



**CHARTER of the  
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL**

The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) is hereby reestablished by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).

The CENR serves as part of the internal deliberative process of the NSTC, which provides overall guidance and direction. The NSTC, a Cabinet-level council, is the principal means for the President to coordinate science and technology policies across the Federal Government.

Purpose

The purpose of the CENR is to advise and assist the NSTC, under Executive Order 12881, to increase the overall effectiveness and productivity of Federal research and development (R&D) efforts in the area of the environment and natural resources. The CENR will address science policy matters and R&D efforts that cut across agency boundaries and provide a formal mechanism for interagency coordination relevant to domestic and international environmental and natural resources issues.

The CENR will act to improve the coordination of all Federal environmental and natural resource R&D, to improve the link between science and policy. This includes maintaining and improving the science and technology base for environmental and natural resource issues; developing a balanced, integrated, and comprehensive R&D program; establishing a structure to improve Federal Government planning and coordination of environmental and natural resource research, development, and technology transfer in both a national and international context; and developing environment and natural resources R&D budget crosscuts and priorities.

Functions

Reporting to and under the direction of the Chairman of the NSTC, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources will:

- establish and implement a process for national environmental and natural resource policy planning, coordination, and communication among Federal agencies;
- identify and recommend environmental and natural resources R&D budget priorities;
- propose and update long-range plans for the overall Federal R&D effort relating to the environment and natural resources;
- identify and recommend Federal R&D programs pertaining to the environment and natural resources that contribute to the goal of environmentally sustainable economic growth and development;
- ensure that there is a strong link between science and policy in the area of the environment and natural resources;
- provide reviews, analyses, advice and recommendations to the NSTC on Federal policies and programs concerned with environmental and natural resources R&D, including both domestic and international programs; and
- coordinate with other NSTC committees and facilitate NSTC clearance of documents generated by interagency groups that are established under its aegis.

The CENR Co-Chairs, consistent with the Committee's endorsement, will recommend action on major R&D issues to the Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy for approval.

### Membership

The following departments and agencies are represented on the CENR at the Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant Secretary level or above:

Department of Agriculture  
 Department of Commerce  
 Department of Defense  
 Department of Energy  
 Department of Health and Human Services  
 Department of Homeland Security  
 Department of the Interior  
 Department of Justice  
 Department of State  
 Department of Transportation  
 Environmental Protection Agency  
 National Science Foundation  
 National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
 Smithsonian Institution  
 Federal Emergency Management Agency

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President are also represented on the Committee:

Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Office of Management and Budget  
The National Economic Council  
Council of Economic Advisors  
Domestic Policy Council  
Council on Environmental Quality

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include:

Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Tennessee Valley Authority; and  
such other Executive organizations, departments and agencies as the co-chairs may, from  
time to time, designate.

Private Sector Interface

The CENR may seek advice from members of the President's Council of Advisors on  
Science and Technology and will recommend to the Director, Office of Science and  
Technology Policy, the nature of additional private sector advice needed to accomplish  
its mission. The CENR may also interact with and receive ad hoc advice from various  
private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

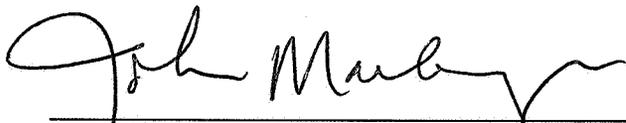
Termination Date

This charter shall terminate no later than March 31, 2009 unless renewed by the Director,  
Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Determination

I hereby determine that formation of the Committee on Environment and Natural  
Resources is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed  
on the Executive Branch by law and that such duties can best be performed through the  
advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:



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Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy

5/30/06

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date