

Peer Review Plan

Date: 12/23/2015

Source Center: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Water Mission Area
Office of Surface Water
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

Title: Guidelines for Determining Flood-Flow Frequency.

Subject and Purpose: The report, which is an update of a previously published (1982) Interagency Committee on Water Data report, provides recommended guidance for determinations, by Federal agencies, of flood-flow frequencies. Such determinations play an important role in the definition of design and building requirements for various Federal projects such as interstate highway bridges, flood-control levees, and dams, and for many Federal program and regulatory activities, including Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain delineations.

The report includes reference to extensive research and methods development activities of the USGS, other Federal agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and many researchers in academia. In particular, the report references USGS software needed for the flood-frequency determinations (<http://water.usgs.gov/software/PeakFQ/usgs>) and National Water Information System peak-flow datasets (<http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/peak>).

The report was prepared and is being published on behalf of the Subcommittee on Hydrology (SOH), Advisory Committee for Water Information (ACWI), a registered Federal advisory committee and will be released as a USGS Techniques and Methods publication so as to facilitate future reference and maintenance. Broad utilization of this product is anticipated in delineation of floodplains and design of water- and transportation-infrastructure throughout the Nation.

Impact of Dissemination: This product is considered by the USGS to be a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment.

Timing of Review: January 2016 – March 2016. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

Manner or Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process:

The review will be conducted by individual letters. The reviewers will be nominated by the Chair of the ACWI/SOH Hydrologic Frequency Workgroup (HFAWG) and their selection subject to confirmation by the SOH and the USGS.

Expected Number of Reviewers: Three peer reviewers.

Requisite Expertise: Expertise and national standing in statistical- and flood-hydrology and flood-frequency analysis.

Opportunity for Public Comment: A 45-day public comment period before the USGS peer review has been completed will be announced by the USGS Water Information Coordination Program (Wendy Norton, Chief) through the Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov>) and managed through the ACWI/SOH website (URL: <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/Frequency/b17c/index.html>).

Agency Contact: peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov.