

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Office of the Secretary****Extension of Comment Period for the Notice and Request for Comments on the Implications of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Commitments/Regimes and Other Proposed Commitments Being Considered Under a WHO Convention, Agreement or Other International Instrument on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response**

**AGENCY:** Office for Global Affairs, Office of the Secretary, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This document extends the comment period for the Notice and Request for Comments on the Implications of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Commitments/Regimes and Other Proposed Commitments Being Considered Under a WHO Convention, Agreement or Other International Instrument on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response that appeared in the December 22, 2023, issue of the **Federal Register**. The comment period for the notice, which is due to close on January 22, 2024, is extended to January 31, 2024.

**DATES:** The comment period for the notice published December 22, 2023, at 88 FR 88637, is extended. To be assured consideration, comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. Eastern time January 31, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be emailed to [OGA.RSVP@hhs.gov](mailto:OGA.RSVP@hhs.gov) with the subject line "Written Comment Re: Implications of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Commitments/Regimes and Other Proposed Commitments in the WHO Pandemic Agreement" by January 31, 2024. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Kim, Office for Global Affairs, Office of the Secretary, HHS, Room (639H) Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20201.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Background:* The original notice with full details is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/22/2023-28341/notice-and-request-for-comments-on-the-implications-of-access-and-benefit-sharing-abs>.

In December 2021, WHO's Member States decided at a Special Session of the World Health Assembly to establish

an intergovernmental negotiating body (INB), representing all regions of the world, to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. More information about the INB process can be found here: <https://inb.who.int/home/inb-process>. The INB currently intends to submit its outcome to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in May 2024.

The United States has expressed support for the development of an international instrument to protect the world from pandemic health threats now and in the future, and in a more rapid and equitable manner. Full details on the negotiating text and the outcomes sought by the United States are available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/22/2023-28341/notice-and-request-for-comments-on-the-implications-of-access-and-benefit-sharing-abs>.

*Purpose:* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of State are charged with co-leading the U.S. delegation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.

*Specific topics and questions:* Stakeholders are invited to provide comments on any and all issues raised by the negotiating text, including potential vehicles and means for implementation of commitments to which the U.S. may subscribe. To the extent commenters choose to comment on specific provisions of the negotiating text, it is helpful to reference any articles or sub-articles being addressed.

To provide additional time for interested parties to consider and comment on the negotiating text, the Department is extending the comment period for all comments through January 31, 2024.

**Susan Kim,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Global Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY****Coast Guard**

[Docket No. USCG-2023-0924]

**National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee; March 2024 Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice of open Federal advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (Committee) will conduct a series of meetings over 2 days in New Orleans, LA to discuss matters relating to activities directly involved with, or in support of, the exploration of offshore mineral and energy resources, to the extent that such matters are within the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard. All meetings will be open to the public.

**DATES: Meetings:** The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee's subcommittees will meet on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT). These subcommittee meetings will be for 90 minutes each and will start with the Subchapter N subcommittee, from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. (CDT); and then the SEACOR POWER subcommittee from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (CDT).

The full Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CDT). Please note these meetings may close early if the subcommittees or the full Committee have completed their business.

*Comments and supporting documents:* To ensure your comments are reviewed by Committee members before the meetings, submit your written comments no later than February 28, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Renaissance New Orleans Pere Marquette French Quarter Area Hotel, 817 Common Street, New Orleans, LA 70112-2307, website Family-Friendly Hotel, New Orleans | Renaissance New Orleans French Quarter Area ([marriott.com](http://marriott.com)).

The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee is committed to ensuring all participants have equal access regardless of disability status. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to fully participate, please email Mr. Patrick Clark at [patrick.w.clark@uscg.mil](mailto:patrick.w.clark@uscg.mil) or telephone at 571-607-8236 as soon as possible.

*Instructions:* You are free to submit comments at any time, including orally at the meetings as time permits, but if