

ARCTIC EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Summary of Principals' Meeting June 27, 2023

Overview

On June 27, 2023, the Arctic Executive Steering Committee (AESC) held its sixth 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. Katie Tobin, 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 and Katie Tobin
- Remarks by Julie Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives
- A presentation on U.S. ice-breaking capabilities
- Discussion of the recent changes in the geopolitical circumstances facing the Arctic Region
- Update on development of an Implementation Plan for the 2022 [National Strategy for the Arctic Region](#)
- Updates on the work of the Task Force on the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area and of the Arctic Resilience Working Group
- Progress assessments on initiatives launched at previous AESC Principals' meetings:
 - Assisting Environmentally Threatened Communities in Alaska
 - Improving Water and Sanitation Services to Arctic Communities
 - Advancing Marine Science in the Arctic
 - Advancing Safe and Environmentally Secure Arctic Shipping
 - Cleaning up Alaska Native Lands
 - Potential for Sustainable Development of Critical Minerals in Alaska

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 first half of summer 2023.