

Dr. Clive Neal
Department of Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences
University of Notre Dame
156 Fitzpatrick Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556



9 August 2011

Dear Dr. Neal,

It pleases me to inform you that the U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling (USAC) has selected you to serve as a member of the Proposal Evaluation Panel (PEP) of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP). Your three-year term begins 1 October 2011 and extends through 30 September 2014, though as we transition into a new drilling program, this date may change. For your information, I have attached the PEP terms of reference. Please reply as soon as possible to accept this invitation, so that I may inform others as necessary of your appointment.

As a PEP member you should expect to prepare for and attend two panel meetings per year, typically in May and November. The meeting venues generally rotate among the IODP member nations. You will receive meeting announcements approximately two months in advance from the IODP Management International office. The Consortium for Ocean Leadership will support your travel costs through the U.S. Science Support Program (USSSP) and work with you to issue airline tickets. See the Ocean Leadership travel policy at: <<http://www.oceanleadership.org/travel>>.

If you have any questions about your specific duties or other panel-related matters, you may contact the IODP-MI science coordinators <science@iodp.org> or the PEP chair. See also the IODP Web site <www.iodp.org> for general information about the program. For planning purposes, please note that the next PEP meeting is tentatively scheduled for 30 November – 3 December 2011 in California, USA.

Lastly, I want to stress that the panel relies upon the regular attendance of its members to function properly and maintain an appropriate balance of expertise at each meeting. If you cannot attend a particular meeting, please inform me as soon as possible so that we may find an alternate to fill in for you. If you miss several meetings, we may seek to replace you with a new member before your term ends.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve the scientific ocean drilling community in this important capacity.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey D. Schuffert, Ph.D.
Director, U.S. Science Support Program