

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 08/12/2022

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

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	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
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Atkinson, Gail	03/15/2019	03/31/2022	University of Western Ontario	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Burgmann, Roland	03/15/2019	03/31/2022	University of CA - Berkeley	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hayes, Gavin	05/10/2020	08/12/2022	U.S. Geological Survey	Ex Officio Member
Michael, Andrew	03/15/2019	03/31/2022	U.S. Geological Survey	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Shearer, Peter	03/15/2019	03/31/2022	University of CA - San Diego	Special Government Employee (SGE) 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	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

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

(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	<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 type="checkbox"/>

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	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

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