

CEQ 4



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

OCT 28 2005

Dear Senator Inhofe:

I am writing in response to your letter requesting information concerning the goals, priorities, research activities, management structure and internal controls within the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). I have provided a response to questions 3-8 of your letter and will provide responses to questions 1 and 2 on November 14, 2005.

1. **Please provide me with the names of CCSP staff (including contractual employees), their professional and academics backgrounds, as well as their formal education, degrees held, scientific credentials, awards, previous positions held both in and outside of government service, and a list of articles they have authored and the journals, books, and other publications in which these articles have appeared.**

Response to be provided on November 14, 2005.

2. **Please provide me with a list of all of CCSP's committees and working groups, the names of the persons that serve on each of these committees and working groups, the process by which the participants for each committee and working group are chosen, the organizational structure of these committees and groups, and the projects that each of these committees and groups have completed, are currently working on, and plan to undertake in the future.**

Response to be provided on November 14, 2005.

3. **Please provide me with names of the senior representatives from each of the 13 CCSP agencies, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) participating in the CCSP.**

Senior Agency Representatives

James R. Mahoney, CCSP Director  
Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Jack Kaye, CCSP Vice Chair  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Margaret S. Leinen, CCSP Vice Chair  
National Science Foundation



James Andrews  
Department of Defense

Mary Glackin  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

William Hohenstein  
Department of Agriculture

Linda Lawson  
Department of Transportation

Patrick Leahy  
Department of Interior, US Geological Survey

Patrick Neale  
Smithsonian Institute

Aristides Patrinos  
Department of Energy

Joel Scheraga  
Environmental Protection Agency

James T. Smith  
U.S. Agency for International Development

To Be Named  
Department of Health and Human Services

Harlan Watson  
Department of State

Executive Office of the President and Other Liaisons

David Halpern  
Office of Science and Technology Policy

Bryan Hannegan  
Council on Environmental Quality

Andrea Petro  
Office of Management and Budget

David Conover, Director, Climate Change Technology Program  
Department of Energy

Margaret R. McCalla  
Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology

Note: The names listed above constitute the CCSP interagency governing body and are also the members of the Subcommittee on Global Change Research (SGCR), the interagency committee that coordinates the U.S. Global Change Research Program (established by Congress in the Global Change Research Act of 1990).

**4. Please describe the duties and responsibilities of the staff in the program office (CCSPO) and those of the representatives of the 13 CCSP agencies, CEQ, OSTP, and OMB.**

**Duties and responsibilities of CCSPO staff:** The agencies participating in the CCSP fund and supervise an interagency office, the Climate Change Science Program Office (CCSPO), which fosters program development and coordination by:

- Supporting the interagency working groups responsible for coordinating major CCSP program elements. Specific responsibilities include (1) helping to develop scientific strategies and implementation plans; (2) assisting in the coordination of research element-specific planning and implementation; (3) assisting in supporting and managing interactions with scientific advisory groups; (4) assisting in development of program milestones/deliverables and approaches for monitoring progress toward objectives; and (5) providing general support including coordinating meetings, acting as a central point of contact, and responding to queries.
- Supporting CCSP agencies/departments and interagency groups responsible for oversight and implementation of CCSP decision support activities. Specific responsibilities include supporting agency management of the Synthesis and Assessment Products, including development and reviews of product prospectuses, drafting, managing reviews and public comment periods, and supporting provision of public information on the synthesis and assessment (S&A) Product process.
- Supporting the CCSP Director and the interagency governing body of the CCSP. Specific activities include: preparing and staffing the meetings of the CCSP/SGCR, including timely distribution of needed materials, preparation of agenda, recording decisions, and supporting follow-up action; supporting the annual production of *Our Changing Planet*; and other activities as requested by the CCSP interagency governing body.

**Duties and responsibilities of CCSP interagency governing body:** Membership on CCSP's interagency governing body is joint with the Subcommittee on Global Change Research. Its membership includes representatives from agencies that have mission responsibilities and/or funding in climate and global change research. Each participating department/agency designates its representative on the governing body. The CCSP interagency governing body (as listed in #3) is responsible for compliance with the requirements of the 1990 Act including its provisions for annual reporting of findings and short-term plans, scientific reviews by the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council, and periodic publication of a strategic plan for the program.

