M_{wr}). Since that magnitude is predetermined, we
346 used the magnitude in the previous equation and come up with values for the $-\log A_0$ value,
347 which should be common to earthquakes of all magnitudes. We fit an equation of the form
348 $a \cdot \log_{10}(x) + b \cdot x + c$ to the scatter of $-\log A_0$ values and determine coefficients: $a=2.01$, $b=-0.0057$,
349 and $c=-0.45$. Functionally, in SC3, the function is replaced by a table of values, where epicentral
350 distances between points are interpolated between table entries. The function (green line) and
351 interpolated table values (maroon line), as implemented in SC3, are shown in Figure 6. It should
352 be noted that this $\log A_0$ function differs from one previously used at OGS up until late 2018
353 (Darold et al., 2014).

354 Within the WA synthetic response, earthquakes in the region produce surface waves with
355 relatively larger amplitude than the S wave. When the peak amplitude is derived from a larger
356 window that is larger than the first few seconds after S-arrival, then the subsequent magnitude is
357 relatively higher than the magnitude based on analyst-selected body wave amplitudes. Hence,
358 there can be a difference between automatic (USGS M_L and OGS-automatic) and analyst-derived
359 M_L . We typically find this corresponds to an initial underestimation of event magnitude of ~ 0.1

360 to 0.2 magnitude units observed in both NEIC-reported M_L and automatic- M_L OGS reports. We
361 analyzed 36 common events in 2019 for an area west of Oklahoma City and Norman and found
362 that event magnitudes were 0.1 magnitude units lower than either the USGS M_L (0.1 median
363 lower) or mbLg magnitudes (0.1 median lower). We note that the systematic difference between
364 OGS and USGS M_L values stem from a difference between using analyst-selected windows
365 around the S-wave (OGS) and automatic windows where the largest amplitude is used within the
366 coda (USGS procedure for M_L).



367
368 **Figure 6:** $\log A_0$ values for earthquakes that included USGS-recorded magnitude was derived
369 using a moment tensor solution (M_{wr} or M_{ww}). The $\log A_0$ term derives from the Richter
370 equation described in the text and is used for calculating local magnitudes for smaller
371 earthquakes.
372

373 4. Earthquake hazard and risk

374 The USGS updates the long-term National Seismic Hazard Map approximately every 6
375 years. With the aforementioned increase in seismicity associated with unconventional resource
376 plays in the last decade, the USGS sought to identify the short-term hazard in areas across the
377 central US and released short-term seismic hazard updates for 2016, 2017, and 2018 (Petersen et
378 al., 2016; Petersen et al., 2017; Petersen et al., 2018). Those updates followed the same
379 methodology as the long-term model (Petersen et al., 2014) including declustering earthquake
380 catalogs so that the earthquake behavior approaches a Poissonian process whereby random,
381 independent events (earthquakes) occur at a specific activity rate. Assuming the underlying rate
382 of occurrence and the notion that there is a power-law distribution for occurrence of earthquake
383 sizes (Gutenberg-Richter law), then one is able to estimate the underlying seismic hazard
384 (Rosson et al., 2019).

385 For the short-term hazard updates, USGS utilized earthquake occurrences within a short
386 time period (2 years with the most recent year weighted more heavily) to forecast the seismic
387 hazard into the next year. In the most recent forecast for 2018, Petersen et al. (2018) forecasted a
388 10-14% chance of moderate damage for an area adjacent to the Oklahoma City metro area and
389 encompassing a broad swath of north-central Oklahoma. This represents a hazard nearly
390 equivalent some areas of California (Petersen et al., 2014). It is unclear whether USGS will not
391 continue to update the short-term hazard model as a USGS spokesman is cited in a July 8, 2019
392 Tulsa World article (Associated Press, 2019): “The reason is because that induced seismicity has
393 been decreasing every year since we did our first forecast back in 2015-2016, and as such, we're
394 moving on to different priorities.”

395 The state of Oklahoma is home to approximately 4 million people. Metropolitan areas of
396 Oklahoma City and Tulsa are most vulnerable to the earthquake risk due to the larger number of
397 structures and built environment. Since the seismic risk to the built environment is associated
398 with the degree of shaking experienced during an earthquake, the OGS has identified soils
399 statewide that may be susceptible to stronger shaking relative to other areas (Pritchett et al.,
400 2017). In that study, we categorized areas across the state according to NEHRP soil liquefaction
401 classification scheme and found that both major metropolitan zones (Oklahoma City and Tulsa)
402 may be more susceptible to stronger shaking and subsequent damage due to their proximity to
403 the North Canadian and Arkansas Rivers, respectively. Further urban mapping would be required
404 to better understand the soil structures that would be susceptible to strong shaking or liquefaction
405 effects.

