

REVISED DISCUSSION PAPER¹

Technical Work Group Meeting

**January 20-21, 1998
Phoenix, AZ**

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

INTRODUCTION

The final Environmental Impact Statement on the Operation of Glen canyon dam (GCDEIS) calls for the establishment by the Secretary of the Interior of Independent Review Panel(s) (IRPs) to: (1) annually review resource specific monitoring and research programs initiated by the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) to ensure that such programs are unbiased, objective, and scientifically sound; (2) provide advice to the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) and GCMRC on the long-term monitoring and research program regarding priorities, integration, and management; (3) provide other such technical advice that may be requested by GCMRC or the AMWG; and (4) conduct a five-year review of monitoring and research protocols. The GCDEIS goes on to say that the IRPs should "... be comprised of qualified individuals not otherwise participating in the [GCMRC] long-term monitoring and research studies."

GCMRC has responded to the call for Independent Review Panel(s) by:

(1) Establishing an independent, external peer-review process for all proposals received by GCMRC and scientific reports resulting from GCMRC activities. This process includes

¹Revised based on comments provided at 12/10/97 TWG meeting and 1/15-16/98 AMWG meeting.

identifying qualified peer-reviewers with the assistance of appropriate professional societies. In FY 97 GCMRC developed a roster of over 150 qualified peer-reviewers who are willing to assist GCMRC in its review of proposals and reports. GCMRC has already called on more than 40 of these reviewers for assistance. GCMRC will annually up-date its pool of peer-reviewers

(2) Initiated a contract with the National Research Council (NRC) for review of its Long-term Strategic Plan and its FY 98 and FY 99 Annual Plans.

(3) Proposed to establish a Science Advisory Board. It is this last item which is addressed in this discussion paper.

BACKGROUND

As part of its FY 98 Request for Proposals (RFP), GCMRC issued an RFP (Attachment 1) for the Science Advisory Board. Because of an inadequate response, this RFP was canceled.

PURPOSE

As indicated in the Long-Term Strategic Plan, GCMRC proposes to establish as one of the Independent Review Panel(s) called for in the GCDEIS, a Science Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB will be an advisory and not a decision-making body. In any one year, the SAB will be comprised of up to 10 members.

The SAB will be an interdisciplinary board, composed of scientists who are qualified, based on their record of publication in the peer-reviewed literature, or other demonstrable scientific achievements. Members will be selected for their scientific expertise and not as representatives of a particular agency, organization, or other stakeholder group.

Members will be sought with expertise in the following areas:

- Adaptive management;
- Anthropology;
- Archaeology;
- Fisheries biology;
- Ecosystem / Riparian ecology;
- Geomorphology;
- GIS;
- Hydrology;
- Limnology; and
- Economics.

Members will be selected, through an open, competitive RFP process, for a three-year term, renewable for one consecutive three-year term. Initial members of the SAB will be selected for staggered one-, two-, and three-year terms, to ensure continuity in membership on the SAB.

The SAB together and individually will be expected, among other things, to review and comment on: (1) the results of GCMRC's completed monitoring and research activities, (2) the results of any synthesis and assessment activities initiated by the GCMRC, (3) the content and structure of GCMRC's RFPs, (4) the protocols used in GCMRC sponsored scientific activities, (5) GCMRC's long-term monitoring and research plans, (6) GCMRC's annual monitoring and research plans, (7) GCMRC's annual budget proposals, and (8) any other activities (i.e., program specific scientific advice) it is asked to address by the AMWG or the GCMRC Chief.

Unlike the other Independent Review Panels, the SAB would be available to provide real-time advice to the AMWG and the GCMRC Chief and program managers regarding program specific scientific issues. In addition, they would be available to lead specific review and evaluation tasks.

The SAB would not review, interpret, or otherwise evaluate public policy decisions or assess legal compliance associated with the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program and activities of the Adaptive Management Work Group, the Technical Work Group, or individual member agencies and organizations.

RECOMMENDATION

GCMRC and TWG revise this proposal to conform to the language and intent of the GCDEIS and issue an RFP as soon as possible in FY 1998. That the RFP be posted in relevant professional society publications to ensure an appropriate response, and that an independent peer-review group be established to review the applications and recommend candidates to the AMWG and GCMRC for SAB membership.

7. SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD SERVICES

A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE EXPERT SCIENCE ADVICE TO THE GRAND CANYON MONITORING AND RESEARCH CENTER (GCMRC) AS A MEMBER OF THE GCMRC SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

INTRODUCTION

The GCDEIS calls for the establishment of Independent Review Panel(s) to:

- ensure that the long-term monitoring and research program initiated by the GCMRC is unbiased and objective, scientifically sound, and focused on the most important issues;
- provide advice on the coordination and planning of the long-term monitoring and research program; and
- annually review the results of the long-term monitoring and research program.

In response to this recommendation, the GCMRC intends to establish as one of its independent review panels, a Science Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB will be an advisory and not a decision-making body, but both the GCMRC and the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) should be prepared to explain why it has accepted or rejected advice provided by the SAB. In any one year, the SAB will be comprised of up to 10 members.

BACKGROUND

The SAB will be an interdisciplinary board, composed of scientists who are qualified, based on their record of publication in the peer-reviewed literature, or other demonstrable scientific achievements. Members will be selected for their scientific expertise and not as representatives of a particular agency, organization, or other stakeholder group.

Members will be sought with expertise in the following areas:

- Adaptive management;
- Anthropology;
- Archaeology;
- Fisheries biology;
- Ecosystem / Riparian ecology;
- Geomorphology;
- GIS;

- Hydrology;
- Limnology; and
- Economics.

Members will be selected for a three-year term, renewable for one consecutive three-year term. Initial members of the SAB will be selected for staggered one-, two-, and three-year terms, to ensure continuity in membership on the SAB.

Individuals interested in being considered for membership on the SAB should submit ONLY the standard GCMRC proposal cover page, a letter describing their interest, availability and qualifications for the position, and a detailed curriculum vitae. They need not submit all of the other information described in the proposal format section of this solicitation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The SAB together and individually will be expected, among other things, to review and comment on:

- (1) GCMRC's long-term strategic monitoring and research plans,
- (2) GCMRC's annual monitoring and research plans,
- (3) GCMRC's annual budget proposals,
- (4) the results of GCMRC's completed monitoring and research activities,
- (5) the results of any synthesis and assessment activities initiated by the GCMRC, and
- (6) any other activities (i.e., program specific scientific advice) it is asked to address by the GCMRC Chief or the AMWG.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

The SAB will be expected to meet at least once each year for three days. All meetings of the SAB and any reports produced by the SAB shall be open and available to the public

PROJECT COST RANGE

Members of the SAB will be reimbursed for their travel and receive per diem for time spent at meetings or at GCMRC to conduct approved scientific review and advisory activities. In addition, members of the SAB will receive a professional fee of \$200 per day for time spent on approved activities.

The GCMRC expects to spend \$30,000 - \$50,000 per year in support of SAB activities.