

Minutes
Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee Conference Call
950 L'Enfant Plaza North, SW, Suite 1500
Washington, DC
March 26, 2010

1. Introduction

The Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee (MHAC, the Committee) conference call began at 3:00 p.m.

1.1 Welcome and Introductions by Edie Allison, Office of Oil and Natural Gas

Edith Allison, the Acting Designated Federal Officer (DFO), convened the conference call meeting by welcoming all the members and thanking them for their time. The first order of business for Ms. Allison was to explain the delegation of authority for the DFO position. She was Acting DFO in place of Christopher Smith and Guido DeHoratiis. Ms. Allison began by introducing everyone onsite before performing a member roll call. Then Ms. Allison handed over the meeting to Dr. Dendy Sloan, MHAC Chair.

2. Action Items

The stated purpose of the conference call was to arrange a member discussion and vote on a February 26, 2010 letter that was prepared by the MHAC Chair discussing the realignment of the Methane Hydrate Program from the Office of Fossil Energy to the Office of Science. It was noted that any vote on official MHAC correspondence must be held in an open public forum. Dr. Sloan opened the discussion to the Committee members and the consensus was that the content of the letter was appropriate in recommending against the realignment. A few members had minor editorial recommendations, none of which affected the content. After some discussion and a determination that a quorum was present, the Chairman was commissioned by the Committee to send the letter to the Secretary as planned. Then, he will talk with Office of Oil and Natural Gas officials to devise a strategy to meet with the Secretary.

Thereafter, Chairman Sloan shifted to a discussion on the response the Committee received from an NETL official in response to the letter the Committee sent dated February 13, 2010. The letter to the Secretary was written by Dr. Sloan on behalf of the MHAC and contained the Committee's recommendations on the direction of the Program. The Committee felt the response was very pro forma. There was no indication that the Secretary's office was taking any action. The Committee discussed potential ways to get more positive response from the Secretary's office in the future. After some discussion, it was determined the MHAC would use Office of Oil and Natural Gas officials as a medium to learn the best way to move forward.

3. Wrap-up and Adjournment

Chairman Sloan thanked all the Committee members for their participation. Before adjournment, Edie Allison, the Acting DFO, announced her upcoming retirement from the U.S. Department of Energy, thus ending her relationship with the MHAC. The members all thanked her for her tireless efforts and wished her well in her future endeavors. Guido DeHoratiis will serve as the Methane Hydrate Program manager until a full time replacement is found. There was no further business so the Chairman adjourned the conference call at 3:35 p.m.

4. Participants

Committee Members

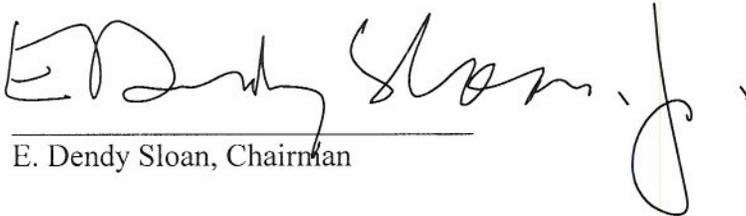
Peter Brewer, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
David Goldberg, Columbia University
Miriam Kastner, Scripps Institute of Oceanography
Robert Miller, ConocoPhillips
Craig Shipp, Shell International E&P
E. Dendy Sloan, Colorado School of Mines
Anne Trehu, Oregon State University

Staff Members

Edie Allison, Acting Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Department of Energy
Trudy Transtrum, U.S. Department of Energy
Robert Matey, NISC (An IBM Company)

Interagency Visitors

Ray Boswell, National Energy Technology Laboratory



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Dendy Sloan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

E. Dendy Sloan, Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edith Allison". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Edith Allison, Acting Designated Federal Officer