U.S. Geological Survey Charter

National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council

1. Official Designation: National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (hereafter referred to as the Council).

2. Authority: 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. The Council operates in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972, as amended.

3. Scope and Objectives: The Council provides 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.

4. 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.

5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports: The Council shall submit advice and report to the Director of the USGS, through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).

6. Support: The USGS Earthquake Hazards Program shall provide staff support for the Council.

7. 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.

8. Designated Federal Officer (DFO): Dr. Michael Blanpied, Associate Coordinator for the Earthquake Hazards Program, USGS, 905 National Center, Reston, Virginia 20192 serves as the DFO, and shall approve, call and adjourn the Council's meetings, approve meeting agendas, and chair meetings if called to do so by the USGS Director.

9. Estimated number and frequency of meetings: The Council shall meet at least once per 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. Duration: The Council is subject to the provisions of the FACA and shall take no action unless the charter filing requirements of section 9 of the FACA have been met. 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.

11. Termination: Sec 101(e)(2) of P.L. 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.

12. 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 and shall, with the exception of travel and per diem for official travel, serve without compensation. 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. Non-Federal members shall serve as Special Government Employees. The term of office for each member of the Council shall be 3 years, except for the ex officio member and for vacancy appointments that 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 (P.L. 106-503). The USGS Coordinator for the Earthquake Hazards Program shall serve ex officio as Vice Chair of the Council.

13. Subcommittees: The USGS, or the Council with USGS's approval, may form subcommittees, workgroups or subgroups for the purpose of compiling information, conducting research, or other purpose consistent with this charter. Such groups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered Council or to report directly to the USGS, and must report in full to the Council.

14. Recordkeeping: Records of the Council 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 Council 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

APR 22 2010

Date Signed

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Date Filed