

Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee

Charter

1. **Official Designation:** Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee.
2. **Scope and Objectives:** 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 decisionmaking and may recommend changes in scope, direction, and emphasis.
3. **Description of Duties:** The duties of the Committee are solely advisory and are stated in Scope and Objectives above.
4. **Duration:** The Committee's charter may be renewed in 2-year increments by the Secretary as long as the Offshore Minerals Management Program of the MMS requires the expertise and advice of the Committee.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports:** The Committee will report to the Secretary through the Director of the MMS.
6. **Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support:** The Minerals Management Service.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs:** The estimated annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee's functions, including all direct and indirect expenses, are estimated to be \$75,000 plus the support of one full-time employee.
8. **Allowances for Committee Members (compensation, travel, per diem, etc.):** 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 Designated Federal Officer (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.).
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:** The Committee will meet at the request of the Director of the MMS, but not less than once annually.
10. **Termination Date:** The Committee is subject to biennial review and will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless renewed prior to that date. The charter is renewed in compliance with section 14(a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Committee is subject to the provisions of the FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and shall take no action unless in compliance with the charter filing requirements of section 9 of FACA.

11. **Committee Membership:** The Secretary will appoint non-Federal members to the Committee to serve a 3-year term. There will be no alternates. 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 Secretary may 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.

12. **Ethics Responsibility:** 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 (DOI) 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.
13. **Designated Federal Officer:** Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management (ADOMM), or the ADOMM's designee.
14. **Subgroups:** The Committee may establish such subcommittees or workgroups as it deems necessary, subject to the approval of the DFO, for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. The Committee Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee or workgroup members. However, the role of such subcommittees or workgroups is merely to provide information or recommendations for consideration by the full Committee. Such subcommittees or workgroups shall not conduct business independent of the Committee and must report their recommendations to the full Committee for consideration. Subcommittees or workgroups will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **Authority:** This Committee is in the public interest in connection with the responsibilities of the Department of the Interior under the OCS Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et. seq.*), and as provided in Section 9 (a)(2) of the FACA.



Secretary of the Interior

FEB 19 2008
Date Signed

MAR 10 2008
Date Filed