

Title: Synthesis and Assessment Product 3.4: Abrupt Climate Change

Subject and Purpose: The U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), a consortium of Federal agencies performing climate science, has established a program for the creation of 21 Synthesis and Assessment Products (SAPs) as a part of its Strategic Plan. These SAPs are to be administered by 13 Federal agencies over a 5-year period. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), a participant in the CCSP, is responsible for 3 of the 21 SAPs. SAP 3.4: Abrupt Climate Change, is the subject of this USGS peer review plan.

A Federal Advisory Committee has been established by USGS to produce SAP 3.4: Abrupt Climate Change. The primary function of the committee is to synthesize and assess the state of knowledge on the topic of abrupt climate change and to communicate this information to the USGS and CCSP. Committee members will meet and discuss issues relating to relevant study designs, research methodologies, data sources and quality, and study findings. The committee will draft a report that will serve as the CCSP definitive document on current knowledge pertaining to the topic of abrupt climate change. Committee membership consists of Federal and non-Federal scientists who are recognized as experts in the climate science community. SAP 3.4: Abrupt Climate Change will be prepared by the USGS under the auspices of the CCSP. The published product will be released as a CCSP publication, however USGS also has responsibility for developing and implementing a rollout strategy to publicize the document's release.

Impact of Dissemination: This product is considered a "Highly Influential Scientific Assessment."

Timing of Review (including Deferrals): October - November 2007. (Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.)

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: Reviewers will have access to the draft document on a USGS password-protected web site. Reviewers' comments will be returned to USGS by email. Review comments will be forwarded to the SAP 3.4 Federal Advisory Committee for its response. The National Science Foundation (NSF) is a co-sponsoring agency on this SAP. NSF has agreed to nominate prospective reviewers. The public was offered an opportunity to nominate prospective reviewers. Several names were submitted during this process. These individuals will be considered based on their merit in conjunction with the NSF process. Agency leads for this SAP at USGS and NOAA will evaluate the proposed reviewers. The agency leads may also recommend additional reviewers not considered by the NSF or the public. Final selection of peer reviewers will be made by the SAP agency leads. USGS will provide the reviewers with a charge statement that offers guidance, establishes the due date, and lists questions to consider during the review.

Expected Number of Reviewers: Anticipate 40 to 50 reviewers.

Requisite Expertise: Climatology, paleoclimatology, geology, climate modeling, oceanography, glaciology.

Opportunity for Public Comment: A 45 day public comment period will follow the peer review period. The public comment period will be coordinated by CCSP.

Date Plan Submitted: September 10, 2007

Agency Contact: peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov