

# Peer Review Plan

## Geotechnical Research Roadmap

### Final Report 8550-2020-02

Date: November 19, 2020

Originating office: Geotechnical Laboratory and Field Support, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, CO

Reclamation roles:

Delegated manager: Robert V. Rinehart, Supervisor, Geotechnical Laboratory and Field Support, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, CO

Peer Review Lead: Evan J. Lindenbach, Geotechnical Laboratory and Field Support, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, CO

Subject and Purpose: Reclamation is responsible for a significant amount of major and minor infrastructure across the Western United States, including about 450 dams and more than 10,000 miles of water conveyance structures. While the structures themselves vary in design, size, and type, all structures share a common theme of earth (rock, soil, or mixed) foundations and all utilize earth as a construction material. Reclamation has long been on the forefront of characterizing earth materials for use in civil structures through fundamental research and project related work. Growing geotechnical research has and continues to be fundamental to maintaining and improving the underpinning of Reclamation's infrastructure inventory. This report details a Geotechnical Research Roadmap for Reclamation's Science and Technology Program that can be used to assist in the development and evaluation of future research proposals.

Impact of Dissemination: The geotechnical research roadmap is not considered influential or highly influential scientific information as defined by Office of Management and Budget Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664- 2677) and the Reclamation Manual Policy CMP P14 Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments. The nexus of this determination is that this document may provide a clearer understanding of the concerns associated with this topic, however there is no known decision or policy that will be affected by its dissemination. This peer review is considered discretionary based upon Reclamation Manual Policy CMP P14.

Peer Review Scope:

The subject of this review will consider the research needs established in the roadmap. Reviewers may focus on the following three questions:

1. Do the needs listed in the draft roadmap seem like a reasonably representative collection of science and technology needs facing your management and technical

community?

2. Are there other science and technology needs facing your management and technical community that are not listed in the draft roadmap?
3. For the needs listed in the draft roadmap and those you may have listed in response to question 2, are you aware of ongoing research and development activities to address those needs? If yes, please briefly describe (e.g., title) and identify organizational lead (e.g., agency, university, etc.). Reviewers are to provide comment solely on the scientific information being reviewed, and not on any agency decision or policy.

Timing of Review: The review period is expected to be November 23 to December 23, 2020. The final Peer Review Report is expected to be available on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Peer Review public website (<http://www.usbr.gov/main/qoi/peeragenda.html>) by January 31, 2021. No time deferrals are involved.

Methodology of Review: Review will be conducted by individuals. The identities of the reviewers will be disclosed in the final Peer Review Report. Review findings/comments will be attributed to the individual reviewer.

Number of Peer Reviewers: It is anticipated that 5 to 10 peer reviewers will be utilized.

Reviewer Selection Process: Peer reviewers will have professional experience in the field of geotechnical engineering as related to water storage and conveyance infrastructure or be familiar with agency needs for the application of geotechnical engineering. The public will not be asked to nominate reviewers.

Delivery of findings: Peer reviewers should submit a digital copy of peer review comments that address one or more of the supplied reviewer questions. Comments should be submitted to the peer review lead or delegated manager.

Response to Peer Review: At the conclusion of receiving peer review comments, the Peer Review Lead will submit a final Peer Review Report to Reclamation's peer review website (<http://www.usbr.gov/main/qoi/peeragenda.html>), which will summarize the findings of the peer review and list the comments provided by the reviewers, as well as Reclamation's response to the comment.

Federal Register Notice: Federal Register notices will not be provided announcing the formation of a peer review team and completion of the final report.

Applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA): This peer review is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) because the review does not involve open meetings or committee chartering and reviewers are being asked to provide individual reviews on the subject matter. Reclamation is not seeking consensus advice from the reviewers as a group.

Agency contact: Evan J. Lindenbach, Geotechnical Laboratory and Field Support, Technical Service Center, Bureau of Reclamation, [elindenbach@usbr.gov](mailto:elindenbach@usbr.gov), (303) 445-2336.