

Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee

Charter

Official Designation

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee.

Scope and Objectives

The OCS Scientific Committee will provide advice on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Studies Program to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the Minerals Management Service (MMS). 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.

Duration and Termination

The Committee will terminate 2 years from the date this charter is filed, unless renewed prior to that date to comply with section 14(a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee charter may be renewed by the Secretary as long as the Offshore Minerals Management Program of the Minerals Management Service requires advice and expertise of the Committee.

Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Director, Minerals Management Service.

Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support

The Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service.

Estimated Operating Costs

Annual activities of the Committee will require approximately \$44,000 and 1-year of Federal employee support.

Description of Duties

The duties of the Committee are solely advisory and are stated in Scope and Objectives above.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings

The Committee will meet at the request of the Director, but not less than once a year. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to approval by the Committee Chair.

Travel Expenses

Each voting non-Federal member will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when attending Committee and subcommittee meetings in accordance with Federal travel regulations as implemented by the Department of the Interior.

Membership

The Secretary will appoint non-Federal members to the Committee to serve a 2-year term. Non-Federal members may not serve more than three consecutive terms. There will be no alternates. The Secretary may revoke an appointment to the Committee if a member fails to attend two consecutive meetings. Previous service on the Minerals Management Advisory Board OCS Scientific Committee will count as service on this Committee for purposes of determining eligibility. However, to facilitate the transition from the Minerals Management Advisory Board OCS Scientific Committee, any member who has served three consecutive terms or more on that Committee is eligible to be nominated for an additional 2-year term on the OCS Scientific Committee. After a 2-year break in service, that member will again be eligible for appointment.

Appointments will be made to balance the Committee in terms of technical skills and geographic representation. Members will be appointed to the Committee 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, Minerals Management Service, or designee, is a nonvoting, ex officio member of the Committee.

Subcommittees

The Committee may establish subcommittees to study issues in-depth and to develop recommendations for consideration by the full Committee. Membership will be balanced in terms of perspective, subcommittee function, and expertise required by the subcommittee. Subcommittees may include people who are not members of the Committee. The Committee Chair will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittee members will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when attending subcommittee or committee meetings to present subcommittee deliberations to the full Committee. Subcommittee members will be reimbursed in accordance with Federal travel regulations as implemented by the Department of the Interior.

Officers

The Committee will elect from its membership a Chair, Vice Chair, and Parliamentarian to serve a 2-year term. The Associate Director for the Offshore Minerals Management Program, or designee, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer. The MMS Chief Scientist is the Executive Secretary and MMS Science Liaison to the Committee and will attend all meetings.

Meeting Minutes

Detailed minutes of each Committee meeting, recommendations made, and copies of all studies and reports received, issued, or approved in conjunction with the activities of the Committee will be available for public review at the following location:

Minerals Management Service
381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4001
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817

Ethics Responsibilities of Members

The OCS Scientific Committee 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.

Internet Homepage

Information on the Committee may be found on MMS's Internet site, www.mms.gpy.

Authority

We have determined that the Committee is in the public interest in connection with duties of the Department of the Interior. We have authority for these duties under the OCS Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 et. seq.).

The Committee activities will be governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), as amended, and implementing regulations.

_____/s/ Gale A. Norton_____
Secretary of the Interior

FEB 3 2004
Date Signed

FEB 19 2004
Date Filed