

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

- 1.1 Purpose.** This chapter establishes policy for ensuring scientific integrity in the conduct of scientific activities.
- 1.2 Scope.** This policy applies to all functions under the authority of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (AS-IA), including the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) (collectively, “Indian Affairs (IA)”). This policy applies to all information disseminated by IA, including information that IA receives from tribal governments or tribal organizations operating IA programs under grants, contracts or compacts (including but not limited to those authorized by the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended (25 U.S.C. 450 *et seq.*)) and thereafter disseminates.
- 1.3 Policy.**
- A. Preservation of Scientific Integrity.** IA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of scientific activities conducted by its personnel and contractors (including tribes acting under contracts, compacts, or grants). IA personnel who conduct scientific activities shall be held accountable for the integrity of the information they collect and analyze, and the conclusions they present, and shall understand their obligation to abide by 10 IAM 4 (Scientific Conduct) and by the Federal Policy on Research Misconduct, 65 FR 76260 (December 6, 2000). IA will take appropriate action to protect the public from the effects of inaccurate or misleading scientific information disseminated by IA, and from violations of the Federal Policy on Research Misconduct.
 - B. Third Party Scientific Information.** If IA relies upon technical or scientific information submitted or developed by a third party, that information is subject to the appropriate standards of objectivity, utility, and scientific integrity. In instances where the information is relied upon but is not verifiable, the source must be made transparent to the public, and such original information will not be subject to Information Quality Guidelines.
 - C. Transparency.** Scientific information shall have a high degree of transparency regarding: (1) the source of the data used; (2) the various assumptions employed; (3) the scientific methods applied; and (4) the statistical procedures employed. If access to data and methods cannot occur due to compelling interests such as privacy, trade secrets, intellectual property, the federal Indian trust responsibility, or other confidentiality protections, to the extent practicable, IA will verify the integrity of the information and document that verification steps were taken.
 - D. Internal Review and Peer Review.** IA shall ensure appropriate internal and/or peer review of all scientific and scholarly information prior to use in decision-making, regulatory processes, or dissemination to the public, regardless of media (i.e., print, digital, audiovisual, or Web). Any information IA determines to be either “influential scientific information” and/or “highly influential scientific assessment” will require

more specific, independent peer review consistent with the OMB Peer Review Bulletin, 70 FR 2664 (January 14, 2005).

1.4 Authority.

- A. **DOI Information Quality Guidelines** establish policy to ensure and maximize the objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated to the public by the Department. These guidelines implement the **Information Quality Act (P.L. 106-554 Section 515)** and associated **OMB Guidelines (67 FR 8452-8460)**.
- B. **Executive Order 12866** establishes a government-wide policy that each agency shall base its regulatory decisions on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic and other information.
- C. **305 DM 2 - Departmental Science Efforts, Research and Development Council** (http://elips.doi.gov/app_dm/act_getfiles.cfm?relnum=3753) requires that science must be integrated into and used in setting regulatory and management policies in the Department and its bureaus.
- D. **OMB Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664-2677)** establishes government-wide requirements for the peer review of “influential scientific information” and “highly influential scientific assessments.” It also establishes requirements for publishing peer review plans on a Web site and annual reporting of associated peer review activities to the OMB.
- E. **Federal Policy on Research Misconduct, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President (65 FR 76260-76264 (December 6, 2000))** (http://www.ostp.gov/html/001207_3.html)
- F. **Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch (5 CFR 2635)** (http://www.usoge.gov/pages/laws_regs_fedreg_stats/oge_regs/5cfr2635.html)
- G. **370 DM 752 - Departmental Personnel Program, Discipline and Adverse Actions** (http://elips.doi.gov/app_DM/act_getfiles.cfm?relnum=3705) establishes the policy and procedures for administering employee discipline within the Department, and requires that Department employees are expected to demonstrate high standards of integrity.

1.5 Responsibilities. AS-IA Office Directors, Bureau Directors, Deputy Bureau Directors, and Regional Directors are responsible for ensuring that their staffs implement and are accountable to scientific integrity policies and procedures.

1.6 Definitions.

- A. The definitions stated in 10 IAM 1 are incorporated herein by reference.

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- B. Highly influential scientific assessment.** A scientific assessment that: (i) could have a potential impact of more than \$500 million in any year; or (ii) is novel, controversial, precedent-setting, or has significant interagency interest.
- C. Influential.** When used in the phrase “influential scientific information,” means that IA can reasonably determine that dissemination of the information will or does have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or private sector decisions.
- D. Scientific assessment.** Evaluation of a body of scientific or technical knowledge which typically synthesizes multiple factual inputs, data, models, assumptions, and/or implies best professional judgment to bridge uncertainties in the available information.
- E. Scientific method.** A method of research in which a problem is identified, relevant data are gathered, a hypothesis is formulated from these data, and the hypothesis is empirically tested.