



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington, DC
15 May 2024

Engineer Regulation 1110-2-8166

Effective 15 June 2024

CECW-EC

Engineering and Design
Geotechnical, Geology, and Materials Community of Practice Organization

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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Purpose. This engineer regulation describes the organization of the Geotechnical, Geology, and Materials Community of Practice and the roles and responsibilities of its Geotechnical Advisory Board, subordinate communities of practice, and committees.

Applicability. This regulation applies to all Headquarters, United States Army Corps of Engineers staff elements, Divisions, Districts, Centers, and Field Operating Activities working with the Geotechnical, Geology, and Materials Community of Practice.

Distribution statement. Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

Proponent and exception authority. The proponent of this regulation is the Headquarters, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Construction Division (CECW-EC). The proponent has the authority to approve exceptions or waivers to this regulation that are consistent with controlling law and regulations. Only the proponent of a publication or form may modify it by officially revising or rescinding it.

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1. Purpose

This engineer regulation describes the organization of the Geotechnical, Geology, and Materials Community of Practice (GGM CoP) and the roles and responsibilities of its Geotechnical Advisory Board (GAB), subordinate communities of practice (sub-CoP), and committees.

2. Distribution statement

Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

3. References

See Appendix A.

4. Associated publications

This paragraph contains no entries.

5. Records management (recordkeeping) requirements

The records management requirement for all record numbers, associated forms, and reports required by this publication are addressed in the Records Retention Schedule – Army (RRS-A). Detailed information for all related record numbers is located in the Army Records Information Management System (ARIMS)/RRS-A at <https://www.arims.army.mil>. If any record numbers, forms, and reports are not current, addressed, and/or published correctly in ARIMS/RRS-A, see DA Pam 25-403 for guidance.

6. Mission Statement

a. The mission of the GAB, sub-CoPs, and committees is to support both the GGM CoP's mission and the Engineering and Construction Strategy. This includes:

- (1) Advancing the state of the practice
- (2) Facilitating communication
- (3) Maintaining technical competencies
- (4) Advocating for consistently delivering high technical quality.

b. Sub-CoPs provide GGM-related products and services and committees play a technical advisory role.

c. Sub-CoPs and committees facilitate GGM-related topics across all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) missions:

- (1) Sharing information
- (2) Lessons learned
- (3) Technical expertise
- (4) Training activities

7. Responsibilities

a. *Geotechnical Advisory Board*. The GAB advisory board is:

(1) Charged with facilitating and promoting GGM competencies at all levels of the organization and advocating for technical quality.

(2) Responsible for promoting career development; disseminating pertinent information throughout USACE.

(3) Responsible for reviewing and evaluating policy, technical criteria and practices, administrative procedures, and regulatory functions.

(4) Responsible for advising Headquarters, USACE on the state of the GGM community on behalf of District, Division, and Center proponents.

b. Subordinate communities of practice (Sub-CoP).

(1) *Drilling and Subsurface Exploration Subordinate Community of Practice (Sub-CoP).*

(a) This Sub-Cop is commonly referred to as the "Drilling Sub-Cop".

(b) Primarily composed of the eight USACE Drilling Production Centers (DPCs). The DPCs are located in both continental United States (CONUS) and outside continental United States (OCONUS) Districts.

(c) Provides consultation on all types of proposed drilling, subsurface exploration, instrument, and relief well installation and maintenance to ensure proper methods and designs are applied to deliver high quality results.

(d) May perform work in-house or provide oversight of work by others.

(2) *Environmental and Engineering Geophysics Subordinate Community of Practice (Sub-CoP).*

(a) Facilitates sharing information and resources.

(b) Acts as a proponent for applying geophysical methods across all USACE missions through advocacy, project risk reduction, and enhancement of the technical expertise.

(c) Provides consultation on all proposed contracted and in-house geophysical services to ensure proper methods and designs are applied.

(d) May perform work in-house or provide oversight of work by others.

(3) *Instrumentation and Performance Monitoring Subordinate Community of Practice (Sub-CoP).*

(a) Facilitates sharing information and resources.

(b) Acts as a proponent for applying appropriate instrumentation and monitoring programs.

(c) Ensures the appropriate level of evaluation for resultant data across USACE missions.

(d) Provides consultation on all aspects of instrumentation and monitoring programs, including Surveillance and Monitoring Plan development, instrumentation installation, automation, maintenance, data visualization and evaluations, and decommissioning.

(e) May perform instrumentation installation and automation, including data logger programming, and performs instrumentation data evaluations.

(f) May perform work in-house or provide oversight of work by others.

(4) *Laboratory and In Situ Materials Testing Subordinate Community of Practice (Sub-CoP).*

(a) This Sub-Cop is commonly referred to as the "Labs Sub-Cop".

(b) Provides in-house testing, data reviews, and evaluation for materials and in situ testing for all USACE missions.

(c) Primarily composed of the nine USACE districts and project labs in both CONUS and OCONUS. Each lab has unique capabilities in soil, rock, concrete, and other materials testing.

(d) Provides consultation on all aspects of materials testing.

c. *Committees.*

(1) *Advanced Geotechnical Modeling Committee.* This committee's responsibilities include:

(a) Creating a portfolio of enterprise software across the GGM enterprise.

