

Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee Meeting
July 16, 2013 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (EDT)
Teleconference: (202)-287-1360

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was conducted with members' participation via teleconference and followed the attached agenda. See the attached list for those in attendance at this meeting.

DFO Welcome and Introductions (Lou Capitanio)

Louis Capitanio, Committee Manager, announced that he will serve as the Acting Designated Federal Officer (DFO), in place of Guido DeHoratiis, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Oil and Natural Gas. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm. Mr. Capitanio confirmed the attendance to the teleconference, and noted that a quorum of members had been met. Mr. Capitanio informed the committee that no public comments were received in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Capitanio reminded the attendees that the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee (MHAC) Charter expires on October 21, 2013 and membership appointments expire October 12, 2013. He informed the committee that he has not yet received any recommendations for new members. The Committee had requested to prepare and submit these recommendations at the previous meeting (June 6-7, 2013). Missy Feeley, Chair, stated she will work with Peter Flemings, Co-Chair, to provide the recommendations for the DFO to consider.

Discussion & Presentation of Comments on Draft Methane Hydrate Roadmap (Missy Feeley)

The Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee members had reviewed and provided comments to a draft document, "An Interagency Roadmap for Methane Hydrate Research and Development: 2015-2030" (Roadmap), which was prepared by the Technical Coordination Team (TCT) of the National Methane Hydrate R&D Program. These comments were consolidated by Dr. Mary (Missy) Feely, MHAC Chair and provided to Dr. Ray Boswell, primary author of the Roadmap for the TCT. She thanked the MHAC Members for their timely response on the draft. She indicated that she thinks this teleconference should focus on discussing the high-level, overarching recommendations they have for the draft Roadmap.

The first recommendation discussed was the inclusion of alternative funding scenario information into the full text of the report. Dr. Boswell confirmed that he could add pertinent funding information to the main text. Only the \$10 million and \$50 million (aspirational goal) annual funding scenarios will be addressed. The \$25 million funding level scenario will not be included in the Roadmap.

The next suggestion was to reorganize the Roadmap. It was recommended to move the “Long-Range R&D Roadmaps” section of the document in front of the background and the National Methane Hydrates R&D Program information, because it contains the strategic text that serves as the key focus of the entire document. Dr. Boswell explained that the TCT would like to keep some background information in front, to provide the reader with history and current status of the program, before providing forward-looking information. However, he agrees that the “Background” section can be shortened, and that the program structure information contained in the “The U.S. National Gas Hydrate R&D Program” section can be moved to follow the “Long-range R&D Roadmaps” section.

Mr. Richard Charter recommended a specific way to make the Executive Summary more forward-looking. Based on the draft document, he suggested moving 3 excerpts from the main text into the executive summary. These three excerpts include:

- (1) Sections 2.3.8 “Gas Hydrates and Industrial Geohazards” and 2.3.9 “Gas Hydrates and Natural Geohazards” to the end of the Executive Summary
- (2) Sections 3.4 “Technology Transfer and Outreach”, and
- (3) Section 4.2 “Goals” to the beginning of the Executive Summary.

A general consensus was that these sections could be incorporated in the Executive Summary at the discretion of the TCT. It was considered to be especially important to include information from Section 4.2, “Goals,” because it helps to explain the overall goals of the program, both dependent and independent of funding levels. Dr. Boswell indicated that he thinks it is important to keep funding levels tied to goals as much as possible. Specifically, while the MHAC agrees an extended duration field production test is the most important goal for the methane hydrates program, Dr. Boswell thinks a field program investigating the size of the resource base should be highlighted. The MHAC members agreed with these highlighted goals.

Dr. Carolyn Koh next brought up the issue of the intended audience for the document. It was determined that the main use of the Roadmap will be internally within DOE to set goals and monitor accomplishments of the Government’s Methane Hydrate Program and to show where DOE is going with the Program; however, some Congressional Staff and scientists and researchers from other government agencies may be interested in the document as well. This Roadmap could prove useful for support for budget requests, but that is not the purpose of the document.

Mr. Bob Swenson noted that field programs are required for resource characterization and cautioned to make sure this were noted in the Executive Summary. Dr. Feeley further noted that since a production test is an ultimate goal, the international collaboration aspect of that effort should be likewise brought into the Executive Summary.

Dr. Miriam Kastner expressed concern that methane hydrates' role in the global carbon cycle and climate change was over-emphasized. Dr. Boswell indicated that the TCT believes it had already de-emphasized these issues quite a bit.

Dr. David Goldberg suggested public outreach efforts should be emphasized in the Executive Summary. There have been significant efforts in outreach thus far, and NETL has an opportunity to build on this initiative, so, in his opinion, this should be included.

