

Summary Minutes of the

US Department of Energy (DOE)
Secretary of Energy Advisory Board
Public Meeting
July 20, 2011

Committee Members: William Perry, Chair; Frances Beinecke; Ralph Cicerone; John Deutch; Nicholas Donofrio; Chad Holliday; Michael McQuade; Matthew Rogers; Arthur Rosenfeld; Susan Tierney; Steven Westly; Daniel Yergin

Date and Time: 4:00 PM- 5:20 PM, August 15, 2011

Location: Teleconference

Purpose: Meeting of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board

SEAB Staff: Amy Bodette, Designated Federal Officer

Meeting Summary

SEAB members convened by teleconference to discuss the 90 day interim report of the Natural Gas Subcommittee. The meeting began with 30 minutes of public comment. At the conclusion of the public comment session, John Deutch gave a brief overview of the report. SEAB members discussed the report and made recommendations.

Public Comment

David Gould expressed concerns about health effects, particularly endocrine system disruption.

John Detwiler believes that the subcommittee improperly interpreted the charge and the task force should be relaunched with new membership. He believes that the members of the subcommittee are biased.

Jeff Zimmerman would like an environmental impact statement and a health impact statement for all of the Marcellus Shale. There should be a moratorium on drilling permits until the studies are conducted.

Susan Van Dolsen wants a longer comment period. She believes that the subcommittee members have conflicts of interest. She would like to see medical doctors present on the subcommittee and giving testimony. Drilling will cause devastation.

Larysa Dyrszka wants to see input from medical professionals. There should be exemptions for public health and the environment. Right now it is left up to the states and that is not happening.

Jeffrey Allison is concerned about pollution and would like to see a cumulative impact assessment statement.

Harold API stated that natural gas is a clean burning fuel and an affordable energy source. The development of natural gas has created 140,000 jobs and has the potential to create many more. Best practices have been put in to place and industry is subject to Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Industry is dedicated to ongoing improvement.

Katherine Scopic is concerned about the casings and frack water used in wells and the earthquakes caused by explosions. She would like to see the potential for earthquakes addressed in more depth in the report. There are effects on people, animals, plants, water and air. A reparation process needs to be in place before the drilling begins. Regulations do not prevent. The only prevention is not to engage in risky behavior.

Michael Deering called for real studies. This is a preliminary effort, but a cost-benefit analysis needs to be done. The benefit is huge.

Stephen Cleghorn stated that there is nothing that indicates scientific consensus that this does not cause environmental harm. This is immoral. We need to know more before we continue.

Ellen Harrison believes that a four day comment period is too short. The national database is a good idea, but it must contain anecdotal evidence of water contamination. Impacted people need to be represented. There is a need to recognize the huge number of abandoned wells. These wells need to be put in correctly because we rely on the casings to last forever.

Renee Hernandez wants a moratorium on drilling in the Marcellus Shale. West Virginia has been exploited for energy. There must be studies before drilling. The drilling has caused many accidents, adverse health effects, and immoral destruction of the water table.

Geological Service believes that the report overlooks state regulators and doesn't support funding for states. The report is an unfunded mandate to states that increases administrative costs and weakens state control. A cost-benefit analysis needs to be conducted. There is no need for a new organization or the creation of a portal without purpose.

Natural Gas Subcommittee Report

Natural Gas Subcommittee Chair John Deutch opened the discussion by thanking everyone for their hard work. He also reminded listeners on the call that we are still accepting public comment. Deutch stated

that the report as presented is a responsible balance of the varying points of view of the subcommittee. Based on their backgrounds, each subcommittee would have written the report differently.

To allow more time for discussion, Deutch did not describe the report at length. He did highlight that this report focuses only on shale gas and is not intended to apply to the entire oil and gas industry. Also of note are the huge regional differences of the shale deposits. These differences must be understood as well as the cumulative regional impacts. Deutch also cautioned that this report does not examine the adequacy of Federal and State regulations. Finally, the unifying theme of the report is to increase field measurements, disclosure and inform best practices. The recommendations of the report include 1) more public information about shale gas operations, 2) Improving air quality and protecting water quality, 3) full disclosure of all chemicals, 4) creation of industry -led shale gas best practice organization, 5) need for research and development.

Board members were supportive of the efforts of the subcommittee and suggested the following topics for the subcommittee's work in the next 90 days: more attention to public health impacts, more articulation of the complexities of the regulatory schemes in place, consideration of the importance of a safety culture at companies, whether financial responsibility requirements should be imposed on companies, and the creation of a timetable and action plan for implementation of the Subcommittee's recommendations.

The SEAB Board came to the consensus that the report should be transmitted to Secretary Chu with the above stated recommendations and a collection of public comments.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy Bodette, Designated Federal Officer

I hereby certify these minutes of the 8/15/11 SEAB meeting are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.


William J. Perry

Chair