

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of the Interior	2026
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee	12152

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	08/30/2024	08/30/2026	

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	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 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 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 to serve on the SESAC shall be based on established records of distinguished service, ensuring a reasonable cross-section of views, experience, expertise, and diversity is represented. Selection will consider recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, professional societies, and other appropriate organizations. Due consideration is given to recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, institutions that serve historically underrepresented communities professional societies, and other appropriate organizations.

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

Estimated Number of Meetings per Year - 2, and at such other times as designated by the Designated Federal Officer.

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

The Advisory Committee met twice in FY 2025 (November 2024, July 2025).

Designated Federal Officer

Gavin P Hayes Senior Science Advisor for Earthquake & Geologic Hazards

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Arrowsmith, J. Ramon	01/16/2025	01/16/2028	Arizona State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hamburger, Michael	12/07/2021	01/16/2028	Indiana University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Long, Maureen	12/07/2021	01/16/2028	Yale University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Melbourne, Timothy	12/07/2021	01/16/2028	Central Washington University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Meltzer, Anne	12/07/2021	01/16/2028	Lehigh University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Oskin, Michael	01/16/2025	01/16/2028	University of California, Davis	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Velasco, Aaron	12/07/2021	01/16/2028	University of Texas at El Paso	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ausbrooks, Scott [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	Arkansas Geological Survey	Representative Member
Briggs, Jeff [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	AECOM	Representative Member

Busby, Robert [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology	Representative Member
Crouse, C.B. [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	AECOM	Representative Member
Ford, Sean [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	Representative Member
Gregor, Nick [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	Bechtel	Representative Member
Hardebeck, Jeanne [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, California	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Hodgkinson, Kathleen [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	Sandia Laboratories	Representative Member
Kolozvari, Kristijan [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	California State University, Fullerton	Representative Member
Shelly, David [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	U.S. Geological Survey, Golden, CO	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Wong, Ivan [Advanced National Seismic System Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	Lettis Consultants International	Representative Member
Atkinson, Gail [National Seismic Hazard Model Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	Western University	Representative Member
Baker, Jack [National Seismic Hazard Model Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	Stanford University	Representative Member
Campbell, Ken [National Seismic Hazard Model Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	CoreLogic, Inc.	Representative Member
DeShon, Heather [National Seismic Hazard Model Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	Southern Methodist University	Representative Member
Jordan, Tom [National Seismic Hazard Model Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	University of Southern California	Representative Member
Nelson, Keith [National Seismic Hazard Model Subcommittee]	11/03/2022	11/03/2025	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 25

Narrative Description

The Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee was established 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	<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

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?

41

Number of Recommendations Comments

The committee made 5 new recommendations in 2025. We believe that the program is now operating below the critical level of financial and personnel support required for sustainable operation. We urge the USGS Director to work with the Department of Interior administration and Congressional supporters to ensure the level of support that would guarantee consistent and sustainable operation of the Earthquake Hazards Program for the coming year. For the short term, we encourage the EHP to explore partnerships with other federal and state agencies and academic groups that may offer opportunities to fill in key gaps in their mission-critical work. Human Resource shortfalls have reached a critical level. Sustainable operation of the EHP requires replacement of leadership staff in key administrative positions; strengthening the workforce development chain through revitalization of the EHP's internship program for promising undergraduate and graduate students, active participation in the Mendenhall postdoctoral program for post-graduate students, recruitment of staff among the best and brightest of the domestic and global scientific and engineering community, and continuity of training and professional development for USGS staff. We recommend that the USGS administration strive to ensure that any new monitoring initiatives are not added at the expense of effort in core research programs—and to work toward an approximate parity of expenditures for monitoring and earthquake-related research. The diminishing budgets for fundamental and applied science are increasingly limiting progress on earthquake hazard mitigation as well as the training of the next generation of earthquake researchers. We recommend that the EHP expand its work to incorporate newly developing technologies into its earthquake hazard mitigation workflow. This involves committing USGS resources toward basic scientific research while still supporting progress on ongoing applied earthquake hazard

programs. These new technological innovations can benefit from directed partnership with other federal agencies, research consortia, and academic institutions. We recommend that the Earthquake Hazards Program continue to engage with and support the collaborative efforts of the US academic research community and, where possible, take a leadership role in regional and topical earthquake research initiatives. Of the 41 total recommendations, 30 are completed or closed, and 3 are partially complete.

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

63%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Of 41 total recommendations, 26 have been fully implemented.

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

7%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Of 41 total recommendations, three are partially implemented.

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 committee met in November 2024, and discussed the feedback letter provided at the close of FY24. The committee met again in July 2025 to receive an update on program activities, and discussed drafting for a new letter to be submitted in September 2025. All letters are archived at the USGS SESAC website, <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/scientific-earthquake-studies-advisory-comi>

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

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

Access Comments

online agency web site:

<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/scientific-earthquake-studies-advisory-com>