

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service**

**Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee  
Charter**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee.
2. **Authority.** This Committee is in the public interest in connection with the responsibilities of the Department under the OCS Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et. seq.*), and is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Committee will provide advice to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), through the Director of the Minerals Management Service (MMS), on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the OCS Environmental Studies Program. The Committee will review the relevance of the research and data being produced to meet MMS scientific information needs for decision making and may recommend changes in scope, direction, and emphasis.
4. **Description of Duties.** The duties of the Committee are solely advisory.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee will report to the Secretary through the Director of the MMS.
6. **Support.** The MMS will provide administrative and logistical support for the Committee.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee's functions are estimated to be \$145,400, including all direct and indirect expenses and one full-time employee.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The Committee reports to the Secretary through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO to whom the Committee reports will be the Associate Director for Offshore Energy and Minerals Management. The DFO or the DFO designee or alternate DFO(s) will be full-time or permanent part-time federal employees, and will approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Committee will meet at the request of the Director of the MMS approximately once a year.
10. **Duration.** The Committee's charter may be renewed in 2-year increments by the Secretary as long as the Offshore Energy and Minerals Management Program of the MMS requires the expertise and advice of the Committee.

- 11. Termination.** The Committee is subject to biennial review and will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, it is renewed. The charter is renewed in compliance with section 14(a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee will not meet or take any official action without a valid current charter.
- 12. Membership and Designation.** The Secretary will appoint 15 non-Federal members to the Committee to serve a 3-year term. There will be no alternates. These members have been designated as special government employees. Non-Federal members may not serve more than two consecutive terms. However, after a 2-year break in service, any such non-Federal member will again be eligible for appointment. The DFO may recommend that the Secretary revoke the appointment of the member if the appointed member fails to attend two consecutive meetings. All members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

**Non-Federal Members:** To ensure fair and balanced representation in terms of technical skills and geographic location with consideration for the efficiency and fiscal economy of the Committee, the Secretary may appoint members based on the following criteria:

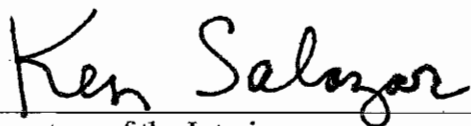
- Scientific competence,
- Reputation within their field of expertise, and
- Ability to represent important elements of the MMS's research and science information efforts.

**Federal Members:** The Director of the MMS, or the Director's designee, is a nonvoting, ex officio member of the Committee.

Members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee, subcommittee, or workgroup members engaged in Committee, subcommittee, or workgroup business approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Federal Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code (U.S.C.).

- 13. Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** The Committee's non-Federal members are designated special government employees and will comply with applicable ethics rules and regulations. The Department of the Interior will provide materials to members who are appointed as special government employees, which will explain their ethical obligations. Consistent with the ethics requirements, members will endeavor to avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Committee's operations, activities, or advice. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

- 14. Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees or workgroups can be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees or workgroups must act only under the direction of the Committee and must report their recommendations to the full Committee for consideration. The Committee Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee or workgroup members. Subcommittees or workgroups will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
- 15. Recordkeeping.** The records of the Committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the Committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

MAR 03 2010

Date Signed

MAR 10 2010

Date Filed