

ATTACHMENT A

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO GCD AMP SCIENCE ADVISORS OPERATING PROTOCOL (12/2000)

The Science Advisors were developed to fulfill the requirement for an Independent Review Panel (IRP), as specified in the GCD EIS (US BOR 1995). The Operating Protocols for the GCD AMP Science Advisors, and the initial group of Science Advisors were approved in 2000 by the Adaptive Management Work Group.

The guiding Operating Protocol for the Science Advisors specifies they are needed “for periodically reviewing resource specific monitoring and research programs and for making recommendations to the AMWG and the Center (GCMRC) regarding monitoring, priorities, integration and management”.

The purpose of the Science Advisors is specified in their Operating Protocols as follows: “The Science Advisors will provide independent scientific oversight and technical advice [to AMWG] to ensure that GCMRC science programs are efficient, unbiased, objective; and scientifically sound”. And, the following seven areas of review are specified in the Operating Protocol for the Advisors:

1. Results of ongoing and completed monitoring and research program activities, as well as any synthesis and assessment objectives initiated by GCMRC,
2. The appropriateness of GCMRC’s RFPs, especially their responsiveness to management objectives,
3. The protocols used in GCMRC sponsored scientific activities, including a 5-year review of GCMRC monitoring and research protocols,
4. GCMRC’s long-term monitoring plan,
5. GCMRC’s annual monitoring and research plans,
6. GCMRC’s annual budget proposals, to ensure that the science program is efficiently and effectively responding to AMWG goals (i.e., management objectives),
7. Any other program, specific scientific and technical advice it is asked to address by the AMWG, the GCMRC, or the Secretary.

The Advisors are not a FACA committee, and are charged to provide independent advice and review comment. Their activities and input are coordinated by an Executive Secretary, who is responsible for facilitating their reviews and documenting all independent reviews, advisory input, etc., in written reports. The Advisors may elect, as deemed necessary, to have this Executive Secretary represent them at selected meetings.

The 2000 Operating Protocols for the Science Advisors, although most effective, do not explicitly clarify how the Advisors are to receive their list of annual tasks from the AMWG/GCMRC/USDI Secretary's Designee, or report on accomplishments. As such, we propose the following protocol be added to the current Operating Protocol Document at the end of the section "OPERATING PROCEDURES" (page 5).

"Annually the AMWG will, in its summer meeting, review, update and assign a set of 24-month review tasks and advisory activities for the Science Advisors. The Chief of the GCMRC, TWG Chair and Executive Secretary of the Science Advisors are responsible for providing all necessary inputs to the Chair of the AMWG by May 15 to permit development of the new Science Advisors charge.

The Science Advisors or Executive Secretary are to present each May 15 to the Secretary's Designee, AMWG Chair, GCMRC Chief and TWG Chair a verbal and written annual report of accomplishments including specific documentation of all formal activities of the Advisors. Further, the Advisors, or Executive Secretary, are to report to AMWG a verbal and written report at each formal AMWG meeting on any review or advisory report completed since the previous AMWG meeting. The Science Advisors and/or the Science Advisors' Executive Secretary will be available at all formal AMWG meetings to respond as needed to requests for information from AMWG, the Secretary Designee or GCMRC".