

## Summary Minutes of the

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

Committee Members: John Deutch, Chair; Arun Majumdar, Vice Chair; Albert Carnesale; Deborah Jin; Paul Joskow; Michael McQuade; Shirley Jackson; Francis Beinecke; Steve Koonin; Cherry Murray; Martha Schlicher; Ram Shenoy; Ellen Tauscher; Dan Yergin; and Dan Reicher

Date and Time: March 31, 2015, 11:30 AM – 1:15 PM EST

Location: Department of Energy, Forrestal Building,  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC

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

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

DOE Staff: Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall;

#### Meeting Summary

This meeting was the quarterly meeting of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB). SEAB members heard opening remarks by DOE Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, SEAB Chair John Deutch, and SEAB Vice-Chair Arun Majumdar. Following the opening remarks, the first agenda item consisted of updates from the chairs of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Task Force and the National Labs Task Force. An opportunity for public comment followed the discussion.

#### Opening of Public Meeting

Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall opened the meeting and informed the board that the Secretary would be unable to join the meeting as he was in Geneva. Deputy Secretary Sherwood-Randall welcomed and introduced SEAB's newest member, Ellen Tauscher. The Deputy Secretary shared her personal priorities of people, nuclear security, deploying laboratory science, and resilience and expressed her intention to discuss these items further with SEAB. The Deputy Secretary thanked SEAB for the recent reports on high performance computing, noting that she and the Secretary agree with the recommendation that the DOE program, jointly managed by NNSA and the Office of Science, should lead the U.S. federal program and investment to deliver the next class of leading edge machines by the middle of the next decade; and on environmental management, which supported the need for a vibrant technology program for environmental management. The Departmental responses will be transmitted to SEAB shortly. The Deputy Secretary also said that she looked forward to receiving reports on nuclear nonproliferation and the national laboratories once finalized. She announced that the Secretary had signed a new charge to form a Task Force on Federal Energy Management, which will review the

implications for the new Executive Order<sup>1</sup> on DOE's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) activities.

#### Comments from SEAB Leadership

Chair John Deutch announced changes to the agenda and asked Albert Carnesale to discuss the Task Force Report on Nuclear Nonproliferation.

#### Discussion and Public Comment on SEAB Task Force Reports

The Task Force on Nuclear Nonproliferation Chair, Albert Carnesale noted that he was pleased with the extent to which the preliminary recommendations of the Task Force have been accepted and responsive actions taken within DOE, including: preparation and issuance by NNSA of its first annual report to Congress on its current and planned efforts to address the threats of nuclear proliferation and terrorism; development of risk-informed priorities for nuclear nonproliferation; establishment of the DOE Nuclear Policy Council to serve as a mechanism for Department-wide consideration of cross-cutting nuclear issues; reorganizing the office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation along the lines of "enduring missions"; and establishment of a Council of DOE Headquarters, Labs, Plants and Sites to coordinate nuclear nonproliferation strategy and planning, including (but not limited to) R&D.

The final report addressed the 5 questions in the task force charge and suggested the DOE nuclear nonproliferation policy should focus on the following priorities: support U.S. Government efforts to formulate and implement nuclear nonproliferation policies; prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism; halt illicit transfers of nuclear technology; build the foundations for dealing with future challenges and opportunities; provide intelligence to guide policy; reduce the proliferation risks of nuclear energy; and enhance U.S. approaches to plutonium management and disposition. The report provided 17 specific recommendations and was unanimously approved for transmission to the Secretary.

The National Labs Task Force Chair, John Deutch reported that three task force working groups had been formed. Overall the Task Force found a number of overlapping control points imposed on the laboratories and recommends reducing these. The Management and Operations (M&O) Contracts Working Group had developed experiments for improving the contract process in regards to directives and oversight. The Working Group suggested that there also needs to be a new effort to streamline management responsibilities. The Technology Transfer Working Group highlighted the importance of user facilities and is looking at ways to encourage business interaction at the site level. The Working Group also supports a decentralized approach to technology transfer. The Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) Working Group is looking at LDRD as a method for boosting recruitment and retention for the labs. The Working Group issued a strong statement of support for continuing LDRD funding.

The National Lab Task Force draft Interim Report is posted in the SEAB website. The final interim report will be posted, reviewed by SEAB at a later date, and when approved it will be transmitted to the Secretary.

The Chair also noted that SEAB intends to issue letter reports on the NAS report, *Aligning the Governance Structure of the NNSA Laboratories to Meet the 21<sup>st</sup> Century National Security Challenges* and the interim report of the Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order issued March 19, 2015, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*

Laboratories. Those letters will also be posted on the SEAB website. SEAB also intends to write a letter to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) expressing support for DOE graduate research and traineeship fellowship programs.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Gibson  
Designated Federal Officer

I hereby certify that these minutes of the March 31, 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 style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "D".

John Deutch  
Chair