

SEDAR Operational Assessments Topical Working Groups Summary Information

Topical Working Groups (TWGs) are small working groups assembled to discuss specific topics identified in the Statements of Work for a given SEDAR Operational Assessment. They are comprised of members of the analytic team, SSC, stakeholders, and other technical experts and provide feedback and recommendations to the analytic team conducting the assessment.

TWG Process:

In most cases, the TWG process should be organized around webinars. Two SEDAR-run webinars are noticed in the Federal Register. These webinars are open to the public and follow standard SEDAR procedures. A TWG will convene a workshop only if the Cooperators deem that an in-person meeting is necessary.

- The first webinar is a Scoping webinar, where the TWG members and data providers discuss the issues that were identified when the TWG was proposed. They discuss potential data that may be available, and possible approaches to consider while evaluating the issue.
- The second webinar is the Recommendations webinar, where the TWG members finalize their recommendations to the Analytic Team regarding the data or assessment issues they reviewed.
- Between the two publicly noticed webinars, the working group members may utilize an IPT-style approach (free discussions amongst appointed participants and preliminary decisions by telephone, webinar, or email) to facilitate some of their discussion, with final decisions reviewed during the public webinars or workshops.

SEDAR provides logistical support to the TWGs:

- For TWGs held via webinars, SEDAR will provide logistical support for the publicly noticed webinars. Any SSC or other stipends that may be required for individual participants will be provided by the Cooperator.
- For TWGs that require an in-person meeting, SEDAR will provide logistical support, cover meeting expenses, and provide travel support for a specific number of appointed participants, as allowed by the budget. Any SSC or other stipends that may be required for individual participants will be provided by the Cooperator.

Participation:

In order to participate in all aspects of the TWGs, individuals must be appointed by a Cooperator.

- Cooperators are asked to appoint individuals to serve on specific TWGs for a given assessment and follow their approved appointment procedures as for other SEDAR processes.
- While anyone can attend the publicly noticed webinars hosted by SEDAR, to participate in the IPT-style discussions, participants must be appointed to the TWG by a Cooperator.
- SEDAR does not have the ability to appoint participants to a TWG. Individuals can be added to the Interested Parties list managed by the SEDAR Coordinator to provide them notice about the SEDAR-run webinars.