

Geophysical Research Abstracts,
Vol. 10, EGU2008-A-07826, 2008
SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU2008-A-07826
EGU General Assembly 2008
© Author(s) 2008



Testing earthquake forecast/prediction methods: "Real-time forecasts of tomorrow's earthquakes in California"

V. Kossobokov (1,2)

(1) International Institute of Earthquake Prediction Theory and Mathematical Geophysics
RAS, Moscow; (2) Institute de Physique du Globe de Paris, Paris (volodya@ipgp.jussieu.fr /
+33-(0)1.44.27.38.94)

We have analyzed the results to-date of the forecasts by Gerstenberger et al. who started in 2005 the public web site with probabilities of expected ground shaking for 'tomorrow' (Nature 435, 19 May 2005). From the very beginning Gerstenberger et al. have inverted the critical evidence presented in their study (i.e., the 15 years of seismic record accumulated in a single figure), which suggests rejecting with confidence above 97% "the generic California clustering model" used in automatic calculations. The statistics of the observed ground shaking in California, 2005-2007, confirm the conclusion that Gerstenberger et al. continue to deliver to the public, emergency planners and the media a deceptive product hosted by the United States Geological Survey: earthquakes that produce Modified Mercally intensity VI in California keep occurring in the "sky blue" areas of the lowest risk, while the extent of the observed areas of intensity VI is by far less (i.e., currently by a factor of 7) than the one expected from the calculations.