

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 80-5
APRIL 8, 2004***

Science and Technology

SCIENCE REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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OPR: W/OST12 (P. Hirschberg)

Certified by: W/OST (J. Hayes)

Type of Issuance: Initial

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: None.

1. Science review and approval is essential to ensure all the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NWS) science and technology (S&T) activities have scientific merit and are aligned with the NWS mission.

2. This science review and approval policy supports the NWS mission by ensuring S&T-related activities are evaluated for appropriate scientific merit and mission alignment, and that they are approved or disapproved at appropriate levels within the NWS.

2.1 The S&T activities, hereafter referred to as candidates, include:

- a. Proposals, plans, research and development related to S&T seeking new NWS financial support or endorsement.
- b. Results of the S&T infusion process, as defined in the NWSPD 10-1, Operations and Services Improvement, and associated policy directives (see references in Attachment 1) which lead to the implementation of new S&T into NWS operations and services.

2.2 The science merit and NWS mission alignment will be documented by the person or organization seeking NWS approval, hereafter referred to as the sponsor of the candidate. This documentation will be reviewed by the approving official and shall contain at a minimum:

- a. General description of the candidate and its alignment with the NWS mission.
- b. Underlying scientific basis, methodology, or other pertinent information including published references.
- c. Any prior results or findings associated with the candidate.

3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - 3.1 The sponsor of the candidate will provide documentation to the approval official as specified in paragraph 2.1 of this directive.
 - 3.2 The sponsor is responsible for contacting and obtaining from the approving official the following:
 - a. Specific criteria by which the candidate will be evaluated will include, but not be necessarily limited to: scientific merit, methodology, and its potential to improve NWS operations and services.
 - b. Any additional required or desired documentation, schedule or formats.
 - 3.3 The approving official shall review and evaluate the candidate based the evaluation criteria addressing the scientific basis and NWS mission alignment of the candidate.
 - 3.4 The Director, Office of Science and Technology (W/OST), will manage the NWS scientific approval process subject to review by the S&T Subcommittee of the Corporate Board.
 - 3.5 The W/OST Director delegates approval authority to appropriate NWS units according to the scope, complexity, and cost of candidates. In general, approving officials are assigned as follows:
 - 3.5.1 Meteorologist/Hydrologist-in-Charge: For candidates solely affecting a Weather Forecast Office or River Forecast Center, subject to review by the Regional Director, as necessary.
 - 3.5.2 Regional Director: For candidates affecting multiple locations within an NWS region.
 - 3.5.3 National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Director: For candidates solely affecting NCEP.
 - 3.5.4 Office Directors: For candidates solely affecting an Office.
 - 3.5.5 W/OST Director: For candidates with nationwide, multi-regional, or multi-office impact, or which have substantial resource or other implications.
 - 3.6 The approving official's science recommendation, using the evaluation criteria described in paragraph 3.2, will be documented and kept on file.

4. Performance measures:
 - a. The number of documented science recommendations conducted at regional, center, and the headquarters levels.
 - b. The time it takes for the science review and approval process.
5. This policy directive is supported by the references and glossary of terms listed in Attachment 1.

Signed by _____ March 25, 2004
Brigadier General David L. Johnson, USAF (Ret.) Date
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

Attachment 1

REFERENCES AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

References

NWS Policy Directive 10-1, *Operations and Services Improvement Process*
NWS Policy Directive 10-30, *User Needs and Scientific/Technologic Opportunities*
NWS Policy Directive 10-31, *Operational Requirements Validation*
NWS Policy Directive 30-1, *Systems Deployment, Maintenance, and Assessment*
NWS Policy Directive 80-1, *Acquisition Program Management*
NWS Policy Directive 80-3, *Systems Engineering*
NWS Policy Directive 80-4, *Science and Technology Planning and Programming*
NWS Policy Directive 80-6, *Research and Analysis for Improving Operations and Services*
NWS Policy Directive 80-8, *Development for Improving Operations and Services*

Glossary

Approving Official. NWS official who is authorized to approve science review evaluation assessments and their disposition.

S&T Candidate. Candidate for operational implementation as part of the NWS operations and services improvement process.

Sponsor. Person or agency within the NWS that takes responsibility for a S&T candidate and ensures it is considered as part of the NWS operations and services improvement process.