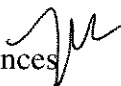


# NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

*Directorate for Geosciences  
Division of Earth Sciences*

## Memorandum

Date: August 4, 2005  
To: File  
From: Assistant Director for Geosciences   
Regarding: Selection of EAR/SEP COV

The credibility of the COV mechanism rests, in a large measure, on the selection of credible, independent experts who are able to provide balanced and impartial assessments to NSF. Prior to sending out the letters of invitation to serve on the EAR/Surface Earth Processes Section (SEP) COV, the Deep Earth Processes Section Head was consulted regarding potential COV candidates. There was no SEP COV Section Head at selection time.

The COV represented a broad segment of the disciplines consistent with the scope of activities for which the EAR/SEP Section has oversight responsibilities. The committee contained expertise in groundwater hydrology, geoscience data collection & GIS, sedimentology, stratigraphy, biogeochemistry, isotope geochemistry, biogeophysics and micropaleontology. This diverse committee includes three females, two minority scientists, one individual from a state agency, one individual from industry, and three individuals who have not had EAR/SEP support or submitted any EAR/SEP proposals in the last five years. Dr. Susan Brantley, a member of AC/GEO, served as chair of the COV and will report the findings and recommendations of the COV panel to the Advisory Committee for Geosciences.

There was one conflict of interest with a COV member and a Program Officer of Geology & Paleontology. The COV member only reviewed the Hydrologic Sciences Program. COV members present during the meeting were:

Dr. Susan Brantley  
Department of Geosciences  
Pennsylvania State University

Estella Atekwana  
Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering  
University of Missouri- Rolla

Philip Bart  
Department of Geology and Geophysics  
Louisiana State University

John Steinmetz  
Indiana Geological Survey  
Indiana University

Paul Brenckle  
Consultant  
Westport, MA

Fred Molz  
Department of Environmental Engineering and Science  
Clemson University

Carey Gazis  
Department of Geological Sciences  
Central Washington University