“KABOOM! Mitigating Blasting Impacts without Diminishing the Blasting’s Effectiveness”

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Blasting is very effective in moving materials (rock & concrete) that cannot be easily excavated by mechanical means. Blasters use empirical approaches and developed experience to perform the activity to create the blaster’s largest profit. The three primary impacts due to blasting are: flyrock, noise (airblast), and vibrations (or pressure waves in an aquatic environment). These impacts can be controlled by the blasting parameters used and, for some projects, additional mitigating measures. The talk considers the application of mitigation research to unusual blasting cases. Some of the cases to be discussed include: quarry blasting’s possible disturbance of hibernating myotis sodalis (Indiana bats); impacts upon a planned natural gas pipeline near an active quarry; removal of the Embrey Dam (Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg, VA); rock excavation near geologic hazards; and, adverse impacts from blasting of, or near, water-borne structures.

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More information on this seminar series: http://www.umich.edu/~geotech/lecture.html