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Rockslides of "Eaux-Bonnes" (Pyrenees, France).

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The Eaux-Bonnes rockslide, also know as the Pleysse landslide, is the biggest contemporary landslide of the Pyrenees volume. It is located in the Ossau Valley (Atlantic Pyrennes), more precisely between the town of Laruns and the ski centre of Gourette approximately 50 km south from the town of Pau. The landslide started on August 20 1982 and stopped at the beginning of March 1983 After 130 meters of displacement. The object of this study is to understand the mechanisms of failure at the origin of the rockslide. Initially, the geological investigation carried out on the slope showed that the sliding mass was cut by faults. The factors to failure of the landslide are difficult to determine. This study shows that seisms and pluviometry can't be factors of failure. in a second time, we have studied groundwaters within the rock solide mass, because the two years important precipitations previous to the beginning of the paroxysmal phase of the landslide could have caused an increase in the pore water pressure along the fractures and triggered the landslide. To meet this objective, we have carried out a hydrogeochemical survey on groundwaters flowing within and the vicinity of the landslide. The results bring new information about the geological structure of the area and help to understand the triggering factors of the Pleysse rockslide.