406 Most of the induced earthquakes have occurred on previously unmapped faults (Skoumal
407 et al., 2019) highlighting the difficulty of predicting earthquake hazard from induced seismicity.
408 Many of these faults do not have sufficient displacement to be detectable with active-source
409 seismic imaging. In early 2015, the OCC issued a directive to limit wastewater injection to
410 depths above the crystalline basement by “plugging-back” wells that extend into the basement.
411 This was supposed to reduce the pore-pressure communication between the Arbuckle Group and
412 the basement. However, many basement faults extend into the Arbuckle Group enabling pore-
413 pressure migration into the basement. By mid-2015, the OCC put in a plan to reduce the daily
414 injection rates and volumes in selected areas of interest (AOI) with increased seismicity rate.
415 This was complemented by a downturn of oil prices which forced reduction of production in
416 regions deemed uneconomical for production.

417 In early 2016, the OCC took further measures by implementing daily reporting of
418 injection data into the Arbuckle Group, an improvement to the monthly summary reports that are
419 filed annually (OCC, 2015). Timely reporting of the more refined data provides the opportunity
420 to more effectively mitigate seismic hazard in a timely manner, especially in response to large
421 earthquakes; on numerous occasions the OCC would rapidly shut-in (halt disposal operations) or
422 modify permits for reduced disposal in wells near larger (M4.0+) events. A recent study suggests
423 that some of these “rapid-response” actions were effective in reducing the rate of aftershocks
424 following several large events, including the Pawnee and Cushing earthquakes (Goebel et al.,
425 2019).

426 Starting December 2016, the OCC designated the SCOOP/STACK region as an AOI and
427 proactively implemented a stoplight protocol (OCC, 2016b) to mitigate hydraulic fracturing
428 triggered seismicity (Holland, 2013; Skoumal et al., 2018). This protocol relies on the timely
429 OGS catalog of earthquake epicenters and magnitudes to quickly determine the prescribed
430 mitigating measures. As the earthquakes within wastewater injection AOI have declined,
431 hydraulic fracturing in the SCOOP/STACK region has contributed almost half of the seismicity
432 in Oklahoma in 2019. Thus, effective management and mitigation of earthquake risk continues to
433 be dependent upon effective monitoring by the OGS RSN.

434

435 **5. Conclusions**

436 As we outlined in prior sections, the OGS has been dedicated to understanding
437 earthquake hazards for the last several decades. We summarized some of those more recent
438 efforts and describe the current regional seismic network that is part of ANSS. Earthquakes
439 occur along the myriad faults across the state, whether or not that fault slip was promoted by

440 wastewater injection. Starting around 2009, the rate of M3.0+ earthquakes rose from about 2 or 3
441 per year to 579 and 903 in 2014 and 2015, respectively. While that rate has since declined to pre-
442 2014 rates, the seismic hazard in Oklahoma remains elevated relative to its tectonic background.

443 We have, in an ad-hoc fashion since 2010, built the infrastructure for a seismic network
444 capable of robustly detecting seismicity, with near real-time seismic processing and
445 dissemination of information to the public. Our research into induced seismicity has provided the
446 Oklahoma Corporation Commission with the technical guidance to more safely and effectively
447 mitigate earthquake hazards. Furthermore, our work includes significant outreach and education
448 of the populace regarding earthquake hazards. All these past, present, and future efforts should
449 reduce the seismic risk for loss of property and life. Because Oklahoma does not have a
450 substantial history of earthquakes, much work remains.

