*Review of the*

# U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY'S LABORATORIES

*Processes, Procedures, and Best Practices to Meet National Needs*

# AGENDA

**June 24, 2018**

Hyatt Regency Reston
1800 Presidents Street • Reston, VA 20190

Connect remotely via: zoom

https://nasem.zoom.us/j/461100691
1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 461 100 691

## JUNE 24, 2018 | OPEN SESSION

*Open to the Public*
***Room: Town Center A&B, Second Floor***

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| **10:00 AM** | **Welcome and opening remarks** | *Bill Hopkins, Chair* |
| | **Discussion with USGS Sponsors**<br>• Context for the Study<br>• USGS Quality Management System<br>• Statement of Task | *William Werkheiser*<br>*USGS Deputy Director*<br>*Kenna Butler*<br>*Bureau QMA Coordinator* |
| **12:00 PM** | **Open session adjourns** | |

## END OF OPEN SESSION

## Statement of Task

An ad hoc committee will review a representative sample of USGS laboratory facilities, covering energy and minerals, natural hazards, surface and groundwater, ecosystems, and environmental health. The review will focus primarily on production laboratories that serve both USGS users and external customers, and secondarily on laboratories that support research and method development. Specific tasks for the committee are given below.

1. Provide an overview of USGS laboratory facilities across the nation, including their science and applications objectives, budget, staff and user profiles, and history of sample throughput for the last 5 to 10 years.
2. Describe the laboratory protocols, analytical procedures and standards, and data management processes for USGS laboratories, relevant laboratories hosted by other federal agencies (e.g., National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. army laboratories, National Institutes of Health), and geological surveys in other countries (e.g., Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, Norway).
3. Assess the extent to which resources (operational and personnel) are sufficient to meet the scientific and applications objectives of USGS laboratories (production, research, method development).
4. Develop criteria for assessing protocols and procedures used by the organizations in Task 2 of Phase 1, and use them to identify relevant best practices and procedures for USGS production laboratories.
5. Provide recommendations on best practices and procedures for achieving scientific and applications objectives and ensuring the integrity and reliability of results from USGS production laboratories.
6. Comment on best practices and procedures for USGS research and method development laboratories.

The analysis will be based on USGS-provided profiles of its laboratory facilities and protocols, preliminary results from the USGS assessment of quality management procedures at its laboratories, and other information gathered by the committee at site visits, teleconference meetings, and elsewhere.