

2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee

Report Run Date: 04/07/2020 07:22:28 AM

1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of the Interior	2019
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee	12152

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	04/30/2018	04/30/2020	

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

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
P.L. 106-503	11/13/2000	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports 1

16b. Report Date Report Title

Federal Advisory Committee Meeting Report Senior Earthquake Studies
09/06/2019 Advisory Committee (SESAC) Meeting of August 6-7, 2019, in Golden, Colorado

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
During the meeting, the SESAC will review the current activities of the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program, discuss future priorities, and consider its draft report to the USGS Director.	08/06/2019	08/07/2019

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	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	\$80,000.00	\$85,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00

18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$8,000.00	\$10,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$5,000.00	\$7,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
18d. Total	\$95,000.00	\$104,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.25	1.25

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Advisory Committee advises the Director on matters relating to the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, including the United States Geological Survey's roles, goals and objectives within that Program, its capabilities and research needs, guidance on achieving major objectives, and establishing and measuring performance goals. The Advisory Committee shall issue an annual report to the Director of the USGS for submission to Congress on or before September 30 of each year.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Individuals are qualified in the seismic sciences and other appropriate fields. Selection of individuals shall be based solely on the established records of distinguished service and a reasonable cross-section of views and expertise is represented. Due consideration is given to recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, professional societies, and other appropriate organizations.

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

Estimated Number of Meetings per Year - 2

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

The Advisory Committee is established pursuant to the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-503). The Committee advises the Director of the USGS on matters relating to the USGS's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, including roles, goals, and objectives within that Program.

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

N/A

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

Jonathan Godt Acting Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake & Geologic Hazards

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Beroza, Gregory	12/20/2016	12/31/2019	Stanford University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ekstrom, Goran	01/20/2017	01/20/2020	Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Furr, Julie	12/20/2016	12/31/2019	Chad Stewart and Associates, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Long, Maureen	10/21/2016	10/31/2019	Yale University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Melbourne, Timothy	12/16/2015	12/31/2018	Central Washington University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pekelnicky, Robert	12/20/2016	12/31/2019	Degenkolb Engineers	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 6

Narrative Description

The Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee was appointed and charged to advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey on matters relating to that agency's participation in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. The charge includes review of the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program roles, goals, and objectives, assessment of its capabilities and research needs, guidance on achieving major objectives, and establishment of performance goals.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input 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
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
Over \$10,000,000
Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

If the Committee's recommendations are acted on and effective, the cost savings would be measured in terms of losses avoided during earthquake disasters.

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

20

Number of Recommendations Comments

Four recommendations were conveyed in the committee's 2019 annual report to the USGS Director. These recommendations were developed during the committee's meeting of August 6-7, and delivered in their annual report in early October. The four recommendations may be briefly summarized as follows: (1) recommending that the USGS develop the ability to dynamically scale web services following large earthquakes; (2) supporting the recommendation of a statewide California rollout of the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning system, with appropriate protocols for working with adjacent states and nations that might benefit from an alert to a California event; (3) recommending changes in USGS travel policies that will allow USGS staff supported by the Earthquake Hazards Program (EHP) to attend major earthquake science meetings as needed; and (4) reaffirming the committee's belief and recommendation from our 2018 report, that the budget for the USGS EHP should be in line with the findings of the National Research Council report that documents a need for nearly quadrupling its budget if the EHP is to fulfill the expectations of the nation.

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

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The committee's annual report and recommendations were received near the end of the fiscal year. The USGS is in the process of considering appropriate actions that respond to the recommendations.

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

30%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

USGS has undertaken certain actions in response to recommendations (1) and (2)..

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

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Director of the USGS and the Associate Director for Natural Hazards have participated in past SESAC meetings and made presentations on topics of interest or timely issues brought before the Committee or the U.S. Geological Survey. The Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake and Geologic Hazards reviews the committee recommendations and provides a status update to the committee at least once a year.

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

Action Comments

The USGS uses the committee's recommendations to guide the Earthquake Hazards Program.

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

No

Grant Review Comments

The committee is advisory not decision-making.

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

online agency web site:

<https://www.usgs.gov/natural-hazards/earthquake-hazards/scientific-earthquake-studies-advisor>