

evidence to support your proposals and answers, and to present the information in a context and format that will be helpful to States implementing high-quality assessments. These additional questions focus on the topics of project and consortium management, procurement, and general and technical assessment matters.

To ensure that your input is fully considered in the development of the notice inviting applications, we urge you to identify clearly the specific question, purpose, or characteristic that you are addressing, and to arrange your input in the order of the questions as they are listed in this notice.

Project and Consortium Management Questions

1. How would you recommend organizing a consortium to achieve success in developing and implementing the proposed assessment system?

a. What governance model do you suggest and why? What leadership model do you suggest and why?

b. What recommendations do you have on the decision-making process within a consortium?

c. What recommendations do you have for States that are organizing consortia regarding:

- how to differentiate roles, responsibilities, and workloads within a consortium?

- roles for third parties (e.g., conveners, project managers, assessment developers/partners, intermediaries)?

d. What advice do you have on the characteristics that all consortium members must have in common in order for a consortium to be successful, and what characteristics can vary across member States, e.g., philosophical approaches to assessment, standards, scope and sequence, etc.?

2. What would you recommend that a consortium be asked to demonstrate in its application to show that it has the capacity, structure, and potential to implement its proposed plan? What are the critical success indicators six, 12 and 18 months into the life of a consortium? What signals are predictive of ultimate success or failure?

3. What could go wrong in the development and management of a consortium and what can States do to mitigate these factors up front? In what ways could the Department structure the competition to help mitigate these factors?

Procurement Questions

1. How do differences in State procurement rules affect how you would design and manage a

consortium? How will State procurement regulations, processes and time frames likely affect how a consortium carries out the development, piloting, and implementation of common assessments? (You may use examples from outside the education sector, if relevant.)

2. States have expressed interest in acquiring information about, and input and ideas from, potential assessment partners/vendors in advance of completing their applications. What actions, if any, would you advise the Department to take to help facilitate this?

3. States expressed a desire to run competitive (as opposed to sole-sourced) processes for selecting partners/vendors. How would you advise the Department to structure the application to enable States to do so? What other ideas would you offer in designing a process that is flexible enough to accommodate other challenges that States might encounter over time (e.g., challenges related to partner/vendor selection or contract change management)?

General and Technical Assessment Questions

The Department continues to synthesize input received in response to the October 23 notice of public input meetings. Approximately two weeks in advance of the January 20 meeting on this topic, the Department intends to publish via our website (<http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-assessment/resources.html>) a list of general and technical assessment questions on which further input is requested.

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Electronic Access to This Document: You can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official

edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: December 24, 2009.

Arne Duncan,

Secretary of Education.

[FR Doc. E9-30975 Filed 12-28-09; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

State Energy Advisory Board (STEAB)

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Open Teleconference.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the State Energy Advisory Board (STEAB). The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463; 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, January 21, 2010, 1 to 2 p.m. EDT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Burch, STEAB Designated Federal Officer, Senior Management Technical Advisor, Intergovernmental Projects, Golden Field Office, U.S. Department of Energy, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401, Telephone 303-275-4801.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: To make recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy regarding goals and objectives, programmatic and administrative policies, and to otherwise carry out the Board's responsibilities as designated in the State Energy Efficiency Programs Improvement Act of 1990 (Pub. L. No. 101-440).

Tentative Agenda: Discuss ways STEAB can support DOE's implementation of the Economic Recovery Act, follow-up on discussion begun during the December teleconference call, and update members of the Board on routine business matters.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Gary Burch at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests to make oral comments must be received five days prior to the meeting; reasonable provision will be made to include requested topic(s) on the agenda. The Chair of the Board is

empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting will be available for public review and copying within 60 days on the STEAB Web site, <http://www.steab.org>.

Issued at Washington, DC, on December 24, 2009.

Rachel Samuel,

Deputy Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-30958 Filed 12-29-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Paducah

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Paducah. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, January 21, 2010, 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Barkley Centre, 111 Memorial Drive, Paducah, Kentucky 42001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reinhard Knerr, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Department of Energy Paducah Site Office, Post Office Box 1410, MS-103, Paducah, Kentucky 42001, (270) 441-6825.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE-EM in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities.

Tentative Agenda

- Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda
- Deputy Designated Federal Officer's Comments
- Federal Coordinator's Comments
- Liaisons' Comments
- Committee Chairs' Comments
- Presentations
 - Understanding Risk—Rich Bonczek, DOE
 - Administrative Issues
 - New Business and Recommendations
 - Public Comments
 - Final Comments
 - Adjourn
- Breaks Taken As Appropriate
- Public Participation:* The EM SSAB, Paducah, welcomes the attendance of

the public at its advisory committee meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Reinhard Knerr at least seven days in advance of the meeting at the telephone number listed above. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Reinhard Knerr at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Individuals wishing to make public comments will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments.

Minutes: Minutes will be available by writing or calling Reinhard Knerr at the address and phone number listed above. Minutes will also be available at the following Web site: <http://www.pgdpca.org/meetings.html>.

Issued at Washington, DC on December 24, 2009.

Rachel Samuel,

Deputy Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-30961 Filed 12-29-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee. Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, January 28, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2010, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Sustainable Education Building, Room SEB#122, Georgia Institute of Technology, 790 Atlantic Drive, Atlanta, GA 30332-0355.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edith Allison, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Oil and Natural Gas, Washington, DC 20585. Phone: 202-586-1023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Committee: The purpose of the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee is to provide advice on potential applications of methane hydrate to the Secretary of Energy, and assist in developing recommendations and priorities for the Department of Energy Methane Hydrate Research and Development Program.

Tentative Agenda

Thursday, January 28, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 9:15 a.m. Report from Representative Group of Committee Members on meeting with Secretary Chu
- 9:45 a.m. Report on DOE Budget and Strategy for Field Testing
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Report and Discussion of Gulf of Mexico Joint Industry Project 2009 Expedition
- 11:30 a.m. Report and Discussion of ConocoPhillips Alaska North Slope CO₂ Injection Project
- 12:30 p.m. Working Lunch
- 1:45 p.m. Status Report on BP Alaska North Slope Proposed Production Test
- 2:15 p.m. Report and Discussion: Modeling Hydrate in the Global Climate Cycle
- 3 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Report on Post-Doctoral Fellowship and Laboratory R&D
- 4 p.m. Report on Beaufort Sea 2009 Expedition
- 4:30 p.m. Report on Gas Production from Hydrate Bearing Sediments: Geomechanical Implications
- 5 p.m. Adjourn for the day

Friday, January 29, 2010

- 8 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Report and Discussion on National Research Council (NRC) Assessment and 2010 Report to Congress
- 10 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Continue Discussion of NRC Report
- 11 a.m. Discussion and Preparation of Recommendations to DOE
- 12 p.m. Working Lunch
- 1 p.m. Continue Preparation of Recommendations to DOE
- 3 p.m. Wrap up—Adjourn

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. The Chairman of the Committee will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business. If you would like to file a written statement with the Committee, you may do so either before or after the meeting. If you would like to make oral statements regarding any of the items on