

# Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Shale Gas Subcommittee



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# President Obama's BLUEPRINT FOR A SECURE ENERGY FUTURE

*“Setting the Bar for Safety and Responsibility: To provide recommendations from a range of independent experts, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the EPA Administrator and Secretary of Interior, should task the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) with establishing a subcommittee to examine fracking issues....The subcommittee will work to identify, within 90 days, any immediate steps that can be taken to improve the safety and environmental performance of fracking and to develop, within six months, consensus recommended advice to the agencies on practices for shale extraction to ensure the protection of public health and the environment.”*

# Shale Gas Subcommittee Members

- John Deutch
- Stephen Holditch
  - Fred Krupp
- Kathleen McGinty
- Susan Tierney
  - Dan Yergin
- Mark Zoback

# Shale Gas Subcommittee Public Meetings & Schedule

- June 1-2: Washington DC
- June 13: Outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
  - June 28: Washington DC
  - July 13: Washington DC
- Draft Report published August 11
- Final 90 Day Report published August 18
- Six month Report expected November 18

# Outreach

- **Witness Testimony**
  - State & Federal Regulators
  - Scientists & Industry Leaders
  - Environmental Advocates
  - Citizens & Landowners
  - Academic Experts
- **Public Comments**
  - Over 25,000 Public Comments Received & Posted



# NATURAL GAS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD

## *Safety of Shale Gas Development*

### Secretary of Energy Advisory Board



### Shale Gas Production Subcommittee 90-Day Report

August 18, 2011



[WWW.SHALEGAS.ENERGY.GOV](http://WWW.SHALEGAS.ENERGY.GOV)

# Key Recommendations

- **Improve public information about shale gas operations**
- **Improve communication among state and federal regulators:** *“Provide continuing annual support to STRONGER ... and to the Ground Water Protection Council for expansion of the Risk Based Data Management system and similar projects that can be extended to all phases of shale gas development.”*



# Key Recommendations (continued)

- **Improve Air Quality**

- *Enlisting a subset of producers in different basins to design and rapidly implement measurement systems to collect comprehensive methane and other air emissions data from shale gas operations and make these data publically available*
- *Immediately launching a federal interagency planning effort to acquire data and analyze the overall greenhouse gas footprint of shale gas operations through out the lifecycle of natural gas use in comparison to other fuels*
- *Encouraging shale-gas production companies and regulators to expand immediately efforts to reduce air emissions using proven technologies and practices*



# Key Recommendations (continued)

- **Protect Water Quality**

- *Measure and publicly report the composition of water stocks and flow throughout the fracturing and clean-up process*
- *Manifest all transfers of water among different locations*
- *Adopt best practices in well development and construction, especially casing, cementing, and pressure management*
- *Additional field studies on possible methane leakage from shale gas wells to water reservoirs*
- *Adopt requirements for background water quality measurements (e.g., existing methane levels in nearby water wells prior to drilling for gas) and report in advance of shale gas production activity*
- *Agencies should review field experience and modernize rules and enforcement practices to ensure protection of drinking and surface waters*

## **Key Recommendations (continued)**

- **Disclose fracturing fluid composition**
- **Reduce the use of diesel fuel**
- **Manage short-term and cumulative impacts on communities, land use, wildlife, and ecosystems**

# Key Recommendations (continued)

- **Create a Shale Gas Industry best practice organization**
  - **Multi-stakeholder**
  - **National approach with regional mechanisms**
  - **Dedicated to continuous improvement**
  - **Air and water quality issues deserve early attention**

## Key Recommendations (continued)

- **Research & Development Needs**
  - Primarily an industry responsibility
  - Role for Federal Government includes safety and environmental protection

# Next Steps

**Final Report  
Due November 18<sup>th</sup>**



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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF**  
**ENERGY**