

FAQ – AGU Go Waiver

What is the AGU Go program?

AGU, like many other societies and organizations, records carefully selected talks given at its meetings and presents them online. By doing so, AGU serves several of its core values, including – the dissemination of scientific knowledge, open exchange of ideas and information, equality and inclusiveness, and unselfish cooperation.

These presentations particularly benefit scientists and those in allied fields who are unable to attend the in-person meeting, including government researchers who may be under travel restrictions, students, and viewers in developing nations. Selected lectures and sessions are live-streamed, and for the viewer's convenience they are also accessible on-demand.

The sessions included in the AGU GO program are selected based on the following criteria:

- Emerging science across disciplines;
- Significant discoveries within disciplines;
- Significant societal impact or implications;
- Persistent in the news or public dialogue;
- Newsworthy and exciting scientific discoveries;
- Anticipated presentations likely to be made by well-known or highly-regarded individuals and/or compelling presenters.

Who is the audience?

The worldwide Earth and space science community and those in allied fields are the primary audiences.

Why does AGU need this permission?

When a video is recorded or a photograph is taken, there are several intellectual properties in play, some which belong to the person who

created the video or photograph, and some which are retained by subject of the video or photograph.

Generally, if you record a video or take a picture, you would be considered the owner of the copyrights to that video or picture as the creator. However, the subjects of the videos and pictures retain their “right of publicity” rights – the right to control the use of their personal characteristics such as image (“likeness”) voice, actions and name. Even though the photographer or videographer owns the photographs and videos they capture (including the copyrights), generally they, or any other third party, cannot publicly display such photographs and videos beyond personal use without permission of the subjects captured in the photographs or videos. Such unauthorized use may violate the subjects’ right of publicity rights under various state laws.

In the context of AGU’s video recording of presentations, though AGU would own the recordings themselves as creator of the recordings, the presenters retain two intellectual properties. First, they retain their right of publicity rights. Second, they retain the copyrights to their presentation and presentation slides.

Without this permission, AGU cannot exhibit the videos publicly and share the knowledge presented at the meeting with its members, the scientific community and the public at-large. AGU asks for these permissions from presenters before a presentation is recorded, live-streamed and/or offered on-demand. AGU’s approach to securing permissions and the release/waiver form – (“Live Webcast & Video Permission Agreement”) – is similar to those used by many other scholarly scientific societies, including IEEE, ACS, and AAAS.

Why am I being asked to accept or decline this waiver?

AGU is asking all abstract submitters to either give permission or to not give their permission to be recorded in the event that their abstract should be accepted and scheduled into an AGU Go session. This waiver will **only** be applicable to those presentations selected to the AGU Go program. This

waiver will also be used as a tool for session conveners within the AGO Go program. This allows conveners to know who has given permission to be recorded and who has not, so that they are aware when scheduling their AGU Go session(s).

Does signing the Live Webcast & Video Permission Agreement mean that AGU will own my presentation?

No. AGU only has copyright ownership of the live-streamed broadcast and the recording itself. Signing the waiver does not give AGU rights to the content of the presentation or the words used by the presenter.

What about US government employees?

For U.S. government employees AGU has inserted the following clause into our waiver/permission to comport with U.S. laws –

“Applicable to Government Employees Only: I am a government employee and agree with the terms above, except as they apply to the copyright release as the Presentation was created as part of my official duties with the United States Government. As such, the copyright release will be governed by 17 U.S.C. § 105 stating that copyright protection is not available in the United States for any work of the United States Government and as such, is in the public domain subject to federal regulations.”

In signing the Live Webcast & Video Permission Agreement I am not only providing my permission to AGU, but also to its “licensees.” What or who are “licensees?”

AGU works with a third-party platform provider to provide the AGU GO platform. In order to present the live-streamed broadcasts and on-demand recordings on that online platform, AGU must allow the platform provider to use the video for the purposes of presenting the content on that platform. This is done through a license AGU grants to the platform provider (who would be a “licensee”).

What keeps a viewer from taking my slides and re-using them?

In addition to being unethical, that use would constitute a violation of the terms of use for the AGU Go platform through which the videos will be

viewed. AGU is presenting the recordings in a manner that discourages users from misusing the content, including slides. With that said, in the same way that someone could take a picture of the slide in the room during the presentation and use it in their own work, they could take a screen grab of the recording. AGU takes misuse of content and unethical behavior seriously, and would seek to enforce the terms of agreement in such an event.

Where will my video be presented and stored?

AGU is licensing and customizing a website that will be accessed through AGU.org, the primary portal for video access. Users of the website are required to provide basic information to register for the site. In addition, AGU will select some videos to be embedded on other sites, such as the Wiley online library, to further disseminate knowledge and/or to raise awareness of the AGU Go program. A small number of videos that are most relevant to public policy and/or a public audience, such as the Public Lecture and keynote lectures, will be presented on AGU's non-commercial YouTube channel. All video is stored by the website provider.

How long will the video of my presentation will be online?

The permission you give does not set a limit on the amount of time the video capturing your presentation (or portions thereof) may be displayed online or in other formats.

Some or all of the work described in my presentation is contained in a journal article that is under review, or has been accepted but not yet published. Does the video constitute prior publication and thus put my article at risk?

Other publishers and societies have long supported the role that meeting presentations play in the scientific process. AGU does not consider this use case to constitute prior publication and AGU has confirmed with the journals [Science](#) and [Nature](#) that recorded presentations **are an allowed** exception to their prior publication policy. Presentation and discussion of material submitted to a journal at scientific meetings is

encouraged (including at scientific conferences that are streamed or recorded).

What happens if I choose not to sign the waiver and grant permission?

Your decision to grant permission for your presentation to be recorded has no bearing on the status of your oral presentation. If you choose not to grant permission, the presentation will not be made available via live-streaming or on-demand recording.

Do I need to prepare my slides differently if I will be recorded?

There is no need to prepare differently for a presentation that will be recorded than you would any other oral presentation.