Mr. Capitanio asked if the members think the program goals at alternative budget levels seem reasonable. In general, the members agreed that this information seemed accurate and practical as presented for the \$10 million and \$50 million annual funding level scenarios.

Dr. Boswell, NETL, thanked the MHAC for their input, and advised that he will brief the TCT of the National Methane Hydrate R&D Program on the entirety of comments and recommendations received for the entire document. He will also use these recommendations to edit the Executive Summary. Among other edits, Dr. Boswell intends to include suggested additions, including more information on the goals of the National Methane Hydrate R&D Program, and to be more concise with the summary of accomplishments to date. He will send the revised Executive Summary of the Roadmap out to the group through the Committee Manager within a few days. The committee members will respond individually to Mr. Capitanio or Dr. Boswell within one week of receiving the document.

Discussion of Letter of Recommendations to be Provided to the Secretary (Mary Feeley)

A letter offering to meet the Secretary of Energy, Ernest Moniz, has been drafted by the committee members. Dr. Feeley will send out a revised version to members by July 17, 2013. Final edits/comments will be due by the end of the week (July 19th). It will be sent to Secretary Moniz by Dr. Feeley soon after she receives final input from committee members.

Mr. Capitanio explained that the letter will likely be forwarded to Chris Smith, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, and to Guido DeHoratiis, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oil and Natural Gas. A recommendation for the Secretary of Energy to accept the meeting will be prepared to be considered by Secretary Moniz's Office.

The MHAC would also like to prepare a Letter of Recommendations to the Secretary of Energy. However, they agreed that they will draft this letter after receiving a response on the meeting request and/or meeting with Secretary Moniz.

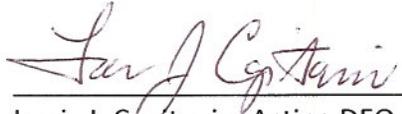
Finally, it was suggested that a close-out meeting of this Committee be held before current appointments expire in October; however, no meeting date was proposed.

Public Comments (Lou Capitanio)

The Acting DFO noted that the meeting was open for public comment, but no requests to speak had been made. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.



Mary Feeley, Chair



Louis J. Capitanio, Acting DFO

Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee Meeting

July 16, 2013 1:00pm – 4:00pm (EDT)

Public Access

U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 3G-043
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Teleconference Access

Call-in: 202-287-1360

AGENDA

July 16, 2013 1:00pm – 4:00pm (EDT)

Time	Discussion Item	Speaker
12:45 pm – 1:00 pm	Registration	All
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	DFO Welcome and Introductions	Guido DeHoratiis, Acting DAS for Oil and Natural Gas, and Acting Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
1:15 pm – 3:45 pm	Discussion and Presentation of Comments on Draft Methane Hydrate Roadmap Discussion of Letter of Recommendations to be Provided to the Secretary	Mary (Missy) Feeley, Chairman Peter Flemings, Co-Chairman Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Public comments, if any	Guido DeHoratiis, Acting DAS for Oil and Natural Gas, and Acting Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
4:00pm	Adjourn	

/s/ Guido DeHoratiis

APPROVED: Guido DeHoratiis
Acting Designated Federal Official

June 11, 2013

Date

Table 1: List of Attendees- July 16, 2013

MHAC Meeting July 16, 2013 List of Attendees	
Attendee	Role
Dr. Thomas Blasingame Texas A&M University Department of Petroleum Engineering	Committee Member
Mr. Richard Charter Co-Chair, National OCS Coalition Senior Fellow, Oceans Foundation	Committee Member
Dr. Mary Feeley ExxonMobil Exploration Company	Committee Member
Dr. Peter Flemings Bureau of Economic Geology The University of Texas at Austin	Committee Member
Dr. David Goldberg Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory Marine Geology and Geophysics Department	Committee Member
Dr. Miriam Kastner Professor Scripps Institute of Oceanography	Committee Member
Dr. Carolyn Koh Colorado School of Mines Chemical Engineering Department	Committee Member
Dr. David W. Scholl USGS Emeritus	Committee Member
Dr. Craig Shipp Geohazards Assessment and Pore Pressure Prediction Team Shell International Exploration and Production Inc.	Committee Member
Mr. Robert Swenson Acting Director and State Geologist Alaska Department of Natural Resources	Committee Member
Dr. Jefferson W. Tester Cornell University	Committee Member
Dr. Anne Trehu Oregon State University	Committee Member

Ray Boswell NETL	Methane Hydrate Technical Coordination Team Member
Yongkoo Seol NETL	Methane Hydrate Technical Coordination Team Member
Lou Capitanio Committee Manager U.S. Department of Energy	Acting DFO
Erica Folio General Engineer U.S. Department of Energy	DOE Staff
Yosuke Sato Japan Oil, Gas, and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC)	Other