

§ 12.6

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§ 12.6 Establishment of advisory committees.

(a) No advisory committee shall be established under this part unless such establishment is:

(1) Specifically authorized by statute or the President of the United States; or

(2) Determined as a matter of formal record by the Director after consultation with the Secretariat, with timely notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER as a matter of the public interest, in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the agency by law.

(b) The determination required by paragraph (a)(2) of this section shall:

(1) Contain a clearly defined purpose for the advisory committee;

(2) Require the membership of the advisory committee to be fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented in the functions performed by the advisory committee;

(3) Contain appropriate provisions to assure that the advice and recommendations of the advisory committee will not be inappropriately influenced by the appointing authority or by any special interest, but will instead be the result of the advisory committee's independent judgment;

(4) Contain provisions dealing with the date for submission of reports (if any), the duration of the advisory committee, and the publication of reports and other materials, to the extent that the agency determines the provisions of § 12.16 of this part to be inadequate; and

(5) Contain provisions which will assure that the advisory committee will have adequate staff (either supplied by the Agency or employed by it), will be provided adequate quarters, and will have funds available to meet its other necessary expenses.

(c) Consultation with the Secretariat may be in the form of a letter from the Agency describing the nature and purpose of the proposed advisory committee, including an explanation of why the functions of the proposed committee could not be performed by FEMA or by an existing committee. The letter should describe the Agency's plan to attain balanced membership on the proposed committee, as prescribed

in paragraph (b)(2) of this section. If the Secretariat is satisfied that the establishment of the advisory committee will be in accord with the Act, the Agency shall certify in writing that creation of the advisory committee is in the public interest.

(d) Unless otherwise specifically provided by statute or Presidential directive, advisory committees shall be utilized solely for advisory functions.

§ 12.7 Charter.

(a) No advisory committee established under this part shall meet or take any action until an advisory committee charter has been filed with the Agency and the standing Committee or Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives having legislative jurisdiction over the FEMA component to which the advisory committee renders its advice.

(b) The charter required by paragraph (a) of this section shall contain at least the following information:

(1) The committee's official designations;

(2) The committee's objectives and the scope of its activities;

(3) The period of time necessary for the committee to carry out its purposes;

(4) The FEMA component and official to whom the committee reports;

(5) The FEMA component responsible for providing the necessary support for the committee;

(6) A description of the duties for which the committee is responsible, and, if such duties are not solely advisory, specification of the authority for such functions;

(7) The estimated annual operating cost in dollars and man years for the committee;

(8) The estimated number in frequency of committee meetings;

(9) The committee's termination date, if less than 2 years from the date of committee's establishment; and

(10) The date the charter is filed.

(c) A copy of the charter required by paragraph (a) of this section shall also be furnished at the time of filing to the Library of Congress, Exchange and Gift Division, Federal Advisory Committee, Washington, DC 20540.