

Title: Synthesis and Assessment Product 1.2: Past Climate Variability and Change in the Arctic and at High Latitudes

Subject and Purpose: The Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), a consortium of federal agencies performing climate science, has established a synthesis and assessment (S&A) program as a part of its Strategic Plan. There are 21 S&A products 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 S&A products. S&A product 1.2: Past Climate Variability and Change in the Arctic and at High Latitudes is the subject of this peer review plan.

A Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) has been established by USGS to produce the S&A product. The primary function of the committee is to synthesize and assess the state of knowledge on the topic of the record of the past climate of the Arctic region and communicate this information to the USGS and CCSP. Committee members will meet and discuss issues relating to the study design, research methodology, 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 paleoclimate history of the Arctic. Membership consists of non-federal scientists who are recognized as experts in the paleoclimate science community.

S&A product 1.2: Past Climate Variability and Change in the Arctic and at High Latitudes will be published by the USGS under the auspices of the CCSP. The end product is a CCSP publication.

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

Timing of Review (including Deferrals): November 30 – December 31, 2007. (Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.)

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: This peer review plan was prepared in accordance with USGS/DOI interpretation of OMB guidelines for peer review. Detailed information regarding the USGS IQA compliance process is available at http://www.usgs.gov/peer_review/.

Reviewers will have access to the draft document on a USGS password-protected web site. Reviewer's comments will be returned to USGS by email. Review comments will be forwarded to the SAP 1.2 Federal Advisory Committee for its response.

The Polar Research Board (PRB) of the National Research Council (National Academy of Sciences) will nominate prospective reviewers. Nominations were also received during the public comment period of the Prospectus published for SAP 1.2 and through the initial public meeting held in May 2005 for this SAP. The National Science Foundation (NSF), Arctic Sciences Section has also been requested to nominate expert reviewers. Lead Authors will also nominate potential reviewers.

These nominations will be evaluated based on their technical and professional background. The USGS will convene a selection committee to evaluate proposed reviewers. The selection committee may also recommend reviewers not considered by the PRB, NSF, the Lead Authors, or the public. Final selection of peer reviewers will be made by the selection committee.

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 20 to 30 reviewers.

Requisite Expertise: Paleoclimatology, glaciology, stable isotope geochemistry, atmospheric chemistry, geology, climate modeling, oceanography, paleoecology, lichenometry, dendrochronology, paleothermometry, terrestrial and marine sedimentology, palynology tephrochronology, palynology.

Opportunity for Public Comment: Yes

A 45 day public comment period after peer review has been completed will be managed through the CCSP website. The public comment period will be coordinated by CCSP and authors will be required to respond to all public comment.

Date Plan Submitted: Submitted September 19, 2007

Agency Contact: peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov.