

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: North Slope Science Initiative Science Technical Advisory Panel

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1. Department or Agency
Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year
2026

3. Committee or Subcommittee
North Slope Science Initiative Science
Technical Advisory Panel

**3b. GSA
Committee
No.**
25153

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? No
5. Current Charter 07/05/2018
6. Expected Renewal Date 07/05/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?
No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year
Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

10b. Legislation Pending?
Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

13. Effective Date
08/08/2005
14. Committee Type
Continuing

14c. Presidential?
No

Energy Policy Act of 2005

(Public Law 109-58, Section 348)

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	\$126.62	\$135.00
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	\$126.62	\$135.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.01	0.01

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The purpose of this group is to advise the North Slope Science Initiative Oversight Group on issues such as identifying and prioritizing inventory, monitoring and research needs, and providing other scientific advice as requested by the Oversight Group. The group's goals include

the following:

- a. Advise the Oversight Group on science planning and relevant research and monitoring projects;
- b. Advise the Oversight Group on scientific information relevant to the Oversight Group's mission;
- c. Review selected reports to advise the Oversight Group on their content and relevance;
- d. Review ongoing scientific programs of NSSI-member organizations on the North Slope at the request of the member organizations to promote compatibility in methodologies and compilation of data;
- e. Advise the Oversight Group on how to ensure that scientific products generated through NSSI activities are of the highest technical quality;
- f. Periodically review the North Slope Science Plan and provide recommendations for changes to the Oversight Group;
- g. Provide recommendations for proposed NSSI funded inventory, monitoring and research activities to the Oversight Group;
- h. Provide other scientific advice as requested by the Oversight Group;
- i. Coordinate with groups and committees appointed or requested by the Oversight Group to provide science advice, as needed.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Section 348, Energy Policy Act of 2005, PL 109-58 states that, the panel shall consist of a representative group of not more than 15 scientists and technical experts from diverse professions and interests, including the oil and gas industry, subsistence users, Native Alaskan entities, conservation organizations, wildlife management organizations, and academia, as determined by the Secretary.

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

Generally there are approximately four meetings held each year. This panel includes 15 members who cover multiple science disciplines. Each member brings to the table a knowledge base within their respective disciplines and the entire panel works together to provide recommendations on pressing management issues in the Arctic.

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

Section 348, Energy Policy Act of 2005, PL 109-58 established this Panel.

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

All meetings of the North Slope Science Initiative Science Technical Advisory Panel are open to the public.

21. Remarks

The Panel is administratively inactive and did not meet in FY 2026.

Designated Federal Officer

Steve Cohn Alaska State Director

Narrative Description

This North Slope Science Initiative Science Technical Advisory Panel supports the activities of the North Slope Science Initiative related to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58)

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

Not Applicable

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

An in-depth analysis has not been done to determine cost savings associated with the North Slope Science Initiative Science Technical Advisory Panel. However, the contributions of the Panel are of great benefit to the BLM.

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

30

Number of Recommendations Comments

There were no recommendations made in FY 2026.

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

Recommendations have been presented to the Oversight Group for consideration and determination whether to direct NSSI or partner agency staff to implement, based on partner agencies' mission, capacity, and need.

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

This is difficult to determine since the North Slope Science Initiative represents 14 Federal, state, and local governments with a variety of mandates and independent budgets. The North Slope Science Initiative Oversight Group reports that some recommendations are incorporated into ongoing programs while others are being planned for future budgets.

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 North Slope Science Initiative Oversight Group provides feedback to the Science Technical Advisory 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

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

No

Grant Review Comments

n/a

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

Access Comments

A North Slope Science Initiative website has been established for both an information outlet and a feedback loop. In addition, the North Slope Catalog has been implemented for the discovery of information necessary for management decisions. A project tracking has been added to help collaboration and coordination of science projects. Visit: <http://www.NorthSlopeScience.org>