

Peer Review Plan

Reclamation Harmful Algal Bloom Impacts and Research Needs

Date:

11/6/2024

Originating office:

Bureau of Reclamation, Technical Service Center, 1 Denver Federal Center, 6th Avenue and Kipling, Building 67 RM 152, 86-68560, Denver, CO 80225

Reclamation roles:

Delegated Manager: Connie Svoboda, Supervisor, Hydraulic Investigations and Laboratory Services Group, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation

Peer Review Lead: Sherri Pucherelli, Biologist, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation

Subject and Purpose:

A report has been prepared for the Reclamation Science and Technology (S&T) Program to summarize how Reclamation has been involved with and impacted by harmful algal blooms (HABs) and to identify what needs exist and where internal research is warranted. Additionally, this effort will help identify potential topics for prize competitions. Information was gathered by reaching out to various Reclamation regional coordinators and the Mission Assurance and Protection Organization. Reclamation representatives attended two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers HAB Research Prioritization Workshops to coordinate the needs identified by Reclamation with the needs identified by experts across the United States. This report provides a summary of the information gathered and a list of research topics that have been identified as needs across Reclamation.

Impact of Dissemination:

The information contained in the HAB Impacts and Research Needs report is not considered influential scientific information or a scientific assessment as defined by Office of Management and Budget Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664-2677) and the Reclamation Manual Policy CMP P14 Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments. The nexus of this determination is that while this document may provide a clearer understanding of the concerns associated with this topic, there is no known decision or policy that will be affected by its dissemination. Therefore, this peer review is considered discretionary based upon Reclamation Manual Policy CMP P14.

Peer Review Scope:

The subject of this review will consider the research needs established in the report. Reviewers are to provide comment solely on the scientific information being reviewed, and not on any agency decision or policy. Reviewers may focus on the following three questions:

1. Do the needs listed in the draft report seem like a reasonably representative collection of science and technology needs facing your management and technical community?
2. Are there other science and technology needs facing your management and technical community that are not listed in the draft report?
3. For the needs listed in the draft report and those you may have listed in response to

question 2, are you aware of ongoing research and development activities to address those needs? If yes, please briefly describe (e.g., title) and identify organizational lead (e.g., agency, university, etc.).

Timing of Review:

The review period is expected to be November 19 to December 19, 2024. The final Peer Review Report is expected to be available on the Bureau of Reclamation peer review public website (<http://www.usbr.gov/main/qoi/peeragenda.html>) by January 19, 2025. No time deferrals are involved.

Methodology of Review:

Review will be conducted by individuals. The identities of the reviewers will be disclosed in the final Peer Review Report. Review findings/comments will be attributed to the individual reviewer.

Number of Peer Reviewers:

It is anticipated that 3-5 peer reviewers will be utilized.

Reviewer Selection Process:

Peer reviewers will have professional experience in the field of biology, ecology, or integrated pest management and will likely have direct experience with harmful algal bloom research or management or be familiar with agency needs for application of algal bloom control, monitoring, and management. Reclamation staff will identify reviewers to meet the Peer Review Scope and required expertise identified above. The public will not be asked to nominate reviewers.

Delivery of Findings:

Peer reviewers should submit a digital copy of peer review comments that address one or more of the supplied reviewer questions. The report will include a brief description of their findings and recommendations in a comment matrix. Comments should be submitted to the peer review lead by the end of the review period.

Response to Peer Review:

At the conclusion of receiving peer review comments, the Peer Review Lead will submit a final Peer Review Report to Reclamation's peer review website (<http://www.usbr.gov/main/qoi/peeragenda.html>), which will summarize the findings of the peer review and list the comments provided by the reviewers, as well as Reclamation's response to the comment.

Federal Register Notice:

Federal Register notices will not be provided announcing the formation of a peer review team and completion of the final report.

Applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA):

This peer review is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) because the review does not involve open meetings or committee chartering and reviewers are being asked to provide individual reviews on the subject matter. Reclamation is not seeking consensus advice from the reviewers as a group.

Agency Contact:

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Services Group, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation, spucherelli@usbr.gov, (303) 445-2015.