

Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey Creating a Standing  
EPA/USGS Interagency Coordinating Committee

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Geological Survey (USGS) have a number of closely allied missions and related functional responsibilities. Coordination of certain of the two agencies' programs and activities is vital to the achievement of national environmental and resource management goals and to the efficient and effective acquisition of resources data. Currently, numerous individual programs are coordinated through formal and informal agreement, but no mechanism for overall coordination exists. Accordingly, a standing EPA/USGS Interagency Coordinating Committee is established to coordinate areas of interface, facilitate information exchange, and resolve conflicts between the two agencies. The function of the Committee will be to:

- o Provide a coordinating mechanism for programs and multiyear plans of the two agencies. Programs of mutual interest include, but are not limited to: surface and ground water hydrology with emphasis on water quality; geology; geochemistry; waste disposal; mapping; aerial photography; remote sensing; emergency response plans; outer continental shelf and onshore mineral resource activities, including regulation of industry operations.
- o Provide for technology transfer, and exchange of data, information, and research findings of mutual interest.
- o Arrange for cooperation and support in the conduct of programs of mutual responsibility and interest.
- o Exchange appropriate budgeting and program planning information.
- o Act as a clearinghouse for EPA/USGS contacts, and provide information on existing and future Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Interagency Agreements (IAGs).

The committee will be jointly chaired by the Associate Director of USGS and the Director of EPA's Office of Federal Activities (OFA). There will be equal membership for both agencies consisting of policy-level officials. EPA will be represented by the Director, OFA, and members will be designated to represent the Assistant Administrator for Water, the Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, the Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response, the Associate Administrator for Policy and Resource Management, the Associate Administrator for Legal Counsel and Enforcement, and two other members as needed to represent the specific activities under discussion. USGS will be represented by the Associate Director, and members Division, the National Mapping Division, the Conservation Division (one for onshore and one for offshore matters), the Office of Earth Sciences Applications, and the Assistant Director for Resource Programs.

The Committee will facilitate resolution of problems not resolvable at lower levels between USGS and EPA. Issues upon which there is no consensus will be referred to the Director of USGS and the Administrator of EPA.

The Committee will have the authority to establish and direct subcommittees and working groups to consider specific proposals or problem areas as required.

The Committee will meet every quarter, with additional meetings as mutually agreed upon. All current coordination activities will continue under the review of the Committee. All future coordinating mechanisms

will be developed with the full knowledge of the Committee..

The first meeting of the Committee shall be held within 60 days after the date of the last signature on this document.

The Committee will remain in effect until terminated by written notice from one of the parties or by mutual consent.

*(Signed Original on File)*

John Hernandez, Deputy Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Date: August 5, 1981

*(Signed Original on File)*

Doyle G. Frederick, Acting Director  
U.S. Geological Survey

Date: Aug 5, 1981

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20460

United States Geological Survey  
Reston, Virginia 22092

Memorandum

To: Members of the EPA/USGS Coordination Committee

From: Allan Hirsch, Director, Office of Federal Activities  
Environmental Protection Agency

Doyle Frederick, Associate Director  
Geological Survey

Subject: Restructuring of the EPA/USGS Coordination Committee

Much discussion over the effectiveness of the present Coordination Committee structure has taken place over the past several months. The general consensus is that the existing Committee, subcommittee, and workgroup structure is overly formal, given the close working relationships between our two agencies' staffs. To promote more efficient and effective working relationships, we have agreed to establish a less formal structure that would focus on issues of significant interest and also allow necessary information exchange. The attached list identifies the key issue areas of both agencies and the agency representative responsible for ensuring that appropriate coordination and exchange is maintained.

Quarterly meetings shall continue, but will serve only to address specific issues requiring timely attention by the Committee Co-Chairs. Issue leaders should advise the Co-Chairs of the need for their issue area to be included on the quarterly meeting agenda. The first quarterly meeting of each calendar year shall also serve as an annual meeting. This meeting shall be of a more general character to allow for the interchange of ideas for new directions or activities, identification of new issue areas, deletion of completed issues, discussion of the status of ongoing programs, budgetary data, etc.

The next meeting of the EPA/USGS Coordination Committee will be the annual meeting scheduled for January 15, 1986, at 10:00 a.m., at EPA, 401 M Street, S.W., North Mall Area Room 1, Washington, D.C. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting and appreciate your assistance in continuing coordination between our agencies.

*(Signed Original on File)*

Allan Hirsch, Director  
Office of Federal Activities  
Environmental Protection Agency

Date: December 5, 1985

*(Signed Original on File)*

Doyle Frederick  
Associate Director  
Geological Survey

Date: November 26, 1985

Attachment