CHARTER

Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee
U.S. Geological Survey

1. **Official Designation**: Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC).

2. **Scope and Objectives**: The Advisory Committee is established pursuant to the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-503), that states "The Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish a Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall advise the Director on matters relating to the United States Geological Survey's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, including the United States Geological Survey's roles, goals and objectives within that program, its capabilities and research needs, guidance on achieving major objectives, and establishing and measuring performance goals."

3. **Duties of the Committee**: The duties of the Advisory Committee are solely advisory and are described in paragraph 2 above.

4. **Agency or official to whom the Committee reports**: The Advisory Committee shall issue an annual report to the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for submission to Congress on or before September 30 of each year. The report shall describe the Advisory Committee's activities and address policy issues or matters that affect the USGS's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

5. **Bureau responsible for providing necessary support**: The USGS will be responsible for administrative support to the Advisory Committee and for providing the necessary technical support required by the Committee. The Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake and Geologic Hazards shall serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) in accordance with Section 10(e) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

6. **Estimated annual operating costs**: Annual costs for the Advisory Committee are estimated to be $50,000, including all direct and indirect expenses. Staff support will require 0.2 of an FTE. Public Law 106-503 authorizes $100,000 annual operation costs for the committee.

7. **Estimated number and frequency of meetings**: Two to three meetings per year.

8. **Membership**: The Director of the USGS shall establish procedures for selection of individuals not employed by the Federal Government who are qualified in the seismic sciences and other appropriate fields and may, pursuant to such procedures, select up to 10 individuals, one of whom shall be designated Chairman, to serve on the Advisory Committee. The Chairman of the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (Sec. 101(e)(2) of Public Law 96-472, October 19, 1980) shall serve ex officio. Selection of individuals for the Advisory Committee shall be based solely on established records of distinguished service, and the Director shall ensure a reasonable cross-section of views and expertise is represented. In selecting individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee, the Director shall seek and give due consideration to recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, professional societies, and other appropriate organizations. Nominations will be solicited from the following societies and organizations: Geological Society of America, Seismological Society of America, American

Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Professional Geologists, American Geophysical Union, and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. Term of membership may be staggered to ensure continuity in the procedures of the Advisory Committee.

9. **Ethics and Standards of Conduct Responsibilities:** Non-Federal members of the SESAC will be appointed as Special Government Employees, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 202(a). As Special Government Employees, non-Federal members of the SESAC are subject to Federal standards of ethical conduct and conflict of interest statutes. Prior to appointment or re-appointment, each potential member of the SESAC must complete and file a confidential financial disclosure report, Office of Government Ethics (OGE) Form 450 and a Department of the Interior DI-1993-A, supplementary confidential financial disclosure report with the USGS Ethics Office. The reports will be reviewed by the USGS Ethics Office to determine whether the financial holdings of the potential members are in compliance with the USGS Organic Act and USGS Conflict of Interest Policy. Subsequent financial disclosure reports will be required from all members on an annual basis. All SESAC members will receive annual ethics training from the USGS Ethics Office. A member may not participate in matters that will directly affect, or appear to affect, the financial interests of the member or the member's spouse or dependent children, unless authorized by the Director of the USGS. Compensation from employment does not constitute a financial interest of the member so long as the matter before the Committee will not have a special or distinct effect on the member or the member's employer, other than as part of a class.

10. **Allowances for Committee Members**: All Advisory Committee members are expected to serve on a *pro bono publico* basis. Committee members shall be reimbursed for travel related to committee activities in accordance with United States Government travel regulations regarding travel of nongovernment parties.

11. **Termination Date**: We expect the committee to continue into the near future. However, the Advisory Committee is subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2 and shall take no action unless the Charter filing requirements of section 9 of the FACA have been complied with. The committee is subject to biennial review and will terminate 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that time, the charter is renewed in accordance with section 14 of the FACA.

12. **Authority**: Public Law 106-503, November 13, 2000.

P. Patrick Leahy

May 1, 2006

Date Signed

MAY - 2 2006

Date Filed