(b) Providing a single technical point of contact for each software package.

(c) Recommending software packages and number of licenses.

(d) Developing training and example problems.

(e) Providing advise on modeling software for USACE projects.

(2) *Anchors and Tensioned Micropiles Committee.* This committee jointly supports and advises the GGM and Structural CoPs. It provides technical capability and advocates for the proper design, construction, and long-term performance of anchors and tensioned micropiles used for all USACE missions.

(3) *Blasting Committee.* This committee:

(a) Facilitates sharing information and resources and acts as a proponent for applying appropriate rock-blasting techniques, blasting oversight, and vibration monitoring across all USACE missions.

(b) Coordinates the advocacy and enhancement of the technical expertise of all members of the CoP.

(c) Shares expertise, capabilities, and facilitates knowledge transfer across USACE in the fields of underwater, surface, and subsurface rock blasting and vibration monitoring.

(4) *Groundwater Working Committee.* This working committee:

(a) Jointly supports the GGM and Hydraulics, Hydrology, and Coastal CoPs.

(b) Ensures USACE maintains in-house technical capability and supports Districts pertaining to groundwater-related topics including groundwater modeling.

(c) Projects include water supply, dam and levee safety, wetlands restoration, construction-related dewatering, navigation, and groundwater remediation, among others.

(5) *Landslide Committee.* This committee is responsible for:

(a) Facilitating, maintaining, and building in-house technical capability for response to routine and emergency slope stability events.

(b) Advising the GGM CoP on all aspects of landslides, including but not limited to, policy, guidance, and funding.

(c) Maintaining the Landslide Advisory Team and coordinating their efforts.

(d) Coordinating with external agencies on implementation of the National Landslide Preparedness Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-323).

(6) *Materials Committee.* This committee:

(a) Supports and advises the GGM and Structural CoPs on materials related topics such as concrete, admixtures, and aggregates.

(b) Provides in-house technical capability and support for material inspections and investigations and recommends proper repair plans for maintaining existing structures.

(c) Provides support and technical guidance for new design, construction, and long-term performance of concrete and other commonly used construction materials for USACE projects.

(7) *Project Technical Data Management Committee*. This committee:

(a) Establishes and disseminates knowledge for designing and implementing data management and delivery systems for engineering technical data related to USACE projects. This data includes Geospatial and property information related to geotech, geology, and materials. Data includes information related to project design and construction features such as cutoff walls, grout curtains, embankment materials, concrete materials, etc.

(b) Addresses various issues and inconsistencies pertaining to data management.

(c) Facilitates effective data-driven, risk-informed decision-making by implementing effective and efficient data management systems.

(8) *Seismic Committee*. This committee:

(a) Acts as a proponent for seismic safety.

(b) Acts as a proponent for appropriate seismic safety-related guidance and policy across all USACE missions.

(c) Jointly supports and advises the GGM and Structural CoPs.

(d) Provides advice on topics related to seismic policy, public laws, and executive orders.

(e) Advocates for high-quality, seismic-related design and evaluation topics. The design items include seismic hazard analysis, site investigation, and site characterization. The evaluation items include seismic behaviors of natural conditions and human-made structures, seismic risk assessment, seismic related research, strong-motion instrumentation, and post-earthquake response.

8. Establishment and operations of subordinate communities of practice (sub-CoP) and committees

a. Every sub-CoP and committee must have a charter that is reviewed and approved by the CoP lead every three years. All sub-CoP and committee charters are posted to the GGM Knowledge Management Portal (KMP)

<https://usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-GGM>.

b. Sub-CoPs and committees are led by a chairperson and have an administrative structure identified in their respective charters. Chairperson nominations must be submitted for review and approval by the GGM CoP Lead. Chairperson positions are required to be renewed every three years. Administrative members must be proposed and approved by the chairperson.

c. Participation in sub-CoP and committee meetings is open to all who are interested. Individuals who wish to participate in a sub-CoP or committee should contact the chairperson to be included on the distribution list.

d. Sub-CoPs and committees must hold meetings at least quarterly, and at least one educational opportunity per year. Advance notice, agenda, and minutes of each meeting will be furnished to the GGM CoP Lead and committee members and posted to the GGM CoP KMP website.

e. Travel and per diem expenses incurred by sub-CoP and committee members while performing associated activities are furnished by the requesting major subordinate command, district, or office.

f. Salaries for sub-CoP and committee members while on associated activities are furnished by their employing organizations or by designated funding sources for specific tasks.

g. Sub-CoP and committee activities can generally be accomplished by members at their regular duty station.

h. Sub-CoPs and committees must summarize their activities in an annual report to the GGM CoP Lead.

Appendix A References

Section I

Required Publications

Unless otherwise indicated, all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers publications are available on the USACE website at <https://publications.usace.army.mil>. Army publications are available on the Army Publishing Directorate website at <https://armypubs.army.mil>.

DA Pam 25-403

Army Guide to Recordkeeping

GGM Knowledge Management Portal (KMP)

<https://usace.dps.mil/sites/KMP-GGM>

PL 116-323

National Landslide Preparedness Act of 2020

<https://www.govinfo.gov>

Section II

Prescribed Forms

This section contains no entries.