2011 Current Fiscal Year Report: NIST Blue Ribbon Commission on Management and Safety - II

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Commerce	2011

3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
NIST Blue Ribbon Commission on Management and Safety - II	73676

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
Yes	10/13/2010	10/13/2012	08/19/2012

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
Yes		08/22/2011

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Terminate	No	Enacted

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Commitee Type	14c. Presidential?
Seretarial Decision Memorandum	08/11/2010	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports 1

16b. Report Date	Report Title
11/20/2010	Final Report of the NIST Blue Ribbon Commission on Management and Safety

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 2 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 2

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
The second NIST Blue Ribbon Commission will assess NIST's progress in addressing the findings of the first NIST Blue Ribbon Commission and identify additional opportunities to strengthen management and safety at NIST. In particular, the Commission will assess NIST's progress in: Making safety a core value at NIST; - Integrating safety with the conduct of operations in a meaningful way across organizational units; - Benchmarking safety protocols and performance against similar organizations with strong safety cultures; - Addressing a serious lack of resources for safety; and - Engaging a staff that was eager, willing, and ready to embrace a safety culture.	10/12/2010	10/12/2010
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Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	$736.00	$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	$13,253.00	$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00

18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	$0.00	$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	$0.00	$0.00
18d. Total	$13,989.00	$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.10	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Commission met only twice. It accomplished its purpose by reviewing background information provided by NIST in advance and by convening two one-day meetings, one at NIST Gaithersburg (MD) and one at NIST Boulder (CO). Those meetings involved presentations by NIST management and staff, focus-group discussions, and laboratory visits. The Commission the wrote and provided to NIST its final report.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The NIST Director shall appoint the members of the Commission. The Commission will have eight members. Each member will be either a member of the previous Blue Ribbon Commission or a current member of the NIST Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology. Each of these members are qualified experts with public or private sector experience in one or more of the following areas: (a) Management and organizational structure; (b) Training and human resources operations; (c) Laboratory management and safety; (d) Hazardous materials safety; (e) Emergency medical response; (f) Environmental safety; (g) Environmental remediation; and (h) Security for hazardous materials.Each member will serve for

the duration of the Commission. Members shall serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs) as such employees are defined in 18 U.S.C. 202(a).

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?
This Commission met twice in October 2010. Once October 12, 2010 at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD and then again October 20, 2010 at NIST in Boulder, CO.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?
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20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?
All meetings of this Commission are open.

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer
Kevin Kimball Chief of Staff, NIST

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Croce, Paul	10/14/2010	08/22/2011	retired, Vice President and Manager of Research FM Global	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fivizzani, Kenneth	10/14/2010	08/22/2011	retired, Manager of Chemical Safety Programs at Ondeo Nalco Company	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Haymet, Tony	10/14/2010	08/22/2011	Professor, University of California San Deigo	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rogers, Kenneth	10/14/2010	08/22/2011	retired, Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Shank, Charles	10/14/2010	10/14/2011	retired, Director, and researcher AT&T Bell Laboratories	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
VanSchalkwyk, William	10/14/2010	08/22/2011	retired, senior EHS central administrator at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Young, Thomas	10/14/2010	08/22/2011	retired, Executive Vice President of Lockheed Martin Corporation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The Commission supports NIST’s efforts to provide everyone who works for, works at, and visits NIST with a safe and healthful working environment and to strengthen NIST leadership and management overall through clearer roles, responsibilities, authorities, and accountabilities

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	✓
Trust in government	✓
Major policy changes	
Advance in scientific research	
Effective grant making	
Improved service delivery	
Increased customer satisfaction	
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	
Other	

Outcome Comments

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	✓
Unable to Determine	
Under $100,000	
$100,000 - $500,000	
$500,001 - $1,000,000	
$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	
$5,000,001 - $10,000,000	
Over $10,000,000	
Cost Savings Other	

Cost Savings Comments

The Commission was not focused on cost savings but on NIST conducting its work safely, but it is believed by many that an organization that can demonstrate that it can manage safety effectively and efficiently can manage other aspects of its operations effectively and efficiently as well.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

3

Number of Recommendations Comments

In summary, we recommend the following actions:1. Appoint crucial Associate Director for Laboratory Programs (and Principal Deputy).2. Address the enthusiasm gap in some senior management.3. Establish an Audit mechanism.In conclusion, the commission has thought about what would be a desirable end-state for safety at NIST. We would wish that the safety culture and program at NIST would be the standard by which all scientific laboratories would measure themselves. Within five years, senior science managers should be visiting NIST to learn about safety the way that scientists now visit NIST to learn about science and engineering

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NIST has implemented all of the recommendations. NIST has appointed a new Associate Director for Laboratory Programs, NIST senior management has committed to making safety a core value at NIST and to specific actions aligned with that commitment, and NIST has established and implemented a variety of audit mechanisms. NIST management has responded effectively to BRCI criticism. The entire NISTorganization has been revamped with clearer roles and responsibilities. Resources forsafety have been identified and applied. New talent has been attracted to a reorganizedsafety organization. Hazards analyses have been performed throughout theorganization. Major progress has been made in developing a safety culture at NIST.The Director has reorganized the various units to assist in promoting a safety imperative in all of NIST's activities. Leadership and operations have been strengthened; safety roles and responsibilities have been clarified. A totally new safety management program has been created that emphasizes reviews, rewrites all relevant documentation, and establishes new training programs that are meaningful to the various operating units. High-quality, experienced safety professionals have been hired at both sites. Their specialties have been chosen so as to be able to provide useful safety support and partnership to the broad range of NIST's activities. The morale within the new Office of Safety, Health, and Environment (OSHE) organization is high, including those members from the old Safety, Health, and Environment Department (SHED). Training related to safety and hazards has become a much higher priority, with hundreds of staff members voluntarily signing up for training programs. New mechanisms such as web sites and call centers have been established to make it as easy as possible for staff to access the resources and information they need to ensure safe operations. A new ticketing system tracks all requests for safety assistance. Staff can open and track their own tickets, thereby reinforcing their individual sense of

safety ownership.The Director has established an Executive Safety Committee to serve as a customer- and stakeholder-focused body for discussion, development, and review of NIST-wide policies and procedures and to provide mechanisms for employee input and participation. Staff-initiated safety committees that focus on particular areas continue to be encouraged. In one Operating Unit, a safety committee of experts from outside NIST has been asked to meet with staff to discuss safety culture issues and to provide feedback to the Lab Director. This director has found the results to be very useful and encouraging.In summary, the development of a genuine safety culture at NIST is clearly under way. However, that Institute-wide goal has not yet been reached, and much steady effort over the months and years ahead will be required

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?
0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?
Yes ☑ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	☑
Reallocated resources	☑
Issued new regulation	☐
Proposed legislation	☐
Approved grants or other payments	☐
Other	☐

Action Comments

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	☑
Online Agency Web Site	☑
Online Committee Web Site	☐
Online GSA FACA Web Site	☑
Publications	☑
Other	☐

Access Comments

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