

**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

**Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee
Charter**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee (Committee).
2. **Authority.** The Committee is in the public interest in connection with the responsibilities of the Department of the Interior under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et. seq.* The Committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Committee provides advice to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Studies Program. The Environmental Studies Program, which was authorized by the Outer Continental Shelf Land Act as amended (Section 20), is administered by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and covers a wide range of field and laboratory studies in biology, chemistry, and physical oceanography, as well as studies of the social and economic impacts of Outer Continental Shelf energy and marine minerals development.
4. **Description of Duties.** The duties of the Committee are solely advisory and are stated in paragraph 3 above.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee reports to the Secretary through the Director of the BOEM.
6. **Support.** The BOEM 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 activities are estimated to be \$172,500, including all direct and indirect expenses and one full-time employee staff year.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is BOEM's Chief Environmental Officer who is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Committee and subcommittee meetings, prepare and 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 Secretary.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Committee will meet approximately 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Director of the BOEM, or the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Committee will terminate 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Committee will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. Membership and Designation. The Secretary will appoint 15 non-Federal members to the Committee to serve 3-year terms. These members have been designated as Special Government Employees and are required to file on an annual basis a confidential financial disclosure report.

Non-Federal Members: To ensure fair and balanced representation 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 BOEM's research and science information efforts.

Non-Federal members may serve up to two consecutive terms. After a 2-year break in service, non-Federal members will again be eligible for appointment.

Non-Federal members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee and subcommittee members engaged in Committee, or subcommittee 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 Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

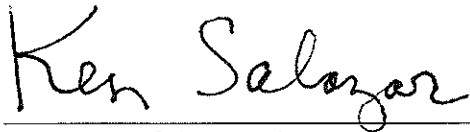
Any vacancy on the Committee will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. All members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Federal Members: The Federal members of the Committee will be appointed as non-voting members:

- A representative from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; and
- A representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

13. Ethics Responsibilities of Members. No Committee or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest. In addition, the Department of the Interior will provide materials to members appointed as Special Government Employees. 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 may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Committee for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Department. The Committee Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees 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, and formally or informally established subcommittees 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 09 2012

Date

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Date Filed