



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
RALEIGH 27601-1096

Legislative Research Commission
Advisory Subcommittee on Offshore Energy Exploration

Section 1. The **Legislative Research Commission Advisory Subcommittee on Offshore Energy Exploration** (hereinafter "Advisory Subcommittee") is established by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to G.S. 120-30.10(c).

Section 2. The Advisory Subcommittee consists of 24 public members listed below; 12 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and 12 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint a co-chair from among their respective appointees. Members shall at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

President Pro Tempore Appointments	Speaker of the House of Representatives Appointments
James Leutze, Co-chair, New Hanover County	Douglas N. Rader, Co-chair, Wake County
Orlando Hankins, Wake County	Lawrence Cahoon, New Hanover County
Jane Lewis-Raymond, Mecklenburg County	Joel J. Ducoste, Wake County
Christopher S. Martens, Orange County	Edward S. Holmes, Orange County
Mac Montgomery, New Hanover County	Jamie Brown Kruse, Pitt County
Michael K. Orbach, Carteret County	John M. Monaghan, Jr., Wake County
Walter Phillips, Carteret County	Hans W. Paerl, Carteret County
Wayland Sermons, Beaufort County	Jane Smith Patterson, Orange County
Laura O. Taylor, Wake County	M. Paul Sherman, Wake County
Paul Tine, Dare County	W. Hugh Thompson, Wake County
William Weatherspoon, Wake County	Jeffrey D. Warren, Wake County
Nancy White, Dare County	Rob Young, Jackson County

Section 3. The Advisory Subcommittee shall study:

1. The implications of leasing federal waters off North Carolina's coast in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf to energy companies for oil and natural gas exploration.
2. Relevant federal law and the legal authority of the State of North Carolina with regard to offshore drilling.

3. The potential impacts on the nation's energy supply, including documenting the best unbiased estimates available for what oil and natural gas might exist.
4. The potential financial impact of proposed exploration on the State of North Carolina, including effects on the economy, tourism, the commercial fishing industry, the impacts of a more industrial coastline, and ensuring a share of State profits.
5. The environmental impacts of exploration on North Carolina's coastline, including possibilities of spills, effects on water quality, air quality, marine life, and contributions to global climate change.
6. The environmental impacts of the infrastructure that would be associated with exploration and drilling for oil and natural gas.

Section 4. The Advisory Subcommittee shall meet upon the call of its Co-chairs. A quorum of the Advisory Subcommittee is a majority of its members. No action may be taken except by a majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 5. The Advisory Subcommittee shall hold public hearings in North Carolina's coastal region to solicit feedback from local residents as to the potential impacts of offshore drilling on those communities.

Section 6. The Advisory Subcommittee may establish an advisory group comprised of university faculty and scientific experts to assist in gathering and analyzing data so that the Advisory Subcommittee may provide more informed recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission. The work and membership of the advisory group shall be coordinated through the President of The University of North Carolina, utilizing appropriate resources of the various constituent institutions. The Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the expenses of the advisory group. The allocation may be accomplished by transfer of funds to the University of North Carolina.

Section 7. The Advisory Subcommittee is authorized to solicit testimony and evidence from experts outside of North Carolina and, subject to the approval of the Legislative Services Commission, shall make arrangements to reimburse such experts for their expenses associated with appearing before the Advisory Subcommittee.

Section 8. The Advisory Subcommittee, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 of the General Statutes. The Legislative Services Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services to be provided to the Advisory Subcommittee, as provided by G.S. 120-32.02.

Section 9. Members of the Advisory Subcommittee shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowance as provided in G.S. 138-5 and 138-6, as appropriate.

Section 10. The expenses of the Advisory Subcommittee shall be considered expenses incurred for the joint operation of the General Assembly. An initial allocation of \$100,000 shall be provided to the Advisory Subcommittee from funds appropriated to the General Assembly.

Section 11. The Legislative Services Officer may assign professional and clerical staff to assist the Advisory Subcommittee in its work. The Director of Legislative Assistants of the House of Representatives and the Director of Legislative Assistants of the Senate shall assign clerical support staff to the Advisory Subcommittee.

Section 12. In addition to the required public hearings in North Carolina's coastal region, the Advisory Subcommittee may meet at various locations around the State in order to promote greater public participation in its deliberations. The Legislative Services Commission shall grant adequate meeting space to the Advisory Subcommittee in the State Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building, subject to the availability of meeting space during the 2009 Regular Session.

Section 13. The Advisory Subcommittee shall submit a final report on the results of this study, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislative Research Commission (hereinafter "LRC") on or before May 1, 2009, by filing a copy of the report with the Cochairs of the LRC. The Advisory Subcommittee shall terminate upon the filing of its final report, or on May 1, 2009, whichever occurs first.

Effective this 11th day of February, 2009.



Marc Basnight
President Pro Tempore of the Senate



Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House of Representatives