# CHARTER

## Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee
## U.S. Geological Survey

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

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

3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The SESAC 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."

4. **Description of Duties.** The duties of the SESAC are solely advisory and are described in paragraph 3 above.

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The SESAC 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 SESAC activities and address policy issues or matters that affect the USGS's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

6. **Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support.** The USGS Earthquake Hazards Program will be responsible for administrative and technical support to the SESAC.

7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** Annual costs for the SESAC are estimated to be $50,000, including all direct and indirect expenses. Staff support will require 0.2 of a full-time equivalent position. Public Law 106-503 authorizes $100,000 annual operation costs for the committee.

8. **Designated Federal Officer (DFO).** The Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake and Geologic Hazards shall serve as the DFO in accordance with Section 10(e) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** Two to three meetings per year.

10. **Duration.** We expect the SESAC to continue into the future; therefore, it will exist on a "continuing" basis.

11. **Termination.** The SESAC will continue into the future. However, the Advisory Committee is subject to the provisions of the 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 SESAC 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. 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 SESAC. The Chair of the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (Sec. 101(e)(2) of Public Law 96-472, October 19,1980) shall serve ex officio. All SESAC members shall serve as Special Government Employees (SGE's). Selection of individuals for the SESAC 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 SESAC, the Director shall seek and give due consideration to recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, professional societies, and other appropriate organizations. Solicitation of nominations will include the following societies and organizations: Geological Society of America, Seismological Society of America, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Geophysical Union, and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. Term of membership may be staggered to ensure continuity in the procedures of the SESAC.

**13. Subcommittees.** The SESAC may have subcommittees or subgroups that the agency deems necessary for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such workgroups may not conduct business without the direction of the SESAC and must report in full to the SESAC.

**14. Recordkeeping.** Records of the SESAC and its subgroups shall be handled in accordance with applicable General Services Administration and USGS records filing and disposition requirements. Records shall be available for public inspection and copying.

**15. Ethical Responsibilities**. A SESAC or subgroup member may not participate in any specific party matter in which the member, his/her spouse, or dependent child(ren) have a direct financial interest, including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement or related litigation with the Department of the Interior or the USGS.

Marcia McNutt

Marcia McNutt
Director, U.S. Geological Survey

4/30/2010

Date Signed

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Date Filed