

**NEESWood: Development of a Performance-Based Seismic Design Philosophy for Mid-Rise Woodframe Construction, 10/01/05-9/30/09, NSF, \$1,240,000 (PI-van de Lindt, Co-PI's – Rosowsky, Filiatrault, Symans, and Davidson).**

While woodframe structures have historically performed well with regard to life safety in regions of moderate to high seismicity, these types of low-rise structures have sustained significant structural and non-structural damage in recent earthquakes. To date, the height of woodframe construction has been limited to approximately four stories, mainly due to the lack of understanding of the dynamic response of taller (mid-rise) woodframe construction, non-structural limitations such as material fire requirements, and potential damage considerations for non-structural finishes. Current building code requirements for engineered wood construction around the world are not based on a global seismic design philosophy. Rather, wood elements are designed independently of each other without consideration of the influence that their stiffness and strength have on the other structural components of the structural system. Furthermore, load paths in woodframe construction arising during earthquake shaking are not well understood. These factors, rather than economic considerations, have limited the use of wood to low-rise construction and, thereby, have reduced the economical competitiveness of the wood industry in the U.S. and abroad relative to the steel and concrete industry. This project seeks to take on the challenge of developing a seismic design philosophy that will provide the necessary mechanisms to safely increase the height of woodframe structures in active seismic zones of the U.S. as well as mitigating damage to low-rise woodframe structures. This will be accomplished through the development of a new seismic design philosophy that will make mid-rise woodframe construction a reality in regions of moderate to high seismicity. Such a design philosophy falls under the umbrella of the performance-based design paradigm.