

EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Summary of Principals' Meeting March 31, 2022

Overview

On March 31, 2022, the Arctic Executive Steering Committee (AESC) held its second Principals' Meeting in the Biden-Harris Administration. Alondra Nelson, Deputy Assistant to the President, performing the duties of the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, chaired the meeting. Jon Finer, Deputy National Security Advisor, represented the President's National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, who serves as AESC Vice Chair.

The meeting included the following segments: Opening remarks by Dr. Nelson and Jon Finer; discussion of the recent changes in the geopolitical circumstances facing the Arctic region; updates on the initiatives launched at the December 2021 AESC Principals' meeting; consideration of new initiatives; update on the development of a new National Strategy for the Arctic Region; reports from two AESC subgroups.

The meeting approved two additional initiatives: an enhanced effort to clean up contaminated sites in Alaska, and an effort to link U.S. investments in Alaska to U.S. foreign policy in the Arctic region.

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

Pursuant to Executive Order 13698, the AESC the "will meet quarterly, or as appropriate, to shape priorities, establish strategic direction, oversee implementation, and ensure coordination of Federal activities in the Arctic". The AESC intends to hold its next meeting in the second quarter of 2022.