The credibility of the EAR Committee of Visitors (COV) mechanism rests, in large measure, on the selection of credible, independent experts who are able to provide balanced and impartial assessments to NSF.

The COV represented a broad segment of disciplines, consistent with the scope of activities within both Sections of the Division of Earth Sciences. The committee represented experts in Education and Human Resources; Instrumentation and Facilities; Geobiology and Low Temperature Geochemistry; Geoinformatics; Geomorphology and Land Use Dynamics; Geophysics; Hydrologic Sciences; Paleoclimate; Petrology and Geochemistry; Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology; and Tectonics. The COV membership was diverse in gender, race, ethnicity, geographic region, and types of institutions, including federal agencies and research level.

Dr. Jacqueline Dixon served as the Chair of the COV. She was present for the entire COV meeting, led the development of the report, and circulated it to the committee for approval. Dr. Lihini Aluwihare from University of California, San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, served as the representative from the Advisory Committee for Geosciences. The four-day COV was held June 21-24, 2021. Due to the COVID19 pandemic the COV was held entirely virtually.

All conflicts of interest between COV members and EAR Program staff were handled according to the NSF ethics rules.

COV Membership:

Chair: Jacqueline Dixon, University of South Florida

AC-GEO: Lihini Aluwihare, UC San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Jose Luis Antinano, University of Indiana Bloomington

Estella Atekwana, University of Delaware
Wendy Bohrson, Colorado School of Mines
Michele Cooke, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Anne Egger, Central Washington University
Abby Kavner, University of California Los Angeles
Charles Mandeville, U.S. Geological Survey
Arnold Miller, University of Cincinnati
Patrick Reed, Cornell University
Jennifer A. Roberts, University of Kansas
Wendy Smythe, University of Minnesota, Duluth