

## ERG Peer Reviewer Search and Selection Process

Under contract to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) was tasked with identifying and selecting qualified experts to review MPCA's Wild Rice Sulfate Standards Study and Analysis. Areas of expertise required by MPCA for the peer review were:

- Biogeochemistry with an emphasis on sulfur in surface water and sediments
- Freshwater plant ecology/physiology
- Groundwater and surface water hydrology
- Environmental toxicology
- Freshwater chemistry
- Knowledge of water quality standards development

MPCA distributed an announcement describing the context for and purpose of the review, the expert nomination process, the expertise needed for the review (expertise criteria), and instructions about how to nominate an expert or self-nominate (see <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?qid=20800>). The notice directed interested parties to send nominations directly to ERG by April 29, 2014. Concurrent with the nomination process, ERG conducted its own independent national and international search for qualified candidates.

Based on these two inputs, ERG compiled a master list of candidates. ERG contacted every candidate via e-mail or phone, asking those who were interested in being considered for the review to fill out an online form denoting their areas of relevant expertise; indicate their availability for the review; complete a detailed conflict-of-interest form; and provide a current CV/resume.

ERG then conducted a multi-tiered internal review of candidates' resumes, COI forms, and availability information. This process involved detailed consideration of the candidates' experience and demonstrated expertise in their field(s), and their professional record as demonstrated by peer-reviewed publications, awards, service to relevant professional societies, and affiliations. Qualified candidates were carefully screened to confirm that they would not have a conflict of interest in performing the review. Experts who did not have sufficient qualifications and/or had a conflict or potential bias in performing the review were screened out. This process generated a pool of qualified, available, and interested candidates.

ERG then shared with MPCA the CVs of candidates in the pool for confirmation that the candidates were technically qualified to perform the review. Upon ERG's receipt of MPCA's concurrence that the candidates met the required expertise areas, ERG then selected seven reviewers from this pool who, collectively, best covered the multiple expertise areas required. ERG also selected one of the reviewers to serve as chair based on demonstrated experience serving as a chair and breadth of qualifications across many of the required expertise areas. ERG then notified MPCA that the following experts would serve as reviewers:

Arts	Gertie H.P.	Alterra, Wageningen University and Research Centre, Netherlands
Axelrad	Donald	Florida A&M University
*Brezonik	Patrick	University of Minnesota (retired)
Fennessy	Siobhan	Kenyon College
Galatowitsch	Susan	University of Minnesota
Hanson	Mark	University of Manitoba
Pollman	Curtis	Aqua Lux Lucis, Inc.

\*Meeting Technical Chair