
Summary Minutes of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s
21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board (EWAB)
Public Meeting

July 9, 2025 – 1:00pm to 2:00pm ET

The 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board (EWAB, “the Board”) was convened for its 10th meeting, via WebEx Live, at 1:00pm ET on July 9, 2025. In accordance with Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 1:00pm ET to 2:00pm ET.

EWAB members present:

- Sarita Gupta, Ford Foundation
- Melissa (Missy) Henriksen, Center for Energy Workforce Development
- Chris Levesque, TerraPower
- Dr. Daniel Marschall, George Washington University Institute of Public Policy
- Dr. Girard Melancon, Future Use of Energy in Louisiana
- Kay Seven, Co-Chair, Nez Perce Tribe
- Allison Ziogas, ORSTED Americas, Inc.
- Dr. Nikki Luke, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- James Harrison, Utility Workers of Union of America, AFL-CIO

DOE staff presenting and/or supporting the meeting:

- Angela Dayton, Acting Director and EWAB Acting Designated Federal Official (DFO), Office of Energy Jobs
- Caleb Woodall, Program Analyst, Office of Energy Jobs and Program Manager, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management
- Sally Oh, ORISE Science, Technology, & Policy Fellow, Office of Energy Jobs
- Ava Kalina, ORISE Science, Technology, & Policy Fellow, Office of Energy Jobs

Other attendees present for all or a portion of the meeting:

- Alysha Brown-Lloyd
- Amy Peterson
- Cynthia Finley
- Eriech Tapia
- Jesse Strecker
- Joseph Smith
- Krystal York
- Martha Newell
- Neelam Sakaria
- Neelesh Nerukar
- Noel Crisostomo
- Olivia Sullivan
- Paul Dearhouse
- Rachel Chang
- Ryan Evangelista
- Sarah Young

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- Thomas Gaffey
 - Tiffany Finck-Haynes
 - Trevor Falk
 - Margaret Taylor

Meeting Summary

Angela Dayton, the Acting Designated Federal Officer (DFO), opened the meeting, noting that this meeting is recorded and will be posted on the EWAB's public website. Missy Henriksen, the Chair of EWAB, called the meeting to order and noted that the EWAB was tasked with developing recommendations for DOE to implement a strategy in response to the Presidential Memorandum on Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis. After the Chair's opening remarks, the Acting DFO reviewed the meeting procedures according to FACA rules, noting only the EWAB and certain members of the Department would be able to ask questions and that there was time reserved for public comments, but none were received by the published deadline of July 3, 2025. The Acting DFO noted that public comments and questions from the press could be submitted to ewab@hq.doe.gov outside of this meeting. She then took roll call to ascertain a quorum of the Advisory Board Members in attendance, noting nine (9) EWAB members present. The Acting DFO provided an overview of the agenda, which included a presentation of EWAB's Special Report recommendations and the Advisory Board's vote to approve and submit the report to the Secretary of Energy.

EWAB Recommendation Report-Out

The EWAB Chair opened the presentation. Due to technical difficulties that caused a delay in starting the meeting, she noted that the presentation will be done briefly but the materials would be available online. The Chair noted that the purpose of today's presentation is to highlight the recommendations in the report and vote on the Special Report submission to the Secretary. She emphasized the importance of the energy sector in creating employment opportunities in the U.S. economy and the need for right workforce solutions that enable energy additions and innovation. The Chair urged the Department to demonstrate leadership and partnership to advance energy technology as well as the livelihood of the people in the energy sector.

The Chair provided an overview of the Special Report, noting it is comprised of four sets of recommendations, three of which are cross-cutting strategies that are applicable to the entirety of the energy sector and the last set addressing some industries that have been prioritized by the Administration. The Chair summarized the three cross-cutting sets of recommendations as those to:

1. Provide significant support to scale pathways to high paying high quality energy careers emphasizing apprenticeship and other earn-and-learn models for both new and incumbent workforce.
2. Build awareness and excitement of and connections to energy careers for both career-ready adults, students, and their career influencers.
3. Position DOE as a leader for innovative, effective, non-siloed solutions to support the development of the workforce, prioritizing place-based and industry sectoral strategies.

The Chair presented the first set of recommendations, highlighting the importance of training, including apprenticeships. The Chair uplifted recommendations to establish regional Centers of Excellence for energy apprenticeship programs, support community colleges and other educational and training institutions accessing equipment and instructors, call on the DOE National Laboratories to create or expand technical training materials, create a free and accessible Energy Academy to educate foundational subjects required to

enter many energy jobs, develop tailored strategies for rural and Tribal communities, and incentivize employers to support work-based learning and providing financial support.

The Chair then presented the second set of recommendations aimed at helping people understand energy jobs and their pathways. She emphasized opportunities to engage veterans and transitioning service members and young learners from an early age to help them understand various pathways to careers in energy.

The Chair presented the final cross-cutting recommendation on DOE's leadership role, including establishing clear energy strategies to enable timely workforce planning. Additionally, the Chair encouraged supporting workforce intermediaries for sectoral approaches and utilizing tiger teams to address regional workforce challenges, especially in areas expecting significant hiring and those with high concentration of discouraged and displaced workers.

The Chair called on other members of the EWAB to present recommendations for the four industries that have been prioritized by the Department, underscoring that the three sets of recommendations that she presented are applicable to the industries of focus.

Chris Levesque presented recommendations that are germane to nuclear, highlighting the need for improving U.S. competitiveness in nuclear and a strong workforce to support existing nuclear power plants and meet the growing electricity demand, especially from trade and expanding AI infrastructure. He elevated the recommendation for continuing the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, among others. Jim Harrison presented recommendations regarding the grid industry and highlighted the recommendation for deploying funds for domestic manufacturing and sourcing of transformers and steel under the National Defense Protection Act, including utilizing allowable funds to support a skilled domestic manufacturing workforce, emphasizing the need for a national stockpile of critical power transformers for national security. He also underscored the importance of training workers to use AI and other digital tools that would be needed to enhance grid efficiency and reliability as weather and cyber-related interruptions and risks grow more frequent. Lastly, Dr. Girard Melancon presented the oil, gas, and geothermal industries recommendations, focusing on the need to retain institutional knowledge and train workers with transferable skills, especially across sectors and technologies that require similar skills. The Chair presented the recommendations for critical minerals and materials (CMM), highlighting the need for workforce planning spanning project lifecycles and continuing support for existing programs for colleges and universities that train the future workforce of the CMM supply chain.

There were no comments or discussions after the presentation.

[Public Comment Section](#)

This meeting did not have any public commentators.

[EWAB Special Report Vote](#)

The Chair of EWAB facilitated the vote. For those not in attendance, she collected their votes by email prior to the meeting. The Board unanimously voted to submit the Special Report to the Secretary, noting 11 votes for this action. Three members were not able to submit a vote on the Special Report's submission.

[Next Steps](#)

The Acting DFO acknowledged the receipt of the Special Report and the results of the unanimous vote. She noted that the Secretary will review the report and respond accordingly.

Final Comments

Chair Henriksen, noting there were no final comments and thanking the meeting participants for joining, called to adjourn the meeting.

The Acting DFO encouraged members of the public to share any comments or questions to ewab@hq.doe.gov. She then formally adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 2:10pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted.

Angela Dayton

Acting Designated Federal Officer

I hereby certify that these meeting minutes of the July 9, 2025, EWAB meeting are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Melissa (Missy) Henriksen

Chair, EWAB