

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee

Report Run Date: 07/04/2025 01:20:26 AM

1. Department or Agency

Department of Commerce

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Construction Safety Team
Advisory Committee

3b. GSA

Committee No.

15122

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

5. Current Charter

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

No 10/03/2024 10/03/2026

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

No

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

P. L. 107-231

13. Effective Date

10/01/2002

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Other 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?

The National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee (Committee) advises the Director of NIST on carrying out the provisions of P.L. 107-231 and reviews the procedures developed under section 2(c)(1) of the Act and reports issued under section 8 of the Act. The Committee provides advice to the NIST Director on the functions of National Construction Safety Teams under section 2(b)(2); the composition of Teams

under section 3; the exercise of authorities under sections 4 and 5; the procedures developed under section 2(c)(1); and the reports issued under section 8.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Members reflect the wide diversity of technical disciplines and competencies involved in the National Construction Safety Teams investigations. Members are drawn from industry and other communities having an interest in the National Construction Safety Teams investigations, such as, but not limited to, universities, state and local government bodies, non-profit research institutions, and other Federal agencies and laboratories. Geographic location also is an important factor in achieving a regional balance of expertise across industrial sectors in the United States. NIST also strives to maintain a balance of members with areas of expertise aligned with national priorities.

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

One virtual meeting and one hybrid (in-person and web conference) were held in FY 2024. To promote efficient spending, as directed by Executive Order 13589, the Committee conducts web conferences or teleconferences in lieu of face-to-face meetings, when feasible.

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

This Committee is required by law. The law requires this Advisory Committee to help the Director of NIST to fulfill his/her responsibilities under the National Construction Safety Team Act, P.L. 107-231.

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

N/A

21. Remarks

This Committee functions solely as an advisory body, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the National Construction Safety Team and has proven to be a very valuable asset.

Designated Federal Officer

Judy Bowie Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Dusenberry, Donald	09/01/2022	08/31/2025	Professional Engineer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
			Associate Director – Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment	
Gurley, Kurtis	09/01/2024	08/31/2027	Professor – Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering University of Florida	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Izquierdo-Encarnación, Jose	10/01/2020	09/30/2026	Principal, PORTICUS	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Osteraas, John	09/01/2024	08/31/2027	Senior Fellow & Principal Engineer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Peek, Lori	04/03/2023	04/02/2026	Professor, University of Colorado Boulder	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Shoaf, Kimberly	05/01/2020	04/30/2026	Professor, Utah School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Zerva, Aspasia	09/01/2022	08/31/2025	Professor, Drexel University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The National Construction Safety Team Act (P.L. 107-231) was signed into law by the President on October 1, 2002. The Act authorizes the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish National Construction Safety Teams (NCST) for deployment after events causing the failure of a building or class of buildings that has resulted in substantial loss of life or that posed the potential for substantial loss of life. The Act directs NIST to establish a Federal Advisory Committee to advise the Director on carrying out this Act and to review the procedures developed under Section 2(c)(1) of the Act and the reports issued under Section 8 of the Act. The National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee is composed of individuals who are experts in their respective fields. The committee advises the NIST Director and NCST teams on the conduct of investigations, reviews and provides advice on the technical approaches used in investigations, reviews and provides advice on findings, conclusions and recommendations resulting from NCST investigations, and reviews and provides comments on written investigation reports. The NCST Advisory Committee provides an outside perspective to NCST investigations that lends credibility to the resulting findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

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

Outcome Comments

NA

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

NA

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

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Committee made seven recommendations in their FY23 Annual Report to Congress, dated 12/18/2023, as follows: 1. Due to the important implications of wildfires for the entire nation, especially considering the recent increases in climate-impacted atmospheric natural disasters, we highly recommend that NIST remain involved in the study of the Hawaii wildfire disaster and coordinate with the other federal, state, and local authorities that are investigating the event. This involvement with authorities, viewed as a potential next step by the NCST, is fully encouraged by the Committee. 2. We encourage the team to continue the emotional and mental health support to investigatory team members, especially those who rotate in and out of lengthy shifts in the field. 3. The internal NIST [Champlain Towers South] investigation process should encourage bidirectional exchange so that information gleaned by the social science team might also spur additional evidence gathering by the engineers. This model shows great promise for future investigations. 4. NIST should maintain its public communication practice [for Champlain Towers South] so that interested parties learn about the NCST's progress and findings at the earliest appropriate time. 5. NCSTAC suggests that NIST continue to explore options to reduce the demand on investigators during future deployments, including retaining consultants based close to the event site, as appropriate, as NIST has done recently for the ongoing CTS investigation. 6. We recommend that NIST Disaster and Failure Studies Program continue to investigate strategies to partner with organizations that have quick access to resources necessary for success and to consider opportunities to amend the Act so that the temporary purchasing authorities provided in an emergency can be maintained as part of the common operations. This is vital to ensure that the collection of perishable data moves forward. 7. When the NCST identifies hypotheses that are of sufficiently low probability of explaining the [Champlain Towers South] failure, it should substantially curtail additional study of those hypotheses, to preserve resources for the testing of more prominent ones.

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

47%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NIST implemented the consensus advice received from the NCST Advisory Committee in finalizing the issues described above and preparing the recommendations for changes to codes, standards, and practices documented in the final report. Of the 58 formal recommendations made over the life of the Committee, 27 have been fully implemented, 22 have been partially implemented, 7 are still ongoing, and 2 recommendations were declined (Identified in the "% of Recs Partially Implemented Comment" of the FY23 FACA

report).

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

38%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NIST has achieved consensus from the NCST Advisory Committee on 22 partial recommendations. The NIST staff is dedicated to formulating actionable recommendations that will enhance building codes, standards, and practices, leading to robust recommendations.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

NIST provides feedback directly to the Advisory Committee during its meetings, either face-to-face, via teleconference, or web conferencing.

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

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input 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

NA

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

Access Comments

All annual Committee reports to Congress are posted on the Committee's web site at:

<https://www.nist.gov/disaster-failure-studies/national-construction-safety-team-ncst/advisory-com>