2009 Current Fiscal Year Report: NIST Blue Ribbon Commission on Management and Safety

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1. Department or Agency
Department of Commerce

2. Fiscal Year
2009

3. Committee or Subcommittee
NIST Blue Ribbon Commission on Management and Safety

3b. GSA Committee No.
34763

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	09/16/2008	09/16/2010	09/16/2009

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
Yes		09/16/2009

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?
Memorandum For the File	09/15/2008	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports 1

16b. Report Date	Report Title
11/28/2008	Final Report of the NIST Blue Ribbon Commission on Management and Safety

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
The purpose of this meeting is to continue a high level review of NIST's management structure and systems as they relate to safety at the Institute. The Commission will ultimately provide consensus advice to the Department of Commerce on whether (a) the training, safety, security, and response protocols, (b) the implementation of those protocols and internal controls, and (c) the management structure at NIST are appropriate to ensure safe operations of all NIST programs. The agenda for this meeting will focus on NIST safety and management structure at the Boulder laboratories. The agenda may change to accommodate Commission business. The final agenda will be posted on the NIST website at http://www.nist.gov/director/blueribbon/index.html	10/06/2008 -	10/06/2008

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	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	$0.00	$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	$4,772.00	$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	$412.00	$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.)	$1,160.00	$0.00
18d. Total	$6,344.00	$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

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20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Membership will include qualified experts with pubic or private sector experience in one or more of the following areas: management and organizational structure; training and human resources operations; laboratory management and safety; hazardous materials safety; emergency medical response; environmental safety; environmental remediation; and security for hazardous materials.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Estimated number of meetings: 3

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

This committee is necessary to investigate whether (a) the training, safety, security, and response protocols, (b) the implementation of those protocols and internal controls, and (c) the management structure at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are appropriate to ensure the safe operation of all NIST programs.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

Thomas L. Hemingway Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Secretary of Commerce

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Croce, Paul	09/16/2008	09/16/2009	retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fivizzani, Kenneth	09/16/2008	09/16/2009	Research Scientist, Nalco Company	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rogers, Kenneth	09/16/2008	09/16/2009	retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Shank, Charles	09/16/2008	09/16/2009	retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
VanSchalkwyk, William	09/16/2008	09/16/2009	Managing Director, Environment, Health & Safety Programs, MIT	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Young, A.	09/16/2008	09/16/2009	retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 6

Narrative Description

The purpose of this Commission is to review and ultimately provide advice to the Department of Commerce on whether (a) the training, safety, security, and response protocols, (b) theimplementation of those protocols and internal controls, and (c) the management structure at NIST are appropriate to ensure safe operations of all NIST programs.

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

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?
5

Number of Recommendations Comments
The commission has summarized its concerns with five findings. First and foremost, safety is not a core value at NIST. A culture of safety must be led by the NIST director

who has the responsibility to ensure a culture of safety integrated with the work. Leaders have abdicated this responsibility. Second, safety is not integrated with the conduct of operations in a meaningful way across organizational units. The identification of hazards and the evidence for the corresponding training are inconsistent at best. Third, NIST has not benchmarked safety protocols and performance against similar organizations with strong safety cultures. NIST does not have a set of meaningful metrics to manage its safety operations. Fourth, NIST is plagued by a serious lack of resources for safety. This is evident in the facilities, equipment and funding for safety programs. In the Boulder laboratory, the condition of the structure makes safety a challenge. Finally we were encouraged that the staff is eager, willing, and ready to embrace a safety culture. We observed a desire for leadership in the safety area at every level of the staff we encountered.

What is the approximate <u>Percentage</u> of these recommendations that have been or will be <u>Fully</u> implemented by the agency?
100%

% of Recommendations <u>Fully</u> Implemented Comments

What is the approximate <u>Percentage</u> of these recommendations that have been or will be <u>Partially</u> implemented by the agency?
100%

% of Recommendations <u>Partially</u> 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
The Commission was only required to provide the agency with a set of recommentations. No feedback to the Commission was necessary

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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