

Citizens Advisory Board Committee Minutes



Committee: Membership and Meetings

Date: October 4, 2006 – 10:00 a.m. (MT)

Participants

Board Members: Lila Gold, Committee Chair
R.D. Maynard

DOE-ID: Shannon Brennan

Support Staff: Lisa Aldrich

Objective(s) for the Committee Call

- Human relations.

Human Relations

The committee expressed the following concerns:

- Whether or not the board is following their own procedures and the DOE guidance in relation to membership.
- Public comment at the September meeting suggesting the board would be viewed as a “rubber stamp” if the board is not involved in member selection.
- Impossibility for the board to remain unbiased if the member selection process is done by DOE.
- Confusion as to what the CAB’s role is and will be in membership and selection.
- Confusion between majority vote and consensus and concern that a different opinion isn’t being documented.

Shannon explained that the EM SSAB guidance is silent on the board’s involvement in the membership process. All entities can nominate (CAB members, DOE, EPA, State, public). Nominations are processed on the federal side because this is a federal board. Internal assessment, audits, and reviews have revealed that CAB operations have not been in compliance for some time with Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and related regulations and guidance. DOE is trying to collate a group of people that could come together and provide their own opinion.

Shannon suggested having Melissa Nielson (DOE-HQ) explain the big picture including why and how changes are being made.

Actions

- Shannon will see if Melissa can join a committee call to further discuss this issue.
- Lisa will send out notification to the board when the call is planned.