

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Proposal Review Panel for Earth Sciences

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
National Science Foundation	2026
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Proposal Review Panel for Earth Sciences	1569

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	06/27/2025	06/27/2027	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No		

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	No	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
ADM IV-100	03/30/1984	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Grant Review Committee

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	Next
FY	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	\$0.00	\$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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Twenty-five panel committee meetings were held this year to review over 1000 proposals submitted for funding by the Division of Earth Sciences. These committees advise program officers on the merits of these proposals, using the explicit merit review criteria defined by NSF in the grant proposal guide. The expertise of these many committee members is needed to help program officers make informed decisions on the awards to

be supported by the Division in any one year. The yearly budget of the Division of Earth Sciences is approximately \$196 million dollars.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Division of Earth Sciences selects members that have the necessary scientific expertise to cover the many disciplines under review in any one year. The selection of committee members is also balanced in terms of geography and institutional types, demographic characteristics of the panelists, and stage in their academic careers.

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

The number of panel committee meetings varies according to the requirements of each solicited competition. Most of the research programs in the Division of Earth Sciences require one or two panel meetings per year, accounting for most of the 25 committee meetings listed in this report. Additional meetings associated with special competitions for federal dollars are added on a need basis. The vast majority of the proposals in the Division of Earth Sciences undergo evaluation of their merits using these panel meetings.

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

The range of scientific expertise comprised in these panels greatly expands the knowledge base available internally. Also, active scientists in the field have the state-of-the-art expertise needed to help program officers narrow down the awards to be recommended for funding, and balance the needs of the scientific community represented by each program. The advice provided by these panel committees is essential to make sure that

the health of the scientific community stays strong

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

The proposals contain confidential information and proprietary intellectual content that belong to the investigators and their institutions. As such, proposals submitted to NSF are treated confidentially throughout the merit review process.

21. Remarks

None

Designated Federal Officer

Dena Smith-Nufio Director, Division of Earth Sciences

Narrative Description

The NSF mission is set out in the NSF Act of 1950 authorizes and directs the agency to initiate and support; basic scientific research and research fundamental to the engineering process; and sciences and engineering education programs at all levels and in all fields science and engineering. The involvement of knowledgeable peers from outside the Foundation in the review of proposals is the keystone of NSF's proposal review system. Their judgements of the extent to which proposals address the merit review criteria are vital for informing NSF staff and influencing recommendations.

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

NA

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

The use of panelists to review proposals for the Agency is an invaluable asset. The cost of obtaining the expertise, insight, and information received by the Division using alternative methods, such as hiring the expertise as full or part-time employees, would be extremely high.

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

1,044

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is an ongoing committee. Therefore, the number of recommendations produced by the committee is for the fiscal year.

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

The word implement is not applicable to grant review panels. All recommendations are considered by the agency.

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

Not applicable

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

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

Although panelist may not receive direct feedback, each committee member may use the NSF Fastlane, a public web-base program which provide information on awards made by the agency to determine the outcome of proposals reviewed by the panel.

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

NA

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

Yes

What is the estimated **Number** of grants reviewed for approval

What is the estimated **Number** of grants recommended for 1,044

approval

263

What is the estimated **Dollar Value** of grants recommended for approval

\$339,949,663

Grant Review Comments

The panelist/advisory committee members provided information on the merit of the proposal, which includes an overall rating. The number of the proposals above include pre-proposals submitted to NSF for review. The pre-proposals are not included in the number of grants recommend or dollar value of grants recommended for approval.

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 type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Access Comments

N/A