

## Summary Minutes of the

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
Secretary of Energy Advisory Board  
Public Meeting

Committee Members: John Deutch, Chair; Frances Beinecke, Rafael Bras, Albert Carnesale, Deborah Jin, Paul Joskow, Steve Koonin, Michael McQuade, Richard Meserve, Cherry Murray, Dan Reicher, Ram Shenoy, Ellen Tauscher, Dan Yergin

Date and Time: 11:30AM – 12:30PM ET, February 17, 2015

Location: Conference Call

Purpose: Meeting of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB)

SEAB Staff: Karen Gibson, Designated Federal Officer; Corey Williams-Allen, Deputy Designated Federal Officer; and Matthew Schaub, Deputy Director

### Meeting Summary

SEAB Chair John Deutch opened the meeting and recognized the six SEAB members that prepared the Board's memorandum to the Department on the report of the *Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise* (Augustine-Mies Panel): Brent Scowcroft, Chair SEAB Nuclear Security Subcommittee, Albert Carnesale, Steven Koonin, Richard Meserve, and Ellen Tauscher.

Dr. Deutch proceeded to provide an overview of the Augustine-Mies Panel, stating that Congress established the panel to address the many concerns that have existed for some time about impediments to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) performing its vital national security mission of maintaining the nuclear weapons stockpile, advancing U.S. nonproliferation policies and programs, and supporting the nuclear navy. He went on to say that the Augustine-Mies Panel also examined alternative models that would enable transformation and dramatic improvement in the DOE/NNSA enterprise, with the panel considering the following models:

- (a) maintaining the current somewhat ambiguous quasi-independent status of the NNSA within DOE,
- (b) recreating the NNSA as an independent agency,
- (c) transferring responsibility for the NNSA to the Department of Defense, and
- (d) moving from a separately organized NNSA within DOE to a new Office of Nuclear Security, ONS, integrated into a DOE that is led by a cabinet secretary who is committed to and knowledgeable about nuclear security issues. The Director of ONS would be given substantial authority and responsibility for implementing the department's nuclear security program.

The SEAB Chair then opened the floor for questions/discussion regarding SEAB's memorandum about how the department should respond to the Augustine-Mies Panel's recommendations. All of those present on the call were in agreement that the work of the advisory panel was done in a thoughtful, thorough manner, and agreed with the majority of its findings. The only point of discussion among the SEAB members related to a quote from the report that was used in the memorandum to highlight the

two central elements of the Panel's recommendations on integration and leadership knowledge/commitment to the nuclear security responsibilities. The quote called for an autonomous organization should the nation's leadership not be prepared to require the Secretary to possess the qualifications demanded by the nuclear security mission. Paul Joskow, Dan Yergin, Ellen Tauscher, and Al Carnesale each presented various arguments for and against this premise. After consideration, the SEAB members decided to omit the quote from their memorandum, and stated their agreement with the recommendation to integrate a new ONS into DOE leadership that should have knowledge of, and commitment to, the nuclear security responsibilities of the department. The SEAB Chair opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Chair Wrap-Up

SEAB Chair John Deutch thanked those responsible for drafting the memorandum to the Secretary for their efforts in formulating a response that is representative of the views of SEAB as well as for their hard work. Dr. Deutch moved that the report be approved with the noted modification and submitted to the Secretary. Albert Carnesale seconded the motion. There was unanimous agreement to approve the report and send it to the Secretary.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Gibson, Designated Federal Officer

I hereby certify that these minutes of the February 17, 2015, SEAB meeting are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Deutch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Deutch, Chair