

2020 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology

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1. Department or Agency

Environmental Protection Agency

2. Fiscal Year

2020

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology

3b. GSA

Committee

No.

730

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

06/06/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

06/06/2020

7. Expected Term Date

10/25/2019

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

8b. Specific Termination Authority

EO 13875

8c. Actual Term Date

09/30/2020

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Request for Approval

13. Effective Date

06/08/1988

14. Committee Type

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific 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 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	\$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 purpose of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) is to provide for public discussion and the development of independent advice and counsel to the EPA Administrator on a broad range of environmental policy, technology and management issues. During the 4th quarter of

FY19, the Council held one in-person full committee public meeting to begin developing recommendations in response to the agency's charge on how to best incorporate a product durability rating system to help protect the environment and health of Alaskan communities. The charge to NACEPT was prompted by the needs of Alaskan communities, but also aims to examine the possibility of developing a product durability rating with broader utility for all people who reside/work in extreme climates. The overall charge is for NACEPT to assess: • Whether it makes sense for the agency to be the lead in developing an "Arctic Tough" style product rating system; • Whether there are existing standards /rating systems that durability could be integrated into or a private sector standards development organization that could take this on as a new initiative; • What criteria would be used to determine priority product categories (toxicity, highly prevalent/high volume, difficult to recycle, difficult/costly to transport items); • How such ratings might fit into federal government procurement regulations; and, sustainable acquisition goals, and • What structure of partners is recommended for development and management of such a rating system, in particular how to include retailers and other institutional purchasers in the design and implementation processes.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Selection criteria for NACEPT membership emphasizes balanced sector representation across EPA's entire spectrum of stakeholders and constituencies. NACEPT members reflect the complexity and diverse perspectives of the environmental issues the Agency addresses

regionally, nationally and globally. Membership includes EPA's major regulated industries, public advocacy groups, and academicians, state and local governments, tribal representatives, and grassroots organizations from various communities including environmental justice. Finally, NACEPT's membership process allows for the selection of members based on evolving environmental issues and topics that are critical to the Agency and its mission to protect human health and the environment.

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

The NACEPT held one in-person full committee public meeting in FY19. NACEPT generally meets two to three times annually via in-person and/or teleconference. Timely, balanced stakeholder input and independent advice are critical to the Agency's efforts to develop and implement environmental policies, regulations, and technologies that promote effective business practices and decision-making processes. NACEPT is one of the Agency's most effective stakeholder means of providing balanced views and perspectives prior to the formulation or implementation of environmental policies and programs.

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

The scope of NACEPT's charter provides EPA with a tool that is invaluable in meeting the Agency's mission. Through NACEPT, EPA's Administrator is able to access a wealth of knowledge and experience that would otherwise be unavailable to the Agency. Since environmental issues and problems continually evolve and because those same issues and

problems affect communities regionally, nationally and globally, NACEPT is well positioned to provide the Administrator with a broad environmental knowledge base that would otherwise be cost-prohibitive and impossible to retain in the Agency's workforce. NACEPT's charter affords the Agency a platform that is flexible enough to advise on a wide spectrum of domestic and international environmental management policies, programs, and technologies. It is an avenue which provides the Administrator and the Agency's senior leadership with a means of accessing a wealth of knowledge and experience that is diverse, crosscutting, well respected, and nationally recognized. The diversity of knowledge and balanced perspectives represented by the membership of NACEPT, as well as the consensual nature of their advice and recommendations are a unique, timely and valuable resource that is not available through other sources. Other stakeholder mediums such as public hearings or information sharing forums do not provide balanced consensual based perspectives, nor do they offer timeliness in providing feedback that can satisfy many of the Agency's demanding time constraints.

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

No meetings were closed or partially closed.

21. Remarks

Members are Tier 1 (parent committee members) or Tier 2 (subcommittee) members. In some cases, a member may be both Tier 1 and Tier 2. Committee terminated in response to EO 13875

Designated Federal Officer

Eugene Green DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Abkowitz, Kendra	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Policy and Sustainability Practices, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Nashville, TN	Representative Member
Boles, Laureen	04/25/2014	10/17/2019	Tier 1, State Director, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, Trenton, NJ	Representative Member
Cavalier, Darlene	04/25/2016	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Founder and Director, SciStarter, Philadelphia, PA	Representative Member
Chawla, Ramesh	04/25/2016	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Professor and Chair of Chemical Engineering, Howard University, College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences, Washington, D.C.	Representative Member
Clark, Hilary	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Senior Environmental Scientist, Natural Resources and Planning, Olsson, Oklahoma City, OK	Representative Member
Collin, Robert	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Member Funded Appointment, Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force, Salem, OR	Representative Member
Coronado, Irasema	04/25/2016	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Director and Professor, School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ	Representative Member
Dearing, James	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Professor and Chair, Department of Communication, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI	Representative Member
Dosemagen, Shannon	04/25/2016	10/17/2019	Tier 1, President and Executive Director, Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science, New Orleans, LA	Representative Member
Fritz, Jan	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Professor, School of Planning, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH	Representative Member

Hale, Anthony	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Program Director for Environmental Informatics, San Francisco Estuary Institute, Richmond, CA	Representative Member
Harwood, Terry	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Executive Director, Coeur d' Alene Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission, Athol, ID	Representative Member
Haywood, Benjamin	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Sustainability, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA	Representative Member
Heiger-Bernays, Wendy	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Clinical Professor of Environmental Health, School of Public Health, Boston University, Boston, MA	Representative Member
Horn, Barbra	04/25/2016	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Water Quality Resource Specialist, Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Durango, CO	Representative Member
Howard, Matthew	04/25/2014	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Director, The Water Council, Alliance for Water Stewardship-North America, Milwaukee, WI	Representative Member
Knouft, Jason	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Professor, Department of Biology, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO	Representative Member
Liban, Emmanuel	04/25/2016	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Executive Officer, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles, CA	Representative Member
Marks, Jeff	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Member Advisor, E2Tech-Environmental and Energy Technology Council of Maine, Portland, ME	Representative Member
Mason, Gary	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Chief Executive Officer, ISI Environmental, Wichita, KA	Representative Member

