

# 2009 Current Fiscal Year Report: USGS-CCSP Committee for Synthesis and Assessment Product 3.4 Abrupt Climate Change

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|  |   |                                 |                                  |
|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1. Department or Agency</b>   |   | <b>2. Fiscal Year</b>           |                                  |
| Department of the Interior   |   | 2009                            |                                  |
| <b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>  |   | <b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>    |                                  |
| USGS-CCSP Committee for Synthesis and Assessment Product 3.4 Abrupt Climate Change |   | 30911                           |                                  |
| <b>4. Is this New Fiscal Year?</b>   | <b>5. Current Charter</b>                 | <b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b> | <b>7. Expected Term Date</b>     |
| No   | 02/16/2007                                | 02/16/2009                      | 02/16/2009                       |
| <b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>                                      | <b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b> |                                 | <b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>      |
| Yes  | 5 U.S.C. App.                             |                                 | 04/03/2009                       |
| <b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>                               | <b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b> |                                 | <b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b> |
| Terminate  | No  |                                 |                                  |
| <b>11. Establishment Authority</b> Agency Authority                                |   |                                 |                                  |
| <b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>  | <b>13. Effective Date</b>                 | <b>14. Committee Type</b>       | <b>14c. Presidential?</b>        |
| Global Change Research Act of 1990   | 11/16/1990                                | Continuing                      | No                               |
| <b>15. Description of Committee</b> Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board    |   |                                 |                                  |
| <b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b> 1  |   |                                 |                                  |
| <b>16b. Report Date</b>  | <b>Report Title</b>                       |                                 |                                  |
| 12/01/2008   | SAP 3.4 Abrupt Climate Change             |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Number of Committee Reports Listed:</b> 1                                       |   |                                 |                                  |

17a. 0 17b. Closed0 17c. Partially Closed0 Other Activities0 17d. Total0  
Open

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

|   | Current<br>FY | Next<br>FY |
|---|---------------|------------|
| <b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to<br/>Non-Federal Members</b>                  | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to<br/>Federal Members</b>                      | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to<br/>Federal Staff</b>                        | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to<br/>Non-Member Consultants</b>               | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to<br/>Non-Federal Members</b>             | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to<br/>Federal Members</b>                 | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to<br/>Federal Staff</b>                   | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to<br/>Non-member Consultants</b>          | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18c. Other(rents,user charges,<br/>graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b> | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>18d. Total</b>   | \$0.00        | \$0.00     |
| <b>19. Federal Staff Support Years<br/>(FTE)</b>                          | 0.00          | 0.00       |

### 20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The primary function of the committee is to synthesize and assess the state of knowledge on the topic of abrupt climate change and communicate this information to the U.S.

Geological Survey. Committee members will meet and discuss issues relating to the study design, research methodology, data sources and quality,

and study findings. The committee will draft a report that will serve as the CCSP definitive document on current knowledge pertaining to the topic of abrupt climate change. The issue of abrupt climate change is complex and global in extent. A synthesis and assessment of this topic is too broad for the USGS to perform on its own. In order for the S&A process to be thorough, transparent and open to the public, a new federal advisory committee must be established that is tailored to meet these societal needs.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

A prospectus was prepared for S&A 3.4: Abrupt Climate Change by scientists at the USGS, NOAA and NSF (the latter two being supporting agencies on this S&A). Suggested members of this committee were determined during this process. Suggested members were selected based on their expertise on the subject matter. Attention was given to providing a balanced membership by including federal and non-federal scientists who are considered experts in their respective fields. Other members will be considered as part of the up-coming prospectus public comment period.

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

Estimated Number of Meetings per Year - 1

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

A periodic synthesis and assessment of the cumulative knowledge associated with a scientific topic is a critical tool for research planning and policy formulation. The Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), a consortium of federal agencies performing climate science, has

established a synthesis and assessment (S&A) program as a part of its Strategic Plan. There are 21 S&A products to be administered by 13 federal agencies over a 5 year period. The U.S. Geological Survey, a participant in the CCSP, is responsible for 3 S&A products. S&A product 3.4: Abrupt Climate Change, is the subject of this proposed federal advisory committee.

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

n/a

**21. Remarks**

The Committee completed work on SAP 3.4 "Abrupt Climate Change." The report was approved by the Climate Change Science Program and the Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources in December, 2008. With the publication of SAP 3.4, the Federal Advisory Committee has met its objectives and is terminated.

**Designated Federal Officer**

John McGeehin Associate Program Coordinator  
Earth Surface Dynamics Program

| Committee Members | Start      | End        | Occupation          | Member Designation                       |
|-------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|
| Bartlein, Patrick | 07/18/2007 | 07/18/2009 | scientific research | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Brook, Edward     | 07/18/2007 | 07/18/2009 | scientific research | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Clark, Peter      | 01/23/2007 | 01/23/2009 | scientific research | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Cook, Edward      | 01/23/2007 | 01/23/2009 | scientific research | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |

|                     |            |            |                        |   |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---|
| Delworth,<br>Thomas | 01/23/2007 | 01/23/2009 | scientific<br>research | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee (RGE)<br>Member |
| Marshall,<br>Shawn  | 07/18/2007 | 07/18/2009 | scientific<br>research | Special<br>Government<br>Employee (SGE)<br>Member |
| Morrill, Carrie     | 01/23/2007 | 01/23/2009 | scientific<br>research | Special<br>Government<br>Employee (SGE)<br>Member |
| Seager,<br>Richard  | 01/23/2007 | 01/23/2009 | scientific<br>research | Special<br>Government<br>Employee (SGE)<br>Member |
| Steffen,<br>Konrad  | 01/23/2007 | 01/23/2009 | scientific<br>research | Special<br>Government<br>Employee (SGE)<br>Member |
| Weaver,<br>Andrew   | 01/23/2007 | 01/23/2009 | scientific<br>research | Special<br>Government<br>Employee (SGE)<br>Member |
| Webb, Robert        | 01/23/2007 | 01/23/2009 | scientific<br>research | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee (RGE)<br>Member |

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 11**

### **Narrative Description**

The Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), a consortium of Federal agencies performing climate science, has established a synthesis and assessment program (SAP) as a part of its Strategic Plan. There are 21 S&A products to be administered by 13 federal agencies over a 5 year period. The U.S. Geological Survey, a participant in the CCSP, is responsible for 3 S&A products. This federal advisory committee has been established for SAP 3.4: Abrupt Climate Change.

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

### Outcome Comments

The Committee completed work on SAP 3.4 Abrupt Climate Change. The report was approved by the Climate Change Science Program and the Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources in December, 2008. With the publication of SAP 3.4, the Federal Advisory Committee has met its objectives and is terminated.

### 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?

31

### Number of Recommendations Comments

The SAP 3.4 report includes 31 recommendations for future research on the topic of Abrupt Climate Change.

**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 research recommendations in SAP 3.4 will be likely be considered in future planning efforts.

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

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

The research recommendations in SAP 3.4 will be likely be considered in future planning efforts.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Feedback was provided to FACA committee members during the drafting stage of the SAP development.

**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**

The research recommendations in SAP 3.4 will be likely be considered in future planning efforts.

**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 type="checkbox"/>            |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Access Comments**

NA