

# Peer Review Overview

Ali Hewett, Strategy & Analysis Lead



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**  
Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
& RENEWABLE ENERGY  
WATER POWER TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE

# What is a DOE Peer Review?

Peer review is defined as:

*A rigorous, formal, and documented evaluation process using objective criteria and qualified and independent reviewers to make a judgment of the technical/ scientific/business merit, the actual or anticipated results, and the productivity and management effectiveness of an Office's portfolio of projects.<sup>2</sup>*

- Essential to providing robust, documented feedback to inform program planning
- Essential to designing future program and/to enhancing existing efforts

**2022 PROJECT PEER REVIEW**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
WATER POWER TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE



# 2022 Peer Review Eligibility

- **Active projects** during the Peer Review Period: **FY 2019, 2020, and 2021** (October 2018 to September 2021)
- Examples of projects that the program could choose to omit from the 2022 Peer Review:
  - A project that was active in FY19–FY21 but has already been peer reviewed, and there would be minimal value in reviewing again.
  - A project active in FY19 but only for closeout activities. Not much work was completed in FY19, and/or the project was already reviewed in the 2019 Peer Review.
  - A project using FY20 \$ but was not awarded/started until FY21 and was only focused on preliminary scoping activities in FY20.
  - An Annual Operating Plan (AOP) associated with a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) project. In most cases, lab support to or involvement in a FOA project will be captured in the FOA project's overall presentation.

# 2022 Peer Review Strategies

## **Simplified Virtual Event Logistics**

- Split the review up by program.
- Spread the review out into shorter blocks of presentations to create more manageable and engaging time blocks.
- Simplify the event itself—no external plenary presentations or networking events.
- Allow presenters to prerecord or present live, but require live Q&A.

## **Improved Principal Investigator (PI) Presentation Templates**

- Simplify the presentation template (and evaluation criteria) to allow presenters to showcase their approach and results and why the project is impactful.
- Remove boiler plate challenges/approaches from presentations.
- Remove the project narrative requirement.
- Submit logic models for Annual Operating Plans (AOPs)/lab projects.
- Make budgetary info for AOPs and Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) consistent.
- Make start and end dates consistent.

## **Reasonable Reviewer Requirements**

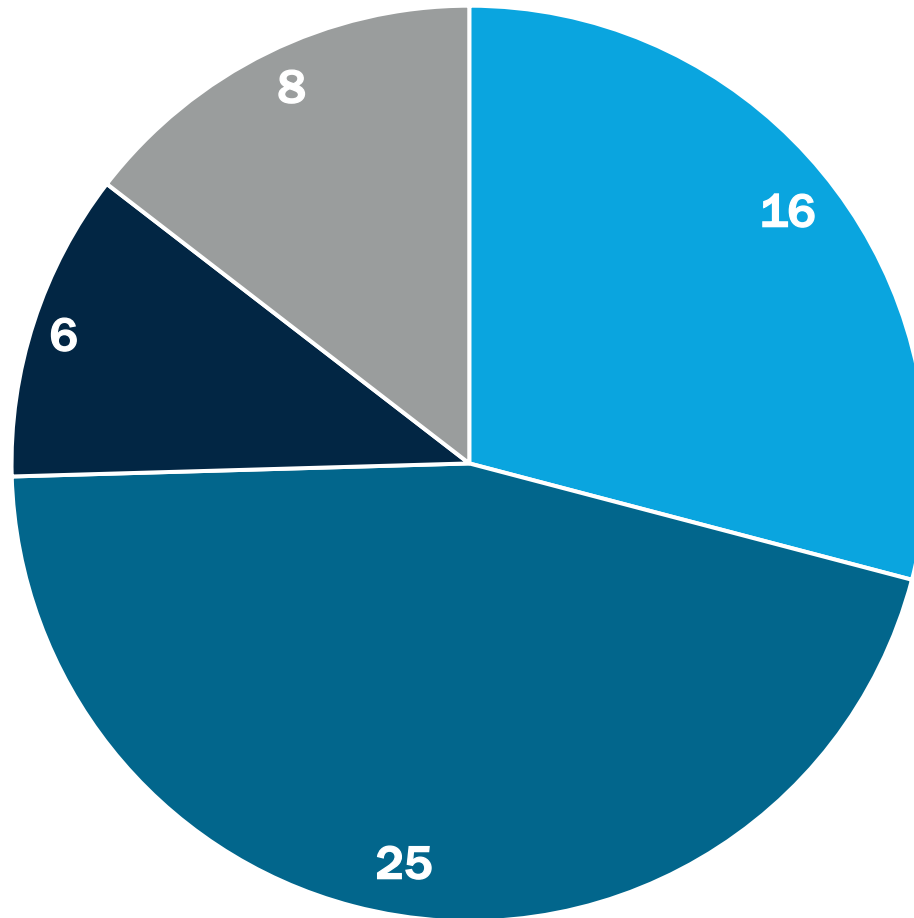
- Continue to provide as much material as we can ahead of the review, including Multi-Year Program Plan (MYPP), slide decks, logic models, and other resources.
- Include fewer projects for review.
- Increase number of reviewers.
- Simplify the criteria to reduce time spent filling out reviews in reviewer tool.

