

The Regents of the University of California

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LABORATORIES**

July 13, 2011

The Committee on Oversight of the Department of Energy Laboratories met on the above date at UCSF–Mission Bay Community Center, San Francisco.

Members present: Regents De La Peña, Marcus, Pattiz, Ruiz, and Varner; Ex officio members Gould and Lansing; Advisory members Rubenstein and Simmons

In attendance: Regents Hallett, Island, Kieffer, Lozano, Makarechian, Mireles, Pelliccioni, Reiss, Wachter, and Zettel, Regents-designate Mendelson and Stein, Faculty Representative Anderson, Secretary and Chief of Staff Kelman, Associate Secretary Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Investment Officer Berggren, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Vacca, Provost Pitts, Executive Vice President Brostrom, Chief Financial Officer Taylor, Senior Vice President Stobo, Vice Presidents Darling, Duckett, Lenz, and Sakaki, Chancellors Birgeneau, Block, Blumenthal, Desmond-Hellmann, Drake, Fox, Katehi, Leland, White, and Yang, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

The meeting convened at 11:15 a.m. with Committee Chair Pattiz presiding.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of May 17, 2011 were approved.

2. **UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LABORATORIES**

[Background material was mailed to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Committee Chair Pattiz recognized Vice President Darling for his work in the search for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) director and during the recent wildfire near LANL.

Committee Chair Pattiz noted the high quality of the science performed at the National Laboratories on issues including the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), climate modeling, and alternative energy. Charles McMillan has been named the new director of LANL and a search is ongoing for the director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), since the current

director will be retiring in October. Committee Chair Pattiz urged the Regents to visit the Laboratories.

LANL Director McMillan stated that his focus will be the Laboratory's high quality of science, which is the foundation of LANL's contribution to the nation and the world. Another area of concentration will be the use of multi-disciplinary teams capable of solving some of the world's most difficult scientific problems. He would also like to foster a Laboratory environment conducive to innovation and creativity.

Mr. McMillan reported that, slightly more than two weeks prior, the largest fire in New Mexico's history threatened LANL. During the fire, the Laboratory's nuclear materials were safe and secure. While LANL and the town of Los Alamos escaped all but minor damage, the fire had a huge impact on the local community and surrounding area; some Laboratory employees lost their homes.

Mr. McMillan noted the outstanding teamwork demonstrated by the federal response to the fire, the emergency office at LANL, the county fire and police services, and Laboratory personnel. The federal response to the fire was impressive, with 2,500 elite federal firefighters being transported to the area very quickly. Mr. McMillan stated that excellent emergency preparedness work at the Laboratory contributed to the successful outcome.

Mr. McMillan reported that LANL scientists devised novel analytic techniques to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New Mexico Environment Department monitor any possible Laboratory emissions during the fire. All the monitoring groups concluded that the Laboratory was not emitting any contaminants. In addition, the communication methods used to inform both the Laboratory's employees and neighbors were effective.

Mr. McMillan stated that the necessity of dealing with the fire had accelerated the pace at which he assumed the role of Laboratory Director, by forcing his early interaction with national representatives, State officials, and a wide variety of Laboratory staff. He noted that LANL is back on task, focused on its scientific endeavors.

Regent Gould asked Mr. McMillan what changes he would recommend in the aftermath of the fire. Mr. McMillan reported that his follow-up meetings with the Laboratory's emergency operations staff revealed that the communication preparations were not as developed as the emergency response effort in general. He will focus on improving emergency communications. Vice President Darling added that, since the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) is surrounded by trees and has difficult emergency ingress and egress, Mr. McMillan had invited the LBNL emergency operations director to participate in the "lessons learned" meetings at LANL.

In response to a question from Regent Makarechian, Mr. McMillan stated that LANL's supercomputers had been shut down during the fire, and that it takes several days to restart them.

Chairman Lansing stated that Secretary and Chief of Staff Kelman would schedule Regents' visits to the National Laboratories.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff