

Peer Review Plan

Concrete Materials Research Roadmap
TSC CSL Report No. 8530-2023-07

Date: February 15, 2024

Originating Office: Concrete and Structural Laboratory, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colorado

Reclamation Roles:

Delegated Manager: Katie Bartojay, PE, Supervisor, Concrete and Structural Laboratory, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colorado

Peer Review Lead: R. Adam Moore, PE, Civil Engineer, Concrete and Structural Laboratory, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colorado

Subject and Purpose: Reclamation is responsible for a significant amount of major and minor infrastructure across the Western United States, including about 450 dams and more than 10,000 miles of water conveyance structures. While the structures themselves vary in design, size, and type, most of them utilize concrete as a construction material to some extent.

Reclamation has long been active in the structural engineering and concrete construction industries via extensive concrete materials testing and related materials research. Research conducted at Reclamation's laboratories continues to guide these industries and Reclamation as a whole, in addition to other Federal agencies.

In recognition of the importance of Reclamation's concrete materials research, this *Concrete Materials Research Roadmap* has been developed. This document is meant to guide Reclamation's Science and Technology Program in the development and evaluation of future concrete materials research proposals.

Impact of Dissemination: The *Concrete Materials Research Roadmap* meets the definition of a Scientific Assessment per Reclamation Manual Policy CMP P14 *Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments*. However, it is not considered influential or highly influential scientific information as defined by the Office of Management and Budget *Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review* (70 FR 2664-2677) or the Reclamation Manual Policy CMP P14. The nexus of this determination is that this document may provide a clearer understanding of the concerns associated with this topic, but there is no known decision or policy that will be affected by its dissemination. This peer review is considered discretionary based upon Reclamation Manual Policy CMP P14.

Peer Review Scope: This peer review will consider the research needs established in the *Concrete Materials Research Roadmap*. Reviewers may focus on the following three questions:

1. Do the needs listed in the draft roadmap 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 roadmap?
3. For the needs listed in the draft roadmap 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 leads (e.g., agency, university, etc.). Reviewers are to provide comment solely on the scientific information being reviewed, and not on any agency decision or policy.

Timing of Review: The review period is expected to be February 20 through March 31, 2024. The final Peer Review Report is expected to be available on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation peer review public website (<https://www.usbr.gov/main/qoi/peeragenda.html>) by April 30, 2024.

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 five to ten peer reviewers will be utilized.

Reviewer Selection Process: Peer reviewers will have professional experience in the fields of civil, structural, or materials engineering as related to water storage and conveyance structures, and/or have competency in technical aspects of materials science research. Some peer reviewers may be external to Reclamation (from other government entities and/or private practice).

Delivery of Findings: Peer reviewers should submit a digital copy of peer review comments that address one or more of the supplied reviewer questions. Comments should be submitted to the Peer Review Lead or the Delegated Manager.

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 (<https://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 comments.

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 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.

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