Mears, Jeffrey	04/25/2014	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Environmental Area Manager, Environmental Health and Safety Division, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Oneida, WI	Representative Member
Medearis, Dale	04/25/2014	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Senior Environmental Planner, Environmental Planning Services, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Fairfax, VA	Representative Member
Micklin, William	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Executive Council, Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Alpine, CA	Representative Member
Ramirez-Toro, Graciela	04/25/2016	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Institutional Director, Center for Environmental Education, Conservation and Research, The InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico, San German, PR	Representative Member
Weintraub, June	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Senior Epidemiologist/Manager, Environmental Section, San Francisco Department of Public Health, San Francisco, CA	Representative Member
Wilson, Gregory	11/30/2018	10/17/2019	Tier 1, Board Director/Chief Scientific Officer, Riverside Conservancy Edgewater Florida, Ormond, FL	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 26

Narrative Description

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) in 1988 to provide independent advice to the EPA Administrator on a broad range of domestic and international environmental policy, technology, and management issues. NACEPT provides a forum for public discussion from a broad range of EPA's constituents and stakeholders. This committee and its

subcommittees address EPA's cross-cutting goals and strategies of building collaborations. EPA depends on its collaborations with other federal agencies, states, tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations, industry, and academia to achieve results. Council members include senior-level decision makers and knowledgeable and experienced members from academia, business/industry, non-governmental organizations, and state, local and tribal governments. NACEPT's scope involves advising the EPA Administrator on broad, crosscutting issues associated with EPA's environmental management on matters relating to activities and functions under Federal environmental statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies. NACEPT advises on ways to improve the development and implementation of domestic and international environmental management policies, programs, and technologies. NACEPT's major objectives are to provide independent advice and recommendations on: a.)

Identifying approaches to improve the development and implementation of domestic and international environmental management policies and programs; b.) Providing guidance on how EPA can most efficiently and effectively implement innovative approaches throughout the Agency and its programs; c.) Identifying approaches to enhance information and technology planning; d.) Fostering improved approaches to environmental management in the fields of economics, finance, and technology; e.) Increasing communication and understanding among all levels of government, business/industry, non-governmental organizations, and academia, with the goal of increasing non-federal resources and improving the effectiveness of federal and non-federal resources directed at solving environmental problems; f.) Implementing statutes, executive orders and regulations; and g.) Reviewing progress in implementing statutes, executive orders, and

regulations. Accomplishments: During the 3rd quarter of FY19, the agency provided comments regarding the Council's last report. The second report, Information to Action: Strengthening EPA Partnerships for Environmental Protection, which builds on the 2016 report, Environmental Protection Belongs to the Public: A Vision for Citizen Science at EPA, provides a valuable framework for strengthening the EPA's cooperative work with state, local and tribal governments. The report also provides helpful insights on

building cooperative connections with non-governmental organizations and the private sector to leverage technology and grassroots efforts that support the agency's work. The Council's recommendations on how to reduce barriers to collaboration and better support equitable citizen science partnerships will aid in advancing mission-critical work at the EPA, while guiding future initiatives on citizen science. In September 2018, the EPA Office of the Inspector General provided recommendations from a self-initiated audit on the management controls for use of citizen science results at the EPA. The NACEPT report findings and recommendations contributed to this effort. EPA has a number of actions underway, consistent with the recommendations in the NACEPT reports. In addition to an Agency staff workgroup that is preparing a strategic vision and strategy for using citizen science at EPA, the Agency recently released a quality assurance (QA) handbook for citizen science projects (<https://www.epa.gov/citizen-science/handbook-quality-assurance>). Outreach and training on the QA handbook is planned for this year. NACEPT's work continues to support the EPA Administrator's current strategic plan through three over-arching goals: (1) Deliver a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for all Americans and future generations by carrying out the Agency's core mission; (2) Provide certainty to states, localities, tribal nations, and the regulated community in carrying out shared responsibilities and communicating results to all Americans; and (3) Increased certainty, compliance, and effectiveness by applying the rule of law to achieve more efficient and effective agency operations, service delivery, and regulatory relief. Response Letters/Impact of Recommendations: NACEPT's results oriented approach has enabled the Council to continue providing independent advice and recommendations on key aspects of environmental policy, management and technology related issues that further advance the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment. Committee terminated in response to EO 13875

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 type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input 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 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

Not Applicable

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

1,500

Number of Recommendations Comments

NACEPT received its charge in the 4th quarter of FY19 and thus will not have any recommendations to report at this time. NACEPT has produced approximately 109 reports and advice letters and an estimated 1500 recommendations over the life of the committee. The specificity of recommendations across reports is not standardized. While

some reports provide broad recommendations, others provide detailed, precise recommendations. A simple count of recommendations overlooks this variation. In past years, responses from the Agency indicated that NACEPT's advice and recommendations on key environmental matters were beneficial to the Agency and would continue to support and align with EPA's current strategic goals.

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

See description of committee advice above.

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

See description of committee advice above.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

EPA provides feedback to NACEPT through written responses and through discussion with representatives from the Agency during committee meetings.

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

Action Comments

Not Applicable

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

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

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

See website.