

**From:** "Wald, David J" <wald@usgs.gov>

**Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: The ARES Letter for December 20, 2023 SHAKEOUT Corrections (sort of)**

**Date:** December 22, 2023 at 8:35:45 PM CST

**To:** Steve Waterman <k4cix@comcast.net>, WDT - Phil Sherrod <phil@philsherrod.com>, Greg Kruckewitt <kg6sjt@gmail.com>, Loring Kutchins <lor.kutchins@gmail.com>, Ross Merlin <ross.merlin@gmail.com>, "Chris Steinhardt" <chris.steinhardt@outlook.com>, WDT - Rick Muething KN6KB <rmuething@cfl.rr.com>, WDT- Tom Lafleur <Lafleur@lafleur.us>, Lee Inman <lee@iqed.net>, Tom Whiteside <tomw@ecpi.com>, Thomas Noel <tnoel@mac.com>, WDT - Kevin Hedgepeth <khedgepe@presys.com>, Scott Currie <scott.d.currie@gmail.com>, Roger Mull <roger\_mull@yahoo.com>, Gabe Turner <gturner@emd.sc.gov>, Dennison Coomer <dennison.coomer@admin.sc.gov>, "Chris Mattia" <matia@mac.com>, Scott Currie <ns7c@comcast.net>

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Steve, all,

We at the USGS really appreciate the work of the Winlink amateur volunteers who contributed to the recent ShakeOut earthquake scenario exercise as well as contributing to the USGS Did You Feel It? (DYFI) system since 2020. Winlink volunteers have sent in more than 6,000 responses for exercises and actual events. We anticipate that your contributions will help us provide critical situational awareness in the minutes and hours after a significant earthquake. You have a rather unique capacity to communicate after a damaging earthquake. Hence, the connection between amateur radio operators and the USGS' post-earthquake information tools is a natural yet impressive handoff.

I've been really impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism of all the amateur radio operators we've worked with over the past few years who have been ready and willing to develop the interface to connect directly to USGS via the DYFI system and to the many operators who have sent in felt reports. Fantastic!

Lastly, I also want to thank Vince Quitoriano (USGS contractor) for making all the connections between Winlink and USGS work so smoothly.

Regards, and happy holidays,

David

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