

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

Effective Date: 09/30/2011

Series: Organization

Part 120: U.S. Geological Survey

Chapter 8: Office of the Associate Director for Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health

Originating Office: U.S. Geological Survey

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8.1 Office of the Associate Director for Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health.

This office provides executive leadership for energy and minerals research, assessment, and information, as well as for environmental health research and monitoring. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) energy and minerals research results are used by Federal, State, and local government officials to effect land planning and supply availability decisions; private sector companies concerned with materials availability; and by the general public.

Environmental health monitoring information is utilized by Federal and State agencies and the general public to understand, respond to, and plan for environmental health threats. Examples of these functions include:

- A. Analyzing the geologic setting and genesis of minerals; modeling the processes that result in accumulations of mineral resources; collecting, analyzing, and disseminating production and consumption data for mineral commodities in the United States and around the world;
- B. Conducting research on the fundamental processes that lead to the accumulation of energy resources; conducting research on mitigation of environmental damage caused by extracting mineral and energy resources; evaluating the effects of energy and mineral resource use on the health of the environment; conducting scientific investigations to understand the occurrence, behavior, and effects of toxic substances in the Nation's hydrologic environments; collecting and disseminating information from a variety of environmental health-related databases and networks to locate, identify, and describe sources of environmental contaminants and pathogens; and,
- C. Analyzing and documenting the processes by which diseases are transmitted from Earth sources, water sources and ecological sources to water cycles and ecosystems.

8.2 Associate Director for Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health. The Associate Director for Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health exercises the authority delegated by the USGS Director to provide leadership and nationwide guidance for energy,

09/30/2011 #3920

Replaces 01/02/08 #3780

mineral, and environmental health research activities of the bureau and ensures integration of these activities with the strategic goals of the USGS and the Department. This includes scientific and technical leadership in the areas of energy resources, mineral resources, contaminant biology, and toxic substances hydrology. The Associate Director for Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health provides executive direction and oversight to ensure effective and efficient program planning, management and execution of the bureau's energy and minerals, and environmental health programs, including the development of methods and tools, research and quality assurance.

A. Deputy Associate Director. The Associate Director for Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health carries out the responsibilities with assistance from a Deputy Associate Director. The Associate Director and Deputy Associate Director are assisted in the development and implementation of the programs by Program Coordinators.

B. Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health Program Coordinators are responsible for energy and minerals, and environmental health program planning, budget development, and program evaluation. The Program Coordinators develop strategic program plans; coordinate programmatic activities within and outside the USGS to ensure broad participation in interdisciplinary studies; and conduct program reviews of current scientific projects to assure that science is relevant to national objectives, meets the priorities of land managers, and is coordinated with other agencies. The Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health programs include the:

(1) Energy Resources Program supports research to understand the processes critical to the formation, accumulation, occurrence, and alteration of geologically-based energy resources. In addition, the program supports assessments of energy resources and studies the impact of energy resource occurrence and/or production and use on both environmental and human health.

(2) Mineral Resources Program supports research and information gathering to provide scientific information for objective resource assessments and unbiased research results on mineral potential, production, consumption, and environmental effects. The program is the sole Federal source for this research and information.

(3) Contaminant Biology Program supports investigations of the effects and exposure of environmental contaminants to the Nation's living resources, particularly those under the stewardship of the Department of the Interior.

(4) Toxic Substances Hydrology Program provides objective scientific information on environmental contamination to improve characterization and management of contaminated sites, to protect human and environmental health, and to reduce potential future contamination problems.