Charter

National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council
U.S. Geological Survey

1. **Official Designation**: National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (NEPEC)

2. **Scope and Objectives**: The Council will provide advice and recommendations to the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on earthquake predictions and related scientific research, in support of the Director's delegated responsibility under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) to issue timely warnings of potential geologic disasters.

3. **Duration:** The Council is subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and shall take no action unless the charter filing requirements of section 9 of the FACA have been complied with. Further, the Council 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.

4. **Designated Federal Officer (DFO)**: Dr. David Applegate, Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake and Geologic Hazards, USGS, 905 National Center, Reston, Virginia 20192, serves as the DFO. The Council will report to the Director of the USGS through the DFO.

5. **Bureau responsible for providing necessary support**: The USGS Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake and Geologic Hazards shall provide staff support for the Council from the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program Office.

6. **Estimated annual operating costs**: The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be $50,000, including all direct and indirect expenses. It is estimated that 0.2 FTE will be required to support the Council.

7. **Description of Duties**: The Council's duties and responsibilities are solely advisory in support of the Director's delegated responsibility to issue timely warnings of potential geologic disasters.

8. **Allowances for Council Members**: Members of the Council serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, members engaged in Council business approved by the DFO will be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under section 5703 of title 5 of the United States Code.

9. **Estimated number and frequency of meetings**: The Council shall meet at least once a year. The Council may be required to meet on short notice to address an urgent situation regarding an earthquake prediction or other earthquake emergency. As stated in P.L. 101-614, the Council shall be exempt from the notification requirement of section 10(a)(2) of the FACA when meeting on an urgent matter.

10. Termination Date: The Council is established pursuant to Item 2, page 25 of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program transmitted to the Congress on June 22, 1978, by the President under Sec. 5(f)(1) of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 and in furthering the objectives of Sec. 202 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974. Sec. 101(e)(2) of Public Law 96-472 requires the Council to continue to exist for the foreseeable future. However, the continuous operation of the Council is subject to review and rechartering every 2 years.

11. Council Membership: The Director of the USGS shall appoint all members of the Council. All members shall be experts in the scientific disciplines that bear on earthquake prediction or other relevant disciplines involved in forecasting natural hazards or public response to such forecasts. All members serve at the discretion of the Director. The Council shall comprise not fewer than 8 or more than 12 members. The members may be Federal employees, but this number must comprise less than one-half of the total number of members of the Council. The term of office of each member of the Council shall be 3 years, except for the ex officio member and for vacancy appointments which shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy.

The Director shall appoint a Chair from among the members of the Council. The Chair shall not be a USGS employee and shall also serve ex officio as a member of the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee, a Federal Advisory Committee established by legislation reauthorizing the four-agency National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (Public Law 106-503). The USGS Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake and Geologic Hazards shall serve ex officio as Vice Chair of the Council.

12. Ethical Responsibility: No Council or subgroup member shall participate in any specific party matter, including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest

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

14. Authority: Public Law 96-472 Sec. 101(e)(2), October 19, 1980.

Director, U.S. Geological Survey

MAR 2 0 2008

Date Signed

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Date Filed