

Congressional EMP Commission

Congressional commissions, such as the Congressional EMP Commission, are instruments of last resort, established when departments and agencies and the U.S. Congress cannot achieve consensus on controversial issues vital to national interests. Typically, commissioners are senior statesman and nationally recognized scientists or experts, selected on a bi-partisan basis, so that their findings will be respected by all regardless of party affiliation. Congressional commissions typically are invested with broad legal powers to carry out investigations, compel departments and agencies to provide any and all relevant information, hold hearings to air all points of view, and to conduct research.

The EMP Commission was first established by the U.S. Congress in 2001 and served until 2008 to develop recommendations to protect the U.S. military forces, the national electric grid, and other critical infrastructures from nation-ending threats of nuclear EMP attack and natural GMD from solar super-storms. The findings of the EMP Commission Reports of 2004 and 2008 were conclusive. As of 2017, eleven additional studies conducted by or for federal agencies have all since concurred with the EMP Commission's conclusions that the U.S. bulk power distribution system can be disrupted or destroyed over large areas due to various man-made and naturally occurring events.

The EMP Commission was re-established in 2016 by the U.S. Congress due to the lack of implementation of the 2008 EMP Commission's recommendations to protect the electric grid and other critical infrastructures; the growing threat of nuclear EMP attack from North Korea and other potential adversaries; the increasing threat from natural GMD from solar super-storms; and the increasing threats from cyber warfare and physical attack. Since 2016, the re-established EMP Commission has not been authorized funding and vital administrative supports by the U.S. Congress to perform its task. Many believe the current EMP Commission's findings are not likely to be improved over the prior two EMP Commission Reports.

In regards to Congress' protracted withholding of funding and other vital administrative supports, the EMP Commission has been tasked to complete work that is vital to the safety of the American people, and as such, should be funded and supported by the U.S. government in its endeavors.