

# 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Scientific Advisory Board

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Department of Defense	2024
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Scientific Advisory Board	437

<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	06/22/2023	06/22/2025	

<b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>
No	10 U.S.C. 2904	

<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**11. Establishment Authority** Statutory (Congress Created)

<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
10 U.S.C. 2904	11/05/1990	Continuing	No

**15. Description of Committee** Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

**16a. Total Number of Reports** No Reports for this Fiscal Year

**17a. Open** 2 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 2

## Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
Review and approval of SERDP FY24 proposals.	10/11/2023	10/13/2023

To review proposed research projects from  
the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program FY24 Portfolio. 03/21/2024 - 03/21/2024

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2**

	<b>Current Next</b>	
	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2904(e), the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Council ("the Council") shall refer to the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Scientific Advisory Board ("the Board") for review each proposed research project including its estimated cost, for research in and development of technologies related to environmental activities in excess of \$1,000,000.

The Council, pursuant to its responsibilities under 10 U.S.C. § 2902(d)(1) and in an effort to enhance the Board's review process, has lowered the dollar threshold for referral by the Council to the Board to any proposed research project in excess of \$900,000. The Board shall make any recommendations to the Council that the Board considers appropriate regarding such project or proposal. The Board may make recommendations to the Council regarding technologies, research, projects, programs, activities, and, if appropriate, funding within the scope of the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program. In addition, the Board shall assist and advise the Council in identifying the environmental data and analytical assistance activities that should be covered by the policies and procedures prescribed pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2902(d)(1).

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The membership of the Board is composed of not less than six and not more than 14 members.

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2904(b), the Board membership shall be composed of the following:

a. Permanent members of the Board are the Science Advisor to the President and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or their respective designees. b. Non-permanent members of the Board shall be appointed from among persons eminent in the fields of basic sciences, engineering, ocean and environmental sciences, education, research management, international and security affairs, health physics, health sciences, or social sciences, with due regard given to the equitable representation of scientists and engineers who are women or who represent minority groups. At least one member of the Board

shall be a representative of environmental public interest groups, and one member shall be a representative of the interests of State governments. Non-permanent Board members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, or the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense (“the DoD Appointment Authorities”) and the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Board members who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers, employees, or members of the Armed Forces shall be appointed as experts or consultants pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 3109 to serve as special government employee (SGE) members. Board members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers, employees, or members of the Armed Forces shall be appointed pursuant to 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.130(a) to serve as regular government employee (RGE) members. The DoD, unless otherwise provided for by an Act of Congress or Presidential directive, does not use representative members on DoD-established or supported advisory committees. All SGE members are appointed to provide advice on matters before the Board on the basis of their best judgment without representing any particular point of view and in a manner that is free from conflict of interest.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Meetings are conducted a minimum of four times a year, in accordance with the statute, to assist the SERDP Council to make annual programmatic and policy decisions. This is the minimum number of meetings necessary to allow sufficient time for the Board to review of all the projects being considered for funding during a fiscal year prior to

making a recommendation to the Council.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

Federal statute (10 U.S.C. 2904) requires the Secretary of Defense to establish this committee.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

Meetings are not closed to the public unless the DoD determines the items on the planned agenda meet the closed meeting provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 552b(c). Pursuant to DoD policy closed meetings can only be authorized by the DoD Sponsor, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, and only after consultation with the Office of the DoD GC.

**21. Remarks**

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2904(a), the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Scientific Advisory Board (“the Board”) requires a minimum of 6 members and as such no meetings could be held in in first 11 months of FY2023. A meeting took place on September 19 – 21, 2023 where six new members were sworn in and two regular government employee members were in attendance Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2904, the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) reports to the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program Council. SERDP does not have any subcommittees. Much of the support for the committee is done by contractors reducing the amount of FTEs necessary. The agency decided to only hold one meeting in the FY2023 fiscal year.

## Designated Federal Officer

Kimberly Spangler Executive Director, SERDP

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Aines, Roger	09/19/2023	09/18/2027	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Conroy-Ben, Otakuye	09/19/2023	09/18/2027	Assistant Professor, School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Doyle, Fiona	09/19/2023	09/18/2027	University of California, Berkeley	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Frankel, Gerald	09/19/2023	09/18/2027	The Ohio State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gray, George	09/19/2023	09/18/2027	Los Alamos National Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kuperberg, Michael	06/22/2023		Office of Science and Technology Policy	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Lal, Rattan	09/19/2023	09/18/2027	The Ohio State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Nelson, Alondra	02/16/2022	10/03/2023	Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy	Ex Officio Member
Songsasenn, Nucharin	06/22/2023	06/21/2027	Smithsonian	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Webb, Robert	05/01/2014		Director, Physical Sciences Division/NOAA/OAR/ESRL	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 10**

### **Narrative Description**

The SERDP Scientific Advisory Board's (SAB) collective expertise and experience, assures that the Program maintains clear focus on technical and scientific quality and the environmental needs of the DoD. The SAB reviews all new start and continuing projects with a value in excess of \$900,000 to ensure technical quality and fiscal responsibility. Furthermore, the SAB assures that multiple projects responding to the same or similar requirements are complementary in approach and well coordinated.

### **What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### **Outcome Comments**

The SAB makes recommendations regarding technologies, research, projects, program, activities, and if appropriate, funding within the scope of the SERDP. Their collective knowledge and expertise assures that SERDP is pursuing research that addresses high-priority requirements and fosters technology transfer. Their thorough review and evaluation of proposals, in addition to the Peer Review Panels, assists the Program in identifying cooperative research efforts that demonstrate the highest standards of technical and scientific quality. The Board plays a proactive role in identifying and defining environmental research gaps and associated technology development opportunities.

### **What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Cost Savings Comments**

It is difficult to financially quantify savings, as the Board's contributions are significant toward identifying the most effective process methods, potentially beneficial research efforts, highest quality technical and scientific research, collaborative efforts, and technology transfer opportunities.

### **What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

1,229

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

A recommendation is made by the SAB on each project reviewed during each fiscal year. 12 recommendations were made for Fiscal Year 2023 at the September meeting. The committee does not issue any specific report; their recommendations are contained within their meeting minutes, which are provided to the Board was unable to meet due to lack of quorum. decision maker.

### **What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

100%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

NA

### **What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**



NA

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Principal Investigators rebrief the SAB with the board's recommendations incorporated, or the staff provides a written or verbal report with the issues addressed. The public is able to find Agency feedback on the committee's website.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

In the event the SAB does not approve a project as is, the Program may decide to not to fund a project, add or eliminate specific tasks and rebrief the board, or start the project with a significant decrease in funding and timeframe.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Publications



Other



**Access Comments**

N/A