



"Improving the Safety & Environmental Performance of Hydraulic Fracturing"

On May 5, 2011, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu [charged](#) the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) [Natural Gas Subcommittee](#) to make recommendations to improve the safety and environmental performance of natural gas hydraulic fracturing from shale formations.

President Obama directed Secretary Chu to form the Subcommittee as part of the President's "[Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future](#)" - a comprehensive plan to reduce America's oil dependence, save consumers money, and make our country the leader in clean energy industries. The Subcommittee's task is defined as:

"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." ([Blueprint](#), page 13)

The Subcommittee met for the first time on May 18, 2011. Subsequently, they held public meetings on June 1-2, June 13, June 28, and July 13, and October 31 to gather information and discuss issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing. Details on those meetings can be found in the [Resources](#) section of this website.

The Subcommittee has received a tremendous amount of public input since its first meeting. You can view all comments on the [Public Input page](#) of this website. In addition, a number of comments were received regarding the Subcommittee's 90 day report. A [summary of those comments is available](#).

The Natural Gas Subcommittee's [August 18, 2011 90-day interim report](#) is now available.

Notice of Public Meeting and Draft Final Report

The Subcommittee has released its second and final ninety-day report reviewing the progress that has been made in implementing the twenty recommendations in its initial report of August 18, 2011.

- [Read the November 10, 2011 Press Release](#)
- [Read the Draft Report](#)

On November 14, 2011, the full SEAB Committee will convene a public meeting via conference call to discuss the report. Please read the [Federal Register Notice](#) for more details on the meeting and how you can participate.

In order for public comments to be most useful to the Committee, they must be submitted by noon on November 14, 2011.

Those not able to participate in the meeting or who have insufficient time to address the committee are invited to send a written statement to Renee Stone, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20585, or via email to shalegas@hq.doe.gov, or [post in the public input section of this website](#).