# Hydropower Program Review Panels

Innovations for Low-Impact Hydropower Growth		
David Sinclair	Advanced Hydro Solutions	Panel Lead
Doug Spaulding*	Nelson Energy	Reviewer
Erik Steimle	Rye Development	Reviewer
Michael Kerr	New England Hydropower Company LLC	Reviewer
HydroWIRES		
Tom Acker	Northern Arizona University	Panel Lead
Elaine Hart*	Moment Energy Insights LLC	Reviewer
Bente Brunnes	Rainpower	Reviewer
Debbie Mursch	GE Renewable Energy	Reviewer
Fleet Modernization, Maintenance, and Cybersecurity		
Cathy Campbell*	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Panel Lead
Craig Bourassa	Avista Utilities	Reviewer
John Bakken	McMillian Jacobs Associates	Reviewer
Ram Veeraraghavan	Tacoma Power	Reviewer
Environmental and Hydrologic Systems Science		
Shannon Ames	Low Impact Hydropower Institute	Program Chair/Panel Lead
Cheryl Laastch	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Reviewer
Twyla Cheatwood*	NOAA	Reviewer
Wendy Bley	Klienschmidt Associates	Reviewer
Prizes		
Donna Vincent Roa	USAID's Partnerships Incubator, The Kaizen Company	Prize Reviewer
Sally Gutierrez	Environmental Protection Agency	Prize Reviewer
Craig Connelly	NYSERDA	Hydro Prize Reviewer Only

\*Selected to also review the crosscutting Hydropower STEM and Workforce project.

# Number of Projects for Review by Activity Area



- Innovations for Low-Impact Hydropower Growth
- HydroWIRES
- Fleet Modernization, Maintenance, and Cybersecurity
- Environmental and Hydrologic Systems Science

<sup>1</sup>Prizes will be reviewed by both the activity area review panel and additional prize-specific reviewers.

<sup>2</sup>Includes one crosscutting STEM project that will be reviewed twice—by both hydro and marine reviewers.

<sup>3</sup>Hydro data projects will be incorporated into the other hydro activity areas/review sessions.

# Hydropower Program Agenda At-A-Glance

- July 25–29, 2022
- [Detailed agenda online](#)

DAY 1 – MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022 HYDROPOWER PROGRAM OPENING PLENARY		
Start (ET)	End (ET)	Presentation Topic
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	WPTO Overview
10:30 AM	10:45 AM	Peer Review Introduction
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
11:30 AM	11:40 AM	Hydropower Program Overview
11:40 AM	12:05 PM	Data Access, Analytics, and Workforce Development Activity Area Overview
12:05 PM	12:35 PM	Hydropower STEM and Workforce Development
12:35 PM		<b>ADJOURN AND MOVE TO ACTIVITY AREA BREAKOUTS (Days 2–4)</b>

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022 PARALLEL ACTIVITY AREA PROJECT REVIEW SESSIONS		
Start (ET)	End (ET)	Presentation Topic
10:00 AM	2:15 PM	Innovations for Low-Impact Hydropower Growth
10:00 AM	2:40 PM	HydroWIRES
10:00 AM	12:00 PM	Environmental and Hydrologic Systems Science

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022 PARALLEL ACTIVITY AREA PROJECT REVIEW SESSIONS		
Start (ET)	End (ET)	Presentation Topic
10:00 AM	2:40 PM	Innovations for Low-Impact Hydropower Growth
10:00 AM	2:15 PM	HydroWIRES
10:00 AM	12:15 PM	Environmental and Hydrologic Systems Science

DAY 4 – THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022 PARALLEL ACTIVITY AREA PROJECT REVIEW SESSIONS		
Start (ET)	End (ET)	Presentation Topic
10:00 AM	2:40 PM	HydroWIRES
10:00 AM	1:50 PM	Fleet Modernization, Maintenance, & Cybersecurity

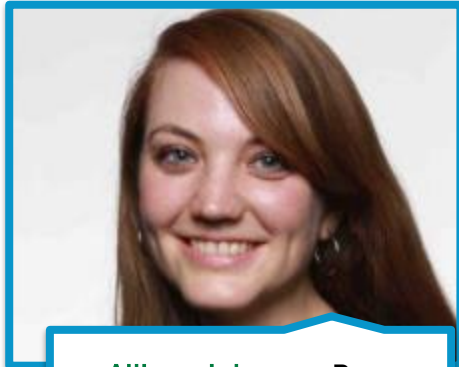
DAY 5 – FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2022 REVIEWER DEBRIEF WITH WPTO		
Start (ET)	End (ET)	Presentation Topic
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	HydroWIRES
11:00 AM	11:45 AM	Environmental and Hydrologic Systems Science
11:45 AM	12:15 PM	STEM and Workforce Development
1:00 PM	2:00 PM	Innovations for Low-impact Hydropower Growth
2:00 PM	2:30 PM	Fleet Modernization, Maintenance, and Cybersecurity

# Timekeeping

- Most project presentations will be kept to a strict 15 minutes, with 10 minutes of Q&A following.
- Some presentations were given longer timeslots. The ratio is still the same.
- Review session moderators will send a chat to Presenters group "2 minutes left."
- Once your time is up, the moderator will verbally notify you it is time to move onto the Q&A portion.
- Please respect your fellow presenters by keeping within your allotted time.
- The Review Panel Lead will kick off the Q&A, then allow questions from the other reviewers, and then the audience, time permitting.
- Any questions left unanswered due to time limitations can be addressed



# Thank You to the Peer Review Team!



Allison Johnson, Peer Review Advisor



Bill McShane, Marine Energy Program Lead



Charlene Goldman, Marine Energy Program Support



Dana McCoskey, Hydropower Program Lead



Madden Sciubba, Hydropower Program Support



Melissa Ladd, Peer Review Support



Maxine Hillman, Event Support



Amanda Larson, Operations Support

# Questions?

Ali Hewett

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