

RECOVER Document Approval Process
FINAL 061305

The RECOVER document approval process has been designed to clearly distinguish between RECOVER work products and sponsoring agency work products and to ensure the sovereignty of RECOVER's scientific recommendations. The following are some key principles and procedures for document development and review.

- RECOVER documents are unalterable once they officially leave RECOVER, but sponsoring agencies may take their own course separate from the RECOVER work products.
- RECOVER work products belong to RECOVER.
- RECOVER documents are available to the public.
- Appropriations decisions made later in the process could alter the implementation of RECOVER's technical recommendations.
- RECOVER conducts internal technical reviews of draft documents and may conduct external technical reviews or peer reviews of draft products. Document reviews are identified in the work plan for document development.
- Individual scientists or scientific teams should comment during the internal RECOVER review process. Agency comments should be held until formal agency consultation.
- Formal agency review and consultation with the Task Force, agencies and Tribes is not a responsibility of RECOVER but is conducted by the sponsoring agencies.
- Once RECOVER finalizes a document and delivers it to the sponsoring agencies, it is up to those sponsors whether to continue the approval process. If sponsoring agencies request modifications to the RECOVER document, RLG will consider the request and decide whether or not to reinitiate document development.
- Technical teams develop a work plan for RECOVER documents. RLG approves work plans and identifies which documents will require RLG approval. The process for document development and RLG approval is illustrated in the attached flow chart.
- Many RECOVER documents will not require RLG approval for release. However, if technical teams cannot reach consensus on the content of a document that would not otherwise require RLG approval, the chairs will elevate the issues to RLG to reconsider the plan for finalizing the document.
- RECOVER provides informational updates to agencies and public and makes drafts available for external consumption.
- RECOVER accepts comments from agencies through their RECOVER membership.

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