451

452 **6. Data and Resources**

453 Waveform data recorded by OGS is available in real-time at the IRIS Data Management
454 Center at ds.iris.edu under Federated Digital Seismic Network codes OK (OGS;
455 doi.org/10.7914/SN/OK), O2 (OGS 2018+; doi.org/10.7914/SN/O2), Y7 (OGS/OU 2016-2019;
456 doi.org/10.7914/SN/Y7_2016), Y9 (OGS/OU 2016-2019; doi.org/10.7914/SN/Y9_2016), ZP
457 (OGS 2016-2019; doi.org/10.7914/SN/ZP_2016). The USGS M_L values and amplitudes used for
458 comparison were accessed through the ANSS Comprehensive Catalog
459 (<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/data/comcat/>, last accessed June 2019). The OGS earthquake map is
460 updated in real-time (https://ogsweb.ou.edu/quake_viewer/) and the catalog can be downloaded
461 for specific time periods and magnitude ranges (https://ogsweb.ou.edu/eq_catalog/). Some of the
462 custom listener scripts and other utilities for the SC3 system that were developed by OGS are

463 available through public repositories (https://github.com/jakewalter/seiscomp_tools) or available
464 by contacting the authors.

465

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475 NA0003525. This paper describes objective technical results and analysis. Any subjective views or
476 opinions that might be expressed in the paper do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S.
477 Department of Energy or the United States Government.

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479

480

481 **Appendix**

482 **Cross-over distance at which Pn phase arrives first**

483 In Oklahoma, we analyzed the data to determine the crossing point at which the first
484 phase arrival is the Pn phase, which is the P-wave from an earthquake that travels as a head wave
485 along the crust-mantle boundary. We plot the P-wave travel times with a reduced velocity
486 corresponding to mantle P-wave velocity (8.3 km/s) and find the crossover distance at which the
487 first P-wave is not direct arrival but the head wave that travels along the upper mantle (Pn). We

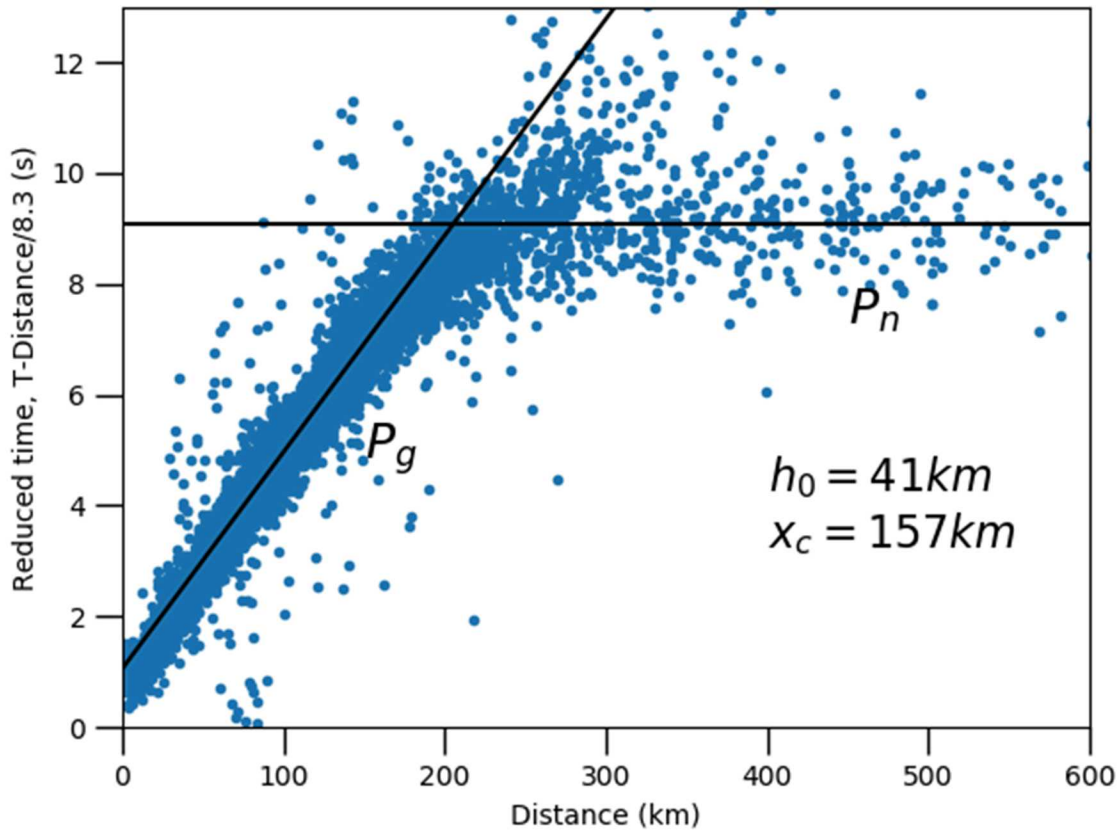
488 estimate h , the thickness of the crust with the following equation (Mahani and Kao, 2018; Stein
489 and Wysession, 2003):

