

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURAL SAFETY OF DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) FACILITIES

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities.

B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES: The Committee provides advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on all matters of structural safety in the construction and remodeling of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities and recommends standards for use by VA in the construction and alteration of facilities as prescribed under title 38, U.S.C. §8105.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSES: The Committee is a continuing one. Its services will be necessary during the duration of VA's programs to build, remodel or inspect facilities over which VA has direct jurisdiction or for which it contracts.

D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Committee reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

E. AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE: The Office of Construction & Facilities Management within VA provides administrative and logistical support for all Committee activities.

F. DUTIES FOR WHICH THE COMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE: The Committee reviews appropriate state and local laws, ordinances, building codes, climatic and seismic conditions, relevant existing information, and current research and recommends changes to the current Department of Veterans Affairs standards for structural safety, on a state or regional basis. The Committee, when appropriate, recommends the engagement of the services of other experts or consultants to assist in preparing reports on present knowledge in specific technical areas. The Committee reviews questions regarding the application of codes and standards and makes recommendations regarding new and existing facilities when requested to do so by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

As required by statute, membership includes at least one architect and one structural engineer who are experts in structural resistance to fire, earthquake, and other natural disasters and who are not employees of the Federal Government. Ex officio members include the Director, Office of Construction & Facilities Management.

The Committee will be composed of approximately five members. Several members may be Regular Government Employees (RGE), but the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees (SGE).

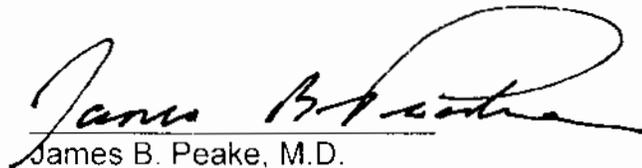
G. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS: VA financial support for the work of the Committee is estimated at \$50,000 per year and 0.2 FTE staff-years. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Committee meets as necessary to perform its functions, but not less than once a year. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

I. COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE: None.

J. DATE CHARTER FILED:

Approved:



James B. Peake, M.D.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Date: 3/12/08