

**Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee (URTAC)**

**October 27, 2011**

**Sixteenth Meeting**

**Conference Call Minutes**

## Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee

I hereby certify that this transcript constitutes an accurate record of the Ultra-Deepwater Advisory Committee meeting held on October 27, 2011.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Hall, Chair  
Unconventional Resources Technology  
Advisory Committee

12-8-2011  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee (URTAC) Meeting  
Teleconference, October 27, 2011**

At 11:00 a.m., the Committee Chair, Jeff Hall, called the meeting to order. Ms. Elena Melchert, Acting Designated Federal Officer (DFO) until Deputy Assistant Secretary Christopher Smith arrived, called the roll of the members. Committee members in attendance were: Kenneth Bromfield, Nancy Brown, Wayne Camp, Jessica Cavens, James Dwyer, Jeff Hall, Chris Hall, Bob Hardage, Robert Kleinberg, Fletcher Lewis, Amy Mall, John Martin, Greg Mason, Shahab Mohaghegh, Gary Nilson, Ken Oglesby, Don Sparks, and Sam Whitney. Absent from the meeting were: Dan Arthur, John Harju, and Brady Rodgers. Eighteen members were present, exceeding the minimum of twelve members required for a quorum.

Attending the meeting in Washington, D.C. was: Chris Smith, DFO, Elena Melchert, Committee Manager (CM) and Rob Matey of IBM, meeting recorder. There were no members of the public in attendance.

The CM began the next order of business by discussing key URTAC administrative topics. Ms. Melchert discussed several Section 999 activities that have taken place since the last Committee meeting in October, and planned activities for the *2012 Annual Plan* (Attachment 1). She finished by explaining the activities the Committee would undertake until the end of the program in 2014, including possible membership reappointments for the next and final term of URTAC. The CM's discussion was followed by some brief discussion by the members about the timing of the funding in the current and future "plan" years.

The Chair next introduced Christopher Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Oil and Natural Gas, to give an update on shale gas and other unconventional oil and gas activities. Mr. Smith discussed President Obama's challenge to reduce the amount of oil and gas the U.S. imports by one-third and how the reduction can be achieved. The DFO then discussed the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling and the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB). He explained how the SEAB Subcommittee is trying to employ good, reliable science to develop solid recommendations to the Secretary of Energy to show the community that their concerns are being heard and taken seriously. Mr. Smith also mentioned the National Petroleum Council (NPC) recently released a major new report entitled *Prudent Development: Realizing the Potential of North America's Abundant Natural Gas and Oil Resources* which has a lot of overlap with the SEAB recommendations. The Department of Energy counts on these committees' diversity and knowledgeable advice to provide solid, actionable recommendations.


Following the DFO's remarks, a brief Committee discussion took place regarding the DOE oil and gas budget, or lack thereof, the proposed repeal of Section 999. The DFO explained to the Committee that all monies are being scrutinized due to the current theme of deficit reduction in Congress, but there are no foregone conclusions.

As there was no further business, the Chair closed the meeting by thanking the members, the DFO, the CM, and the staff for the informative meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting is attached (Attachment 2).


## Attachment 1



**Unconventional Resources Technology  
Advisory Committee Meeting**

Elena Melchert  
URTAC Committee Manager

October 27, 2011

 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**  
Oil and  
Natural Gas

**2011 Annual Plan** | Oil and Natural Gas

- **September 2010**
  - URTAC members appointed by Secretary of Energy
  - URTAC meeting held in Houston
- **October 2010**
  - URTAC presents final written recommendations
- **February 2011**
  - UDAC members appointed by Secretary of Energy
  - UDAC meeting with Secretary Chu
- **April 2011**
  - UDAC presents final written recommendations
- **September 2011**
  - *2011 Annual Plan* sent to Congress
- **November 2011**
  - Estimated date for release of solicitations

## 2012 Annual Plan

Oil and  
Natural Gas

- ✧ **December 2011**
  - 2012 Annual Plan sent to URTAC
- ✧ **January 2012**
  - URTAC meeting: begin review of 2012 Annual Plan
  - Establish *ad hoc* review subcommittees
  - Houston, January [date; 1-day]
- ✧ **February**
  - URTAC meeting: subcommittees report; develop recommendations; instruct Editing Subcommittee
    - Houston, February [date; 2-day]
  - URTAC meeting: vote on Editing Subcommittee report
    - Conference Call, February [date]
- ✧ **March/April**
  - 2012 Annual Plan sent to Congress

**NOTE: UDAC follows same meeting schedule at same venue**

## 2013 Annual Plan

Oil and  
Natural Gas

- ✧ **August 2012**
  - 2013 Annual Plan sent to URTAC
- ✧ **September 2012**
  - URTAC members REAPPOINTED through 2014
  - URTAC meeting: begin review of 2013 Annual Plan
  - Establish *ad hoc* review subcommittees
  - Houston, September [date; 1-day]
- ✧ **October 2012**
  - URTAC meeting: subcommittees report; develop recommendations; instruct Editing Subcommittee
    - Houston, October [date; 2-day]
  - URTAC meeting: vote on Editing Subcommittee report
    - Conference Call, October [date]
- ✧ **November/December 2012**
  - 2013 Annual Plan sent to Congress

**NOTE: UDAC follows same meeting schedule at same venue**

## 2014 Annual Plan

Oil and  
Natural Gas

- ☞ **September 2013**
  - URTAC meeting to begin review of *2014 Annual Plan*
- ☞ **October 2013**
  - URTAC meeting: to review subcommittee reports
  - URTAC meeting: vote on Editing Subcommittee report
- ☞ **November/December 2013**
  - *2014 Annual Plan* sent to Congress
- ☞ **September 2014: Program Terminates**

***NOTE: UDAC follows same meeting schedule at same venue***

## Attachment 2

16<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee

October 27, 2011, 11:00 am EASTERN

Conference Call

1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC, 20585

Room 3E-028

### AGENDA

10:30 am	Registration	
11:00	Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions	Jeff Hall, Chair
20 min	Administrative Topics: Roll Call; confirm quorum; Section 999 activities since the last meeting; planned activities for the <i>2012 Annual Plan</i> ; assumptions about <i>2013</i> and <i>2014 Annual Plans</i>	Elena Melchert Committee Manager
30 min	Shale Gas Update	Deputy Assistant Secretary Christopher A. Smith
60 min	Committee Discussion with the DAS	Chair
10 min	Public Comment	Designated Federal Officer Christopher A. Smith
1:00 pm.	Adjourn	Chair