U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement

Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Ocean Energy Safety Advisory 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 will provide recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Secretary) through the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (Director) on matters and actions relating to offshore energy safety, including, but not limited to drilling and workplace safety, well intervention and containment, and oil spill response. The Committee will also facilitate collaborative research and development, training and execution in these and other areas relating to offshore energy safety.

4. **Description of Duties.** The duties of the Committee are solely advisory in nature, and they are as stated in paragraph 3 above.

5. **Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee reports to the Secretary through the Director, or the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).

6. **Support.** The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement will provide administrative and logistical support to 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 $210,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1 FTE staff year.

8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) will be 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 five times annually, and at such times as designated by 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.** Committee membership will consist of approximately 15 members representing the interests of the Federal Government, the offshore energy industry, the academic community, and non-governmental organizations.

To ensure fair and balanced representation on the Committee, the Secretary shall appoint members based on the following criteria:

- up to six members representing the Federal Government, including one member representing the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement; one member representing the United States Geological Survey; one member representing the Department of Energy; one member representing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; one member representing the United States Coast Guard; and one member representing the Environmental Protection Agency;
- up to four members representing the offshore energy industry;
- up to four members representing the academic community and non-governmental organizations; and
- one chairperson appointed by the Secretary with expertise in a field related to offshore energy safety.

Members will be appointed by the Secretary, with input and recommendations from the above referenced Federal agencies, the offshore energy industry, the academic community and other stakeholders.

Members may recommend alternates to represent them at meetings they are unable to attend. Alternates must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending meetings as representatives.

Members and alternate members of the Committee and its subcommittee members will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee and subcommittee members or alternate members engaged in Committee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service.

13. **Ethics Responsibility of Members.** No Committee or subcommittee member may 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 personal financial interest. In addition, the Department of the Interior will provide materials to those members serving as special Government employees, explaining their ethical obligations with which the members should be familiar. 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 Agency. 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, formally and 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.

Ken Salazar

Secretary of the Interior

JAN 19 2011

Date

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Date Filed