



institute of makers of explosives

Safety, Health & Environmental Affairs (SHEA) Committee Meeting

2025 Q1 Meeting (Virtual)

March 11, 2025

Minutes

Chair: Jessie Kelsey (Accurate Energetic Systems)

Vice Chair: Ken Snider (Hilltop)

Participants: Ken Snider, Dave Zoghby, Gordon Rogers, Delana Harris, Jessica Kozian, Lisa Nitschke, Liz Williams, Martin Held, Michael Bradshaw, Pat Valentino, Julia Bogue, Josh Hoffman, Sue Swanhorst, Clark Mica, Susan Flanagan

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:02am EDT.

ANTITRUST GUIDELINES

The Chair and counsel reviewed the IME Antitrust Guidelines and advised attendees that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the previous meeting held October 8, 2024 were approved.

EPA DEVELOPMENTS

- EPA Leadership & Staffing – Participants were briefed on new leadership and staffing at the agency, including the new administrator, deputy administrator (nominated) and key positions in the Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, and Office of Land and Emergency Management. Staffing, budget, and reorganization executive orders and policy decisions were also discussed.
- The new administrator’s policy initiative, “Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative” (PGAC Initiative) was discussed. The five policy “pillars” include:
 1. Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American;
 2. Restore American Energy Dominance;
 3. Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership;
 4. Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World; and
 5. Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs.
- Expected EPA Developments/Rollbacks

The committee was briefed on the following potential regulatory goals and rulemaking rollbacks:

- Withdraw once again from the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Rescind rules requiring significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from existing coal-fired power plants and new natural gas-fired power plants.
- Withdraw the EPA's proposed rule imposing a fee on methane emissions from oil and gas facilities.
- Resume the approval of new facilities that export liquefied natural gas (paused by former administration pending assessment of climate impacts of new gas exports).
- Rescind climate-related disclosure rules issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
- Ease federal rules setting ambitious fuel efficiency standards, which were expected to push manufacturers toward electric vehicles.
- Halt development of a final OB/OD rule.
- Reconsideration of Risk Management Plan (RMP) rule.
- Rescind 2009 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Endangerment finding.

OSHA/MSHA DEVELOPMENTS

- The committee was updated on current and potential leadership and staffing, including Secretary of Labor, Lori Chavez-DeRemer (Confirmed 3/10/25), and Keith Sonderling (nominated) – Deputy Secretary of Labor
- Within OSHA and MSHA, the committee was briefed on potential new leadership, including David Keeling (nominated) as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health and Wayne Palmer (nominated) as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.
- Expected OSHA regulatory developments and rulemaking rollbacks include:
 - Heat Injury & Illness Prevention in Outdoor & Indoor Work Settings
 - Electronic Injury Reporting Rules
 - Public Data Releases
 - Union “Walkaround Rule”
 - Inspection & Enforcement
 - Infectious Disease Standard
 - State-Level Regulations
- MSHA Regulations Modernization & Harmonization Project – The committee was informed that IME intends to pursue the modernization project with new MSHA leadership once personnel are confirmed and assume their roles at the agency.

LEGISLATION

The committee received an update on legislative efforts impacting OSHA, MSHA, and security issues including, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS), and potential energy project permitting reform.

SUBCOMMITTEES, SAFETY LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS, IME PROJECTS

1. SLP-29 Subcommittee - *Recommendations for the Environmental Management of Commercial Explosives Subcommittee* – It was reported that the subcommittee has approved of recent updates and that the updated document will be distributed to the full committee for review and approval before the IME Spring Meeting.
2. OSHA Regulations Subcommittee (SLP-33) – The subcommittee reported that SLP-33 will be submitted to OSHA once new leadership is in place. It is hoped that new leadership at OSHA will recognize the need to modernize its explosives regulations and will use SLP-33 as a guide in that effort. The committee was advised that this effort may be complicated by an executive order requiring the elimination of 10 rules for every new rule promulgated by the agency.
3. Injury & Illness Data Working Group – It was reported that submissions on the IME form should include any incidences/information that is required by OSHA to be included on the Form 300, including ancillary operations.
4. Education & Training Subcommittee – Members were requested to provide IME with any relevant information/policies regarding highwall safety. IME will prepare an outline for the possible development of a best practices document. Members were assured that all submissions will be considered by IME to be confidential. A best practices document will be developed in a way that is generic and does not reveal any identifiable company-specific information.

NEW BUSINESS

- The possible establishment of an Oil & Gas Standing Committee was discussed. The committee was informed that the IME Steering Committee will be considering this proposal.
- Members were encouraged to attend the IME Spring Meeting in Washington DC this May.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

A recent SAFEX Incident Notice (Notice 25-02, February 21, 2025) was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52am EDT.