

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**Nanotechnology Environmental and Health Implications (NEHI) Working Group**  
**Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology (NSET) Subcommittee**  
**Committee on Technology**

**Designation**

The Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology (NSET) Subcommittee hereby establishes the Nanotechnology Environmental and Health Implications (NEHI) Working Group.

**Purpose:**

With the overall purpose of supporting federal activities to protect public health and the environment, the NEHI Working Group has the following aims:

- Provide for exchange of information among agencies that support nanotechnology research and those responsible for regulation and guidelines related to nanoproducts— here defined as engineered nanoscale materials, nanostructured materials, or nanotechnology-based devices, and their byproducts; and
- Facilitate the identification, prioritization, and implementation of research and other activities required for the responsible research, development, utilization, and oversight of nanotechnology, including research on methods of life-cycle analysis.
- Promote communication of information related to research on environmental and health implications of nanotechnology to other Government agencies and non-Government parties.

**Objectives:**

The NEHI Working Group will:

- Enable better communication of information related to environmental and health aspects of nanotechnology by the NNCO, NSET Subcommittee, and individual agencies.
- Assist in the development of information and strategies as a basis for the drafting of guidance in the safe handling and use of nanoproducts by researchers, workers, and consumers.
- With input from the NSET Subcommittee and other appropriate interagency groups, support the development of tools and methods to identify and prioritize specific research to enable risk analysis and regulatory decision-making for nanoproducts.
- Support development of nanotechnology standards, including nomenclature and terminology, by consensus-based standards organizations.

## **Membership**

The following departments, agencies, and offices shall have a representative on, and if desired, may name alternates to, the Working Group:

- Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce/National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Within the Department of Health and Human Services:
  - Food and Drug Administration
  - National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
  - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- Department of Labor/Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Within the Environmental Protection Agency:
  - Office of Research and Development
  - Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
- National Science Foundation
- National Nanotechnology Coordination Office
- Office of Management and Budget
- Office of Science and Technology Policy

The co-chair(s) of the NSET Subcommittee shall establish the Working Group chair(s) from among the member agencies. The Working Group chair(s) shall establish appropriate procedures for the Working Group and shall appoint an Executive Secretary who will keep official records of the Subcommittee, including an up to date membership roster of member agencies and their representatives, and meeting records, including minutes.

## **Resources**

As part of its responsibilities to the NSET Subcommittee, the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office shall provide technical and administrative support to the Working Group.

## **Private Sector Interface**

The President's Council of Advisors for Science and Technology has been designated by Executive Order 13226 as the National Nanotechnology Advisory Panel (NNAP) called for by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (PL 108-153). Under the law, the NNAP is to provide an independent assessment of the Federal nanotechnology R&D program. This assessment will include a periodic review of the activities of the NSET Subcommittee and any sub-groups, including this Working Group. Pursuant to the Act, the findings and recommendations of the NNAP will be presented to the President and forwarded to the Congress.

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The Working Group may also interact with, and receive *ad hoc* advice from other Federal advisory bodies and various private sector groups consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**Termination Date**

Unless renewed by the NSET Subcommittee (or its successor), these terms of reference will expire five years from the date of signature below.

**Determination**

I hereby determine that the formation of the Nanotechnology Environmental and Health Implications (NEHI) Working Group is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

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Dr. Mihail Roco  
Chair, Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and  
Technology Subcommittee

18 March 2005

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Date