

Subject: Re: Smithsonian Arctic Exhibit
From: Richard Spinrad <Richard.Spinrad@noaa.gov>
Date: Wed, 19 Oct 2005 11:43:38 -0400
To: kathy.crane@noaa.gov
CC: john.calder@noaa.gov, Chester Koblinsky <chester.j.koblinsky@noaa.gov>

Thanks

Kathy Crane wrote:

Rick,

One point that hasn't been raised, is that the exhibit was due to open today, October, 19th and has been delayed over political concerns. The Arctic Program managers from the supporting agencies have been involved in the attribution aspects from the beginning of the exhibit formulation.

Kathy

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Richard Spinrad wrote:

John - I like these suggestions. As you know I am heavily involved in the Smithsonian Ocean Hall developments, and the issue of "unintended political consequences" is quite serious. This will be especially so with the Arctic Exhibit as well. I would prefer to include a broad set of internal reviewers, to include those you've identified, as well as one or two who are connected to the political side of life (e.g. Stephanie Bailenson).

RS

John Calder wrote:

Rick, Both Kathy and I have been involved all along, as have Neil Swanberg of NSF and Waleed Abdalati of NASA. Richard Alley is the head of the external team and he has been closely involved. We could also invite some other NOAA or external scientists to join the review if we wish. People like Jim Overland at PMEL, John Walsh at Alaska, and Mark Serreze at Colorado are broad thinkers who aren't trying to force the science into any particular direction. We could also do a pre-review internally if that seemed useful.

-- John

Richard Spinrad wrote:

John - I am willing to do this, but only if I am comfortable with the subject matter support base that we include in the review. Obviously, I want to know that our Arctic and CPO experts are involved in the review. How will we ensure that?

RS

John Calder wrote:

Dear Rick, For over 2 years, the National Museum of Natural History has been working on an Arctic exhibit with financial support from NOAA, NSF, and NASA. The exhibit is almost ready to open, but the leadership at the Smithsonian would like the sponsoring agencies to provide a final, higher level, review of the proposed text and graphics. The issue of climate variability and change in the Arctic is a key part of the exhibit, and everybody wants to ensure that the exhibit is "fair and balanced" and not likely to cause excessive feedback from the politicians. The Smithsonian has asked that you be among those who sign-off on the exhibit, along with counterparts from NASA and NSF. It has been suggested that the "review team" meet soon at the Smithsonian with senior officials of the museum and go over any contentious issues. A copy of the text and associated graphics will be sent to us soon.

I suggested that the review should be done as a group, to include NSF, NASA, and NOAA senior officials and program managers, the head of the external team that helped develop the exhibit, and the Smithsonian internal team of developers. If we sit together and agree on the exhibit, then perhaps we can avoid any further reviews. I think that this meeting might be held in early November. Are you willing to participate in this review?

Thanks, John

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