

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey**

National Volcano Early Warning System Advisory Committee

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The official designation of the committee is the National Volcano Early Warning System Advisory Committee (NVEWSAC).
2. **Authority.** The NVEWSAC is established under Title V of the John Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, March 12, 2019 (Public Law 116-9) and is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Ch. 10).
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall establish within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) a system to be known as the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System (NVEWS) to monitor, warn, and protect citizens of the United States from undue and avoidable harm for volcanic activity.
4. **Description of Duties.** The NVEWSAC will assist the Secretary in implementing the NVEWS and provide an annual report to the Secretary that describes its activities. Committee members will employ their familiarity with resources and subject matter experts within their respective agencies and institutions to enhance efficiencies in data gathering pertinent to NVEWSAC decisions and recommendations. Members are encouraged to outline opportunities for coordination and leveraging of resources between USGS, NOAA, and other organizations to increase the efficiency of NVEWS implementation when and where applicable.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The NVEWSAC reports to the Secretary through the USGS Director or the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).
6. **Support.** The USGS Volcano Hazards Program will provide administrative, technical, and funding support for the NVEWSAC.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the NVEWSAC's functions are estimated to be \$60,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.20 Federal staff-years' support.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Program Coordinator for the USGS Volcano Hazards Program, who is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve and call all NVEWSAC and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all NVEWSAC and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The NVEWSAC will meet approximately one to two times annually and at other times designated by the DFO.

10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The NVEWSAC will become inactive two years from the date the charter is filed unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The NVEWSAC will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Appointment.** The NVEWSAC will not exceed 30 members and be comprised of representatives of relevant agencies and members of the scientific community.

The Federal members will include:

Department of Energy
Department of Defense
Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Science Foundation
National Institute of Standards and Technology
National Park Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management

Members may also be selected from state and local governments, academia, and the volcano science community.

The Secretary will appoint members to the NVEWSAC. Appointments will be for terms of 3 years.

Any vacancies will be filled in the same manner as initial appointments were made.

Non-Federal members of the NVEWSAC will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal NVEWSAC and subcommittee members engaged in NVEWSAC or subcommittee business approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in government service under 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.**
 - a. **Federal Employees.** Members appointed to the NVEWSAC in their official capacity as Federal employees are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, including applicable exceptions and exemptions.

- b. **Special Government Employee Members.** Members of the NVEWSAC appointed as special government employees (SGEs) are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions. Additionally, SGE members are required, prior to appointment and annual thereafter, to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report. SGE members are also required to receive initial ethics training prior to performing any NVEWSAC duties and to receive annual ethics training thereafter. The Department of the Interior (Department) will provide materials to those members serving as SGEs, explaining their ethical obligations.
- c. **Non-Federal Members Who Are Not Special Government Employees.** Non-Federal members of the NVEWSAC and subcommittees appointed as representatives are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, no non-Federal NVEWSAC or subcommittee members will participate in any NVEWSAC or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation, in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed to compile information or conduct research. However, such subcommittees must act under the direction of the DFO and report their recommendations to the full NVEWSAC for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Department. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
15. **Recordkeeping.** Detailed records must be kept of each NVEWSAC and formally or informally established NVEWSAC subcommittees. All records must be made available to the public, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552), and must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedules.



Secretary of the Interior

MAY 01 2024

Date

JUL 25 2024

Date Filed