

# 2022 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

## 2. Fiscal Year

2022

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council

## 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

34746

## 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

08/12/2020

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

08/12/2022

## 7. Expected Term Date

08/12/2022

## 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

## 8b. Specific Termination Authority

Agency

## 8c. Actual Term Date

08/12/2022

## 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

## 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

## 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

## 11. Establishment Authority

Authorized by Law

## 12. Specific Establishment Authority

Sec 101(e)(2)of P.L. 96-472 & Sec. 5(f)(1) of Nat. Earthquake Haz. Red. Prog. Act of 1977

## 13. Effective Date

06/22/1978

## 14. Committee Type

Continuing

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

## 16a. Total

### Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

## 17a. Open

0

## 17b. Closed

0

## 17c. Partially Closed

0

## Other Activities

0

## 17d. Total

0

## Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

|   | <b>Current<br/>FY</b> | <b>Next<br/>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>                        | \$1,000.00            | \$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>   | \$1,000.00            | \$0.00             |
| <b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>                          | 0.02                  | 0.00               |

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

The Council provides advice and recommendations to the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on earthquake predictions and related scientific research to issue timely warnings of potential geologic disasters. The Council typically transmits its advice in the form of letter reports.

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

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. The Director ensures that the Council provides balanced and authoritative advice by appointing members with expertise across the range of relevant disciplines and who are familiar with earthquake issues across the geographic extent of the Nation.

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

The Council did not meet in FY 2022. The Council typically convened between 1 and 3 times per fiscal year.

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

The Council is authorized 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.

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

N/A

**21. Remarks**

The U.S. Geological Survey has determined that the Council's guidance on earthquake predictions is no longer required. The Council terminated on August 12, 2022.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Michael L. Blanpied DFO

| Committee Members | Start | End | Occupation | Member Designation |
|-------------------|-------|-----|------------|--------------------|
|-------------------|-------|-----|------------|--------------------|

|                     |            |            |                                     |   |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Atkinson,<br>Gail   | 03/15/2019 | 03/31/2022 | University of<br>Western<br>Ontario | Special Government<br>Employee (SGE)<br>Member    |
| Burgmann,<br>Roland | 03/15/2019 | 03/31/2022 | University of<br>CA -<br>Berkeley   | Special Government<br>Employee (SGE)<br>Member    |
| Hayes,<br>Gavin     | 05/10/2020 | 08/12/2022 | U.S.<br>Geological<br>Survey        | Ex Officio Member                                 |
| Michael,<br>Andrew  | 03/15/2019 | 03/31/2022 | U.S.<br>Geological<br>Survey        | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee (RGE)<br>Member |
| Shearer,<br>Peter   | 03/15/2019 | 03/31/2022 | University of<br>CA - San<br>Diego  | Special Government<br>Employee (SGE)<br>Member    |

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 5**

**Narrative Description**

The Council provided advice and recommendations to the Director of the USGS to issue timely warnings of potential geologic disasters. The Council supported the DOI Strategic Plan goal of Serving Communities, and the USGS Strategic Plan goal of providing assessment of the nation's hazards, risk and resilience to natural disasters.

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

Checked if  
Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

**Outcome Comments**

Not Applicable

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

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

**Cost Savings Comments**

(1) The Nation would increase resilience and avert loss of lives, property and productivity if earthquakes could be usefully predicted or their effect more accurately forecast. (2) Expenditures in advance of a predicted earthquake mightier be averted if authoritative information makes it clear the prediction is in error. (3) Money may be saved if Federal assistance goes only to the most promising lines of earthquake prediction research and precursor monitoring. However, the associated cost savings have not been quantified and a vetted calculation method does not currently exist.

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

16

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

No recommendations for FY 2022.

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

50%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

The USGS has fully implemented the recommendation to continue the development of models that can forecast earthquake occurrence during earthquake swarms, and is continuing the ad hoc use of existing swarm models as the basis for certain short-term seismicity forecasts.

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

50%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

The USGS has partially implemented the recommendation to consider lowering the threshold for issuance of automatic aftershock forecasts. The USGS has considered that advice, and is currently evaluating whether sufficient staff time is available to support the increase in work load that would result from that change.

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

Yes  No  Not Applicable

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Via email to Council members.

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

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

**Action Comments**

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

No

**Grant Review Comments**

Not Applicable

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

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

**Access Comments**

<https://www.usgs.gov/natural-hazards/earthquake-hazards/national-earthquake-prediction-evalu>