



CHARTER
Of the
METHANE MONITORING AND CHARACTERIZATION WORKING GROUP of the
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Methane Monitoring and Characterization Working Group (MMCWG) is hereby established under the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS) by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).

B. Purpose and Scope

In March 2014, the White House issued a Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions¹ as part of the President's Climate Action Plan. The strategy is broken into two major categories for Federal activity: (1) actions to reduce methane emissions from multiple sources, and (2) actions to improve methane measurement. As agencies have furthered the goals of the Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions through investments in science and technology and the body of knowledge on methane measurement and monitoring has grown, research suggests that a select number of uncharacterized or under-characterized methane sources may account for a significant portion of U.S. methane emissions, leading to significant gaps between inventory-based "bottom up" estimates and large-scale measurement-based "top down" estimates of methane emissions.

To inform U.S. climate goals, commitments, and international engagement the MMCWG will leverage agency expertise and programs to evaluate and address these uncharacterized or under-characterized methane sources across a variety of industries, including, but not limited to, petroleum and natural gas, coal, landfills, and agricultural sources. Methane emissions from both anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic sources will be included in this scope. The MMCWG will facilitate a government-wide approach to identifying and identifying and characterizing uncharacterized or under-characterized methane emission sources and assisting Federal agencies in developing technology and solutions to enable mitigation of these methane sources. Where possible and practicable, these efforts will note where methane-focused monitoring programs can also measure or monitor other greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, and vice versa.

C. Functions

The MMCWG will:

- Assess the current status of methane technology and measurement investments across Federal agencies, including reviewing or coordinating existing technology assessment activities,

¹ https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/strategy_to_reduce_methane_emissions_2014-03-28_final.pdf

- recommending science and technology investments to address identified needs and gaps, and identifying opportunities for domestic and international data sharing and research collaborations.
- Survey Federal investments in methane measurement and monitoring infrastructure and their relationship to U.S. science and technology goals and climate goals.
 - Identify areas of research and technology outside of Federal agencies (academic, private sector, state/local government, and non-governmental organizations) with potential to inform mitigation best practices, both in U.S. methane-intensive industrial and non-anthropogenic sectors.
 - Within 8 months of the signature of this charter, develop recommendations, in the form of a white paper or report, for future science and technology agency initiatives that could support the methane monitoring and characterization needs of academic and government researchers as well as methane-intensive sectors that would use this technology to mitigate emissions from identified methane sources; this may include recommendations that are specific to certain agencies or certain sectors.
 - Coordinate with the CENRS Subcommittee on Global Change Research (SGCR) regarding Federal objectives and initiatives related to the broader topics of climate change and understanding emissions from greenhouse gases.

D. Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies shall be represented on the MMCWG:

Department of Agriculture;
Department of Commerce;
Department of Energy;
Department of Interior;
Department of Transportation;
Department of State;
Environmental Protection Agency;
National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and
National Science Foundation.

The following components of the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the MMCWG:

Council on Environmental Quality;
Domestic Policy Council;
Office of Management and Budget; and
Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include such other Executive branch organizations, departments and agencies as the Co-Chairs may, from time to time, designate, as appropriate.

E. Private Sector Interface

The MMCWG may consult with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to secure appropriate private-sector advice and will recommend to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology the nature of additional private-sector² advice needed to accomplish its mission. The

MMCWG may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

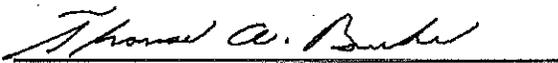
F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Co-chairs of the CENRS prior to its expiration, the MMCWG shall terminate no later than July 31, 2017.

G. Determination

We hereby determine that the formation of the Methane Monitoring and Characterization working group is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

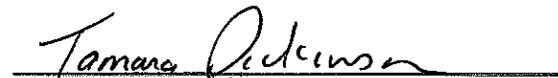
Approved:



Thomas Burke
Co-chair of the CENRS, and
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development and
Science Advisor
Environmental Protection Agency

JUL 28 2016

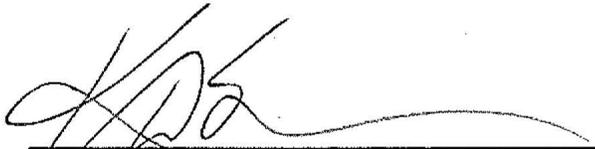
Date



Tamara Dickinson
Co-chair of the CENRS, and
Principal Assistant Director for Environment and Energy
Office of Science and Technology Policy

8/2/16

Date



Kathryn Sullivan
Co-chair of the CENRS, and
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and
Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Commerce

7-26-16

Date

¹ The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define "private sector," but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and international bodies.