The CCSP interagency governing body provides overall management direction and is responsible for ensuring the development and implementation of an integrated interagency program. It oversees and directs all aspects of the program, including setting top-level goals for the program and determining what products will be developed and produced to meet those goals.

Agency representatives on the CCSP's interagency committee coordinate development of an integrated, interagency budget as a component of the President's annual budget request to Congress. They conduct periodic inventories and reviews of agency or departmental programs within the CCSP budget crosscut and, in cooperation with OMB, determine which agency programs are considered part of the CCSP budget crosscut. They ensure that agency/departmental climate and global change research programs are prioritized and aligned with CCSP's interagency goals.

CCSP's governing committee ensures periodic program reviews and evaluations involving both the CCSP agencies and external partners, including the scientific research community and users of global change information. It also conducts periodic reviews of progress toward interagency objectives in order to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the allocated budget. The CCSP interagency governing body is responsible for ensuring the availability of scientific inputs needed to achieve the program's mission. It will develop and oversee mechanisms that support crucial research that is not central to the core missions of the participating agencies and that is most effectively and efficiently carried out in an interagency setting. Finally, the CCSP interagency governing body is responsible for coordinating activities with the CCTP and other related programs; several members serve in leadership roles in coordinating committees for both the CCSP and the CCTP.

**5. Please describe the measures you have put in place to ensure that the climate science data and information you use to support decision making is open and transparent.**

The CCSP Strategic Plan sets forth general principles for its approach to preparing synthesis and assessment products:

- Analyses structured around specific questions
- Early and continuing involvement of stakeholders
- Explicit treatment of uncertainties
- Transparent public review of analysis questions, methods, and draft results

- Adoption of a “lessons learned” approach, building on the ongoing CCSP analyses.

CCSP prepared guidelines that specify the steps to be followed in preparing the synthesis and assessment (S&A) products: developing the prospectus, drafting and revising the document, and final approval and publication of each product. The guidelines are intended to ensure:

- Independent scientific judgment serves as the guiding force in preparing the products so they are credible
- Scientists, users, and other stakeholders jointly determine the scope of the products so the topics covered are well defined and the information provided is relevant to the needs expressed
- The process of preparing the products is open at every step so the products have legitimacy (i.e., are perceived to have been prepared fairly).

The guidelines and related documentation are available on the Internet at <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/sap/sap-guidelines.htm>. The guidelines spell out the roles and responsibilities of participants in the process, detailed steps for drafting and review, and other aspects of the preparation process. These steps are being carried out in conformance with Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act of 2001 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (see answer to question 8).

**6. CCSP recently entered into an agreement with the National Research Council (NRC) to create an “independent” review committee to advise and evaluate CCSP’s climate research activities. Please explain the rationale for creating this oversight committee and its specific role and function.**

The Federal Government, including CCSP and the US Global Change Research Program, has relied upon the National Academies – National Research Council (NRC) since 1990 to provide it with independent scientific advice related to climate change research. The NRC’s activities are the “gold standard” for scientific evaluation and advice due to their stringent requirements for scientific excellence, scientific balance, and thorough peer review. Input from the NRC is used by the Federal government to assess the scientific effectiveness of its plans, to identify promising new areas of scientific pursuit, and to describe the scientific state-of-the-art.

Section 104 of the 1990 Global Change Research Act specifics, in part, that “(e) NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL EVALUATION.—The Chairman of the Council shall enter into an agreement with the National Research Council under which the National Research Council shall—

1. evaluate the scientific content of the Plan; and
2. provide information and advice obtained from United States and international sources, and recommended priorities for future global change research.”

In May 2004, CCSP established an ad hoc interagency committee to evaluate the relationship between the CCSP and the NRC and make recommendations to the CCSP interagency governing body on improving the structure of the relationship and addressing issues of mutual concern. The ad hoc committee met several times, and its representatives interacted with senior representatives of the NRC in defining activities to be supported through CCSP's "distributed costs." As a result of these discussions in 2004 and continuing through April 2005, the NRC has agreed to provide CCSP with advice on its research program through a broadly configured committee to be referred to as NRC's CCSP Committee. This is an advisory committee, not an oversight committee. Over the course of the next three years, the CCSP Committee will provide:

- (1) strategic advice on program priorities and implementation strategy in the context of scientific and societal objectives, including the identification of high priority program areas not supported in the past;
- (2) an evaluation of progress towards meeting the program's goals; and
- (3) a high-level review of the program's decision support activities in the context of the program's strategic goals.

