

# Peer Review Plan

**Date:** 5/8/2014

**Source Center:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
Texas Water Science Center  
1505 Ferguson Lane  
Austin, TX 78754

**Title:** PAH Concentrations in Lake Sediment Decline Following 2006 Ban on Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealants in Austin, Texas.

**Subject and Purpose:** The purpose of this manuscript is to describe the change in concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in lake sediment in the receiving water body for runoff from a substantial portion of Austin, Texas, the first city to ban the use of coal-tar-based pavement sealants. The assessment found that 6 to 8 years after the ban was imposed (in 2006), PAH concentrations in the lower part of the lake have declined by 58% on average. Coal-tar sealants had previously been determined to be the largest source of PAHs to this and many other urban lakes in the United States. This manuscript was submitted to the journal *Environmental Science and Technology (ES&T)* for publication.

**Impact of Dissemination:** This information product is considered by the USGS to be Influential Scientific Information.

**Timing of Review (Including Deferrals):** September 2013 – May 2014. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

**Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process:** Review will be by individual e-mail/letters/memoranda/documents or as returned to the authors as an e-mail from *ES&T*. USGS will select a reviewer pursuant to requirements in Survey Manual chapter 502.3—Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review (<http://www.usgs.gov/usgs-manual/500/502-3.html>). Editorial staff at *ES&T* will select reviewers for the journal following their anonymous peer review process.

**Expected Number of Reviewers:** Five peer reviewers (one USGS reviewer and four anonymous reviewers selected by *ES&T*) are anticipated.

**Requisite Expertise:** Expertise required by peer reviewers would include environmental chemistry, hydrology, and a basic understanding of paleolimnology (the use of age-dated sediment cores to evaluate trends in contaminants).

**Opportunity for Public Comment:** No, the opportunity for public comment is not formally incorporated into the USGS or *ES&T* peer review process.

**Agency Contact:** [peer\\_review\\_agenda@usgs.gov](mailto:peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov).