

ARCTIC EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Summary of Principals' Meeting June 18, 2024

Overview

On June 18, 2024, the Arctic Executive Steering Committee (AESC) held its ninth Principals' Meeting in the Biden-Harris Administration. Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Deputy Director for Climate and Environment in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), chaired the meeting, standing in for Dr. Arati Prabhakar. Monte Hawkins, Senior Director for Transborder at the National Security Council, represented the President's National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, who serves as AESC Vice Chair.

The meeting included:

- Opening remarks by Jane Lubchenco
- Discussion of the recent changes in the geopolitical circumstances facing the Arctic Region
- Update on the effort to accelerate the cleanup of contaminated sites transferred to Alaska Native entities
- Update on assisting environmentally threatened Alaskan communities
- Update on improving connectivity in rural Alaska
- Preview of possible maritime boundary negotiations with Canada
- Upcoming release of Defense Department's Arctic Strategy

Background

President Obama created the AESC through [Executive Order 13698](#) and directed it to

provide guidance to executive departments and agencies and enhance coordination of Federal Arctic policies across agencies and offices, and, where applicable, with State, local, and Alaska Native tribal governments and similar Alaska Native organizations, academic and research institutions, and the private and nonprofit sectors.

Next AESC Meeting: The AESC intends to hold its next meeting in the third quarter of 2024.