

Methane Hydrates Advisory Committee (MHAC) Meeting
May 15, 2014
11:00am – 12:30pm (EDT)

MEETING SUMMARY

Attached are the meeting agenda and the list of attendees.

Thursday, May 15, 2014

DFO Welcome and Introductions, Guido DeHoratiis, Acting DFO

The meeting was called to order at 11:03am EDT by Guido DeHoratiis, Director, Office of Resource Conservation, and Acting Designated Federal Officer for the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee (MHAC).

Lou Capitanio, the Committee Manager, confirmed that a quorum was present. He informed the committee that no public comments were received in advance of the meeting nor has anyone requested to address the committee at the meeting. Minutes for the last meeting were sent out to the Members on May 13 and there is no other committee business.

Mr. DeHoratiis welcomed the members and thanked them for a successful meeting in March. The purpose of today's meeting is to form consensus over the committee letter to the Secretary.

Discussion of Comments and Letter of Recommendations to be Transmitted to the Secretary

Dr. Peter Flemings, Committee Chair, started the discussion on the draft letter to Secretary Moniz from the committee. Dr. Flemings provided three different draft letters that he and the Subcommittee had prepared. The goal is to come to a consensus on one of the three drafts to move forward with some modifications. Otherwise, we need another committee meeting that could not take place for more than three weeks to comply with public notification requirements. Draft #1 is the Subcommittee version; draft #2 is a re-formatted version of draft #1 with some minor edits; and draft #3 is draft #2 with several statements deleted as proposed by Dave Goldberg.

Dr. Flemings inquired as to the DOE Budget schedule. Mr. DeHoratiis noted that FY 2016 budget process is ongoing now and that the Secretary would be making decisions in June-July time period. The early input to DOE's annual budget happens in May/June, decisions on budgets happen in July, the draft agency budget goes to OMB in September. Therefore, to best fit the Secretary's decision process, this letter of recommendations should be completed before July.

The committee decided to work from draft #2 and discussed text changes to that draft letter. Dr. Flemings will incorporate key text that was added/edited including:

- Unique opportunity – short window to access State lands on the North Slope for scientific production test
- Specific amount to increase DOE funding, rapid growth for four years then slower or no growth based on evaluation of potential
- Link increased funds request to unpublished roadmap, consistent with interagency group input

- Stress funds needed for first production test, particularly Gulf of Mexico
- Based on test results, future budgets should be open to be reassessed
- Secretary understands the science and the climate change issues, so re-insert the language proposed by Richard Charter in draft #1 regarding geo-instability, CO₂ sequestration, ocean acidification, and environmental impact of production
- Appendix materials will be stapled separately, but delivered with letter
- Committee members indicated that they would like to meet with the Secretary to present its strategy for realizing this resource, to advocate for the interagency roadmap, and to discuss strategies on outreach and education

Dr. Flemings asked for a vote to accept the letter with the discussed changes. Eleven members agreed and one member only agreed that a letter should be sent, but disagreed on the length of the modified draft letter #2 that the rest of the committee favored. Therefore, the measure passed to send the letter discussed as modified above.

Scheduling of Next Committee Meeting

The committee discussed that the next meeting should likely occur after the next Presidential Budget request is released in February 2015. Dr. Miriam Kastner offered to host in La Jolla, California, on February 26-27, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 12:27pm EDT.



Peter Flemings, Chair



Guido DeHoratiis, Acting DFO

Table 1: List of Attendees

**MHAC Meeting
May 15, 2014
List of Attendees**

Attendee	Role
Dr. Thomas Blasingame* Texas A&M University Department of Petroleum Engineering	Committee Member
Mr. Richard Charter Coastal Coordination Project, Senior Fellow, The Ocean Foundation	Committee Member
Dr. Peter Flemings* Bureau of Economic Geology The University of Texas at Austin	Committee Member, Chair
Dr. Sarah M. Forbes Senior Associate World Resources Institute	Committee Member
Dr. David Goldberg* Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory Marine Geology and Geophysics Department	Committee Member
Dr. Matthew J. Hornbach* Southern Methodist University Huffington Department of Earth Sciences	Committee Member
Dr. Miriam Kastner* Professor Scripps Institute of Oceanography University of California, San Diego	Committee Member, Vice-Chair
Dr. Carolyn Koh* Colorado School of Mines Chemical Engineering Department	Committee Member
Dr. Michael Max Chief of Research Hydrate Energy International, Inc.	Committee Member
Dr. George J. Moridis* Colorado School of Mines Chemical Engineering Department	Committee Member

Dr. Mark D. Myers* Head, Hydrocarbon Resources Program Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory University of California	Committee Member
Mr. Robert Swenson Acting Director and State Geologist Alaska Department of Natural Resources Div. of Geological & Geophysical Surveys	Committee Member
Guido DeHoratiis Director, Office of Resource Conservation U.S. Department of Energy	DOE Staff
Lou Capitanio Committee Manager U.S. Department of Energy	DOE Staff
Ray Boswell Methane Hydrates Technology Manager National Energy Technology Laboratory	DOE Staff
Michelle Rathbun IBM	DOE Support

*Special Government Employee

Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee Meeting

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Public Access

U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3G-043
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Teleconference Access

Call-in: 202-287-6206

AGENDA

May 15, 2014 11:00am – 12:30pm (EDT)

Time	Discussion Item	Speaker
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Registration	All
11:00 am – 11:15 am	DFO Welcome and Introductions	Paula Gant, DAS for Oil and Natural Gas, and Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Discussion and Presentation of Comments and Letter of Recommendations to be Transmitted to the Secretary	Peter Flemings, Chair Miriam Kastner, Vice-Chair Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee
12:15 pm – 12:20 pm	Scheduling of Next Committee Meeting	Peter Flemings, Chair Miriam Kastner, Vice-Chair Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee
12:20 pm – 12:30 pm	Public comments, if any	Paula Gant, DAS for Oil and Natural Gas, and Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
12:30pm	Adjourn	

/s/ Guido DeHoratiis for
APPROVED: Paula A. Gant
Designated Federal Official

4/29/14
Date