



# Overview of “Section 999” and Ultra-Deepwater Advisory Committee

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Oil and  
Natural Gas



# Energy Policy Act of 2005

- **Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58**
- **TITLE IX--RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
- **Subtitle J--Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Resources**
- **Sec. 999 -- Ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore natural gas and other petroleum research and development program**
- **Signed into Law August 8, 2005**



# Section 999 Requirements

- **Program Elements**
  - **Ultra-Deepwater Resources**
  - **Unconventional Resources**
  - **Small Producer Program**
  - **NETL Complementary Research**
  
- **Other Requirements**
  - **Program Consortium**
  - **Annual Plan**
  - **2 Federal Advisory Committees**
  - **Technical Committee**
  - **Technology Transfer**
  - **Annual Audit**
  - **Benefits Assessment**



# Section 999: Advisory Committees

- **Advise the Secretary of Energy on development and implementation of activities related to:**
  - **Ultra-Deepwater Program (Ultra-Deepwater Advisory Committee – UDAC)**
  - **Unconventional Resources Program (Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee – URTAC)**
  
- **Responsibilities**
  - **Review annual plans**
  - **Make recommendations**
  
- **<http://www.fossil.energy.gov/programs/oilgas/advisorycommittees/UltraDeepwater.html>**



# Program Milestones

- August 2005** Energy Policy Act of 2005 signed into law [P.L. 109-58, 119 Stat. 922]
- May 2006** *Ultra-Deepwater Advisory Committee (UDAC) and Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee (URTAC) chartered (Section 999D)*
- January 2007** Contract with Research to Secure Energy for America (RPSEA) as the Program consortium goes into effect (calendar year contract)
- May 2007** UDAC and URTAC members appointed for 2007-2008
- June-July 2007** Advisory Committees review 2007 Annual Plan and deliver written recommendations to the Secretary of Energy
- August 2007** 2007 Annual Plan published; DOE/Fossil Energy (FE) receives FY07 funds; RPSEA receives initial research funding



# Program Milestones

- January 2008**      Advisory Committees meet to review 2008 Annual Plan
- March 2008**      Advisory Committees meet to complete review of 2008 Annual Plan and provide written recommendations; final report delivered to the Secretary
- June 2008**      Technical Committee [Section 999H(d)(4)] determines that the NETL Complementary Research Program is not duplicative of the consortium-administered program
- August 2008**      UDAC & URTAC members appointed for 2008-2010
- September 2008**      UDAC & URTAC meet to begin draft review of 2009 Annual Plan
- October 2008**      UDAC & URTAC meet on Subcommittee reports, and deliver final recommendations on the 2009 Annual Plan



# Program Milestones

- August 2009** Technical Committee meets
- September 2009** UDAC & URTAC begin review of Draft 2010 Annual Plan
- October 2009** UDAC & URTAC meet on Subcommittee reports, and deliver final recommendations on the Draft 2010 Annual Plan
- April 2010** *Macondo explosion: 11 lives lost*
- July 2010** Technical Committee meets
- September 2010** URTAC meets to review Draft 2011 Annual Plan
- October 2010** URTAC meets on Subcommittee reports, delivers final recommendations on the Draft 2011 Annual Plan
- February 2011** UDAC meets to review Draft 2011 Annual Plan
- April 2011** UDAC meets to hear and discuss Subcommittee reports, determine final recommendations, and adjourn work on the Draft 2011 Annual Plan



# Committee Responsibilities

- **The primary responsibilities of the Committee are:**
  - **Advise the Secretary of Energy on the “...development and implementation of programs related to ultra-deepwater natural gas and other petroleum resources...”**
  - **Review the Annual Plan and provide written comments, findings, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy.**
  - **The Committee does not provide recommendations to other bodies or discuss Committee business with the press.**





# Committee Responsibilities

- **Other responsibilities of the Committee include:**
  - **Committee members may not speak in an official capacity outside Committee meetings.**
    - **Members are free to talk to Congress and Administration officials as individuals on matters not related to the work of the UDAC**
  - **