- 7. Throughout the summer, the NRC was seeking nominations for members to serve on this committee. Please provide me with the names of those on the selection committee responsible for choosing the oversight members, the criteria used to determine the persons who will sit on the selection committee, the criteria that the selection committee will use to determine the successful candidates for membership on the oversight committee, the number of members who will serve on this committee, the date on which this independent oversight committee will commence its activities, the budget for this oversight committee, and the funding source of it.**

The scientific expertise of the committee members is to correspond to all of the major scientific elements described in the CCSP Strategic Plan. The NRC will include a balance of members from academia, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, government (e.g., retired federal program managers), resource managers, and other decision makers from institutions that rely on the products generated by CCSP. The CCSP Committee will reflect the NRC's normal processes to achieve diversity in areas such as geographic representation, age, gender, race, and other perspectives.

As is the case with any NRC committee, selection of the members of the NRC's CCSP Committee is being carried out entirely by the NRC. The NRC expects to complete the committee selection process within a few weeks. Since the NRC is wholly responsible for the selection process, questions pertaining to the following topics should be addressed to the NRC: names of those on the selection committee responsible for choosing the oversight members, the criteria used to determine the persons who will sit on the selection committee, the criteria that the selection committee will use to determine the successful candidates for membership on the oversight committee, the number of

members who will serve on this committee, and the date on which the committee will commence its activities.

Funding for the NRC's CCSP Committee activities is provided by CCSP through its distributed cost pool that includes contributions from most CCSP departments and agencies in proportion to their portion of the overall CCSP budget. \$345,000 was provided to the NRC's CCSP Committee for its operation in FY 2006.

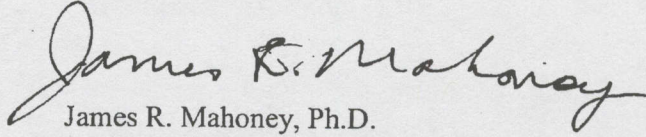
8. **On December 15, 2004, OMB published a final version of the peer review bulletin on its website entitled *Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review*. The Bulletin establishes that important scientific information shall be peer reviewed by qualified specialists before the federal government disseminates it. Given that the CCSP Strategic Plan calls for the creation of a series of more than 20 syntheses and assessment reports on climate change science and that these documents will likely play a significant role in policy and resource allocation, the quality of this information is critical. Please provide me with a detailed description of how CCSP is implementing this OMB directive to enhance the quality and credibility of the scientific information generated by CCSP, including:**

- a) **The schedule for the availability of each draft document and the pre-dissemination review schedule and participants,**
- b) **The process for validation of results, including independent validation, of any models used,**
- c) **The process for providing access to models by independent reviewers, and,**
- d) **The determination of which publications have acceptable peer review procedures.**

The CCSP synthesis and assessment (S&A) products will be considered Federal Government disseminations, thus they must be prepared in conformance with the provisions of the Information Quality Act (Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act of 2001) and the Peer Review guidelines issued by OMB under the Act. Any agency sponsoring or contributing to the development of a product must certify that the agency's contribution satisfies its Information Quality Guidelines and that the document is prepared in accordance with the Peer Review guidelines. Information on the process used to prepare each S&A product will be made available by the agency that is leading preparation of the product as it becomes available. The CCSP website will also link to this information. Currently, information on the preparation of the products is being updated and will be posted on the CCSP web site as soon as it is available. The review processes and approaches for making data and other inputs (including models) available for those who request access to this information will be determined by each lead agency in accordance with its approved implementation of Section 515.

I will provide the answers to questions 1 and 2 in a separate letter on November 14.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Mahoney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James R. Mahoney, Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for  
Oceans and Atmosphere, and  
Director, Climate Change Science Program