490
$$v_0 = v_l / \left(2 \sqrt{(1/v_0^2 - 1/v_l^2)} \right)$$

491 where v_l is the mantle velocity, v_0 is the reciprocal of the slope of in Figure A1, and τ is the y-
492 intercept or the head wave travel-time at zero distance. Thus the critical distance, x_c , at which the
493 P-wave arrival is the head wave can be calculated:

494
$$x_c = 2 v_0 \frac{v_0/v_l}{\sqrt{1 - (v_0^2/v_l^2)}}$$

495 We use these calculations to guide our earthquake processing where we do not utilize magnitude
496 measurements that are greater than 160 km from the earthquake because the crust is
497 approximately 41 km thick, the distance at which Pn phases are the first P phase recorded is
498 approximately 160 km.



499

500 **Figure A1:** Analyst-picked P-wave arrival time relative to event origin time.

501

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700 **Table 2**

Station	Network	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)	Sample Rate (Hz)	Datalogger	Sensor Type
AMES	OK	36.3357	-98.1930	394	100	RT130	Silicon Audio 203P
ARCA	O2	35.7430	-97.2695	323	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T Broadb
BLOK	OK	36.7607	-97.2150	301	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
BLUF	OK	35.6567	-97.6093	302	100	RT130	Silicon Audio, 203P
CHAN	O2	35.6530	-96.7855	266	100	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
CHOK	OK	35.5612	-97.0615	338	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
CRES	O2	36.0372	-97.5345	311	100	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
CROK	OK	36.5047	-97.9833	403	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-C3ESPC
CSTR	OK	35.6455	-98.6888	516	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
DEOK	OK	35.8427	-96.4983	291	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
DOVR	O2	35.9543	-97.9882	337	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
DRUM	O2	35.9192	-96.6053	296	100	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
ELIS	OK	36.0653	-99.4180	641	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
FNO	OK	35.2572	-97.4007	357	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-C3ESPC
FRLY	OK	35.4153	-97.4513	387	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
FW01	O2	36.4947	-98.9407	431	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
FW02	O2	36.3783	-98.7293	462	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
FW03	O2	36.5268	-99.1730	628	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
FW04	O2	36.5960	-98.6652	449	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
FW05	O2	36.4703	-98.6053	444	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
FW06	O2	36.5138	-98.4990	420	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
FW07	O2	36.4512	-98.8017	409	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
FW08	O2	36.2383	-98.7967	559	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
FW09	O2	36.5508	-99.0407	517	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
FW10	Y9	36.5060	-98.7185	457	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-3T
GC02	OK	36.8515	-97.8597	354	100	RT130	OYO 2Hz MiniSeismom
GORE	O2	36.7847	-97.9415	348	100	RT130	Nanometrics Trillum
HTCH	OK	36.0170	-98.3327	347	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
LOOK	OK	33.9925	-97.1800	287	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
MOOR	OK	35.3418	-97.6592	371	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
MRSH	O2	36.1323	-97.6955	309	100	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
NOKA	OK	36.6347	-98.9320	476	100	RT130	Guralp CMG-6T
PERK	O2	35.9260	-97.1295	288	100	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
PERY	O2	36.2600	-97.2350	209	100	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
POCA	O2	35.2177	-98.0753	396	100	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
PW01	Y7	36.4017	-96.9292	322	200	RT130	Sercel L-22 Short-Peric
PW02	Y7	36.4188	-96.8582	314	200	RT130	Sercel L-22 Short-Peric
PW03	Y7	36.4197	-96.8225	306	200	RT130	Sercel L-22 Short-Peric
PW05	O2	36.4850	-96.9640	289	200	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
PW06	Y7	36.4207	-96.9720	303	200	RT130	Sercel L-22 Short-Peric
PW07	O2	36.5042	-96.7650	282	200	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
PW08	O2	36.4058	-96.7328	275	100	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
PW09	O2	36.4480	-96.8170	291	200	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
PW10	O2	36.3655	-96.8310	297	200	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
PW13	O2	36.3283	-96.8178	290	100	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2
PW15	O2	36.4685	-97.0137	270	200	RT130	Streckeisen STS-2