§ 60501. Goal

The goal for the Administration's Earth Science program shall be to pursue a program of Earth observations, research, and applications activities to better understand the Earth, how it supports life, and how human activities affect its ability to do so in the future. In pursuit of this goal, the Administration's Earth Science program shall ensure that securing practical benefits for society will be an important measure of its success in addition to securing new knowledge about the Earth system and climate change. In further pursuit of this goal, the Administration shall, together with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other relevant agencies, provide United States leadership in developing and carrying out a cooperative international Earth observations-based research program.

(Pub. L. 111–314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3425.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	*Source (U.S. Code)*	*Source (Statutes at Large)*
60501	42 U.S.C. 17711.	Pub. L. 110–422, title II, § 201, Oct. 15, 2008, 122 Stat. 4784.

CARBON CYCLE REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS RESEARCH

Pub. L. 106–391, title III, § 315, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1595, provided that:

''(a) CARBON CYCLE REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator [of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration] shall develop a carbon cycle remote sensing applications research program—

''(A) to provide a comprehensive view of vegetation conditions;

''(B) to assess and model agricultural carbon sequestration; and

''(C) to encourage the development of commercial products, as appropriate.

''(2) USE OF CENTERS.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall use regional earth science application centers to conduct applications research under this section.

''(3) RESEARCHED AREAS.—The areas that shall be the subjects of research conducted under this section include—

''(A) the mapping of carbon-sequestering land use and land cover;

''(B) the monitoring of changes in land cover and management;

''(C) new approaches for the remote sensing of soil carbon; and

''(D) region-scale carbon sequestration estimation.

''(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 of funds authorized by section 102 [114 Stat. 1581] for fiscal years 2001 through 2002.''

EARTH OBSERVING SYSTEM

Pub. L. 102–588, title I, § 102(g), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5111, provided that:

''(1) The Administrator [of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration] shall carry out an Earth Observing System program that addresses the highest priority international climate change research goals as defined by the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

''(2)(A) Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 4, 1992], the Administrator shall submit to Congress a plan which will ensure that the highest priority measurements are maintained on schedule to the greatest extent practicable while lower priority measurements are deferred, deleted, or obtained through other means.

''(B) Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Core System of the Earth Observing System Data and Information System, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a Development Plan which—

''(i) identifies the highest risk elements of the development effort and the key advanced technologies required to significantly increase scientific productivity;

''(ii) provides a plan for the development of one or more prototype systems for use in reducing the development risk of critical system elements and obtaining feedback for scientific users;

''(iii) provides a plan for research into key advanced technologies;

''(iv) identifies sufficient resources for carrying out the Development Plan; and

''(v) identifies how the Earth Observing System Data Information System will connect to and utilize other federally-supported research networks, including the National Research and Education Network.''

§ 60502. Transitioning experimental research into operational services

(a) INTERAGENCY PROCESS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Administrator, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other relevant stakeholders, shall develop a process to transition, when appropriate, Administration Earth science and space weather missions or sensors into operational status. The process shall include coordination of annual agency budget requests as required to execute the transitions.

(b) RESPONSIBLE AGENCY OFFICIAL.—The Administrator and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall each designate an agency official who shall have the responsibility for and authority to lead the Administration's and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's transition activities and interagency coordination.

(c) PLAN.—For each mission or sensor that is determined to be appropriate for transition under subsection (a), the Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall transmit to Congress a joint plan for conducting the transition. The plan shall include the strategy, milestones, and budget required to execute the transition. The transition plan shall be transmitted to Congress no later than 60 days after the successful completion of the mission or sensor critical design review.

(Pub. L. 111–314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3425.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	*Source (U.S. Code)*	*Source (Statutes at Large)*
60502(a)	42 U.S.C. 17712(b).	Pub. L. 110–422, title II, § 204(b), (c), (d), Oct. 15, 2008, 122 Stat. 4785.
60502(b)	42 U.S.C. 17712(c).	
60502(c)	42 U.S.C. 17712(d).	

§ 60503. Reauthorization of Glory Mission

Congress reauthorizes the Administration to continue with development of the Glory Mission, which will examine how aerosols and solar energy affect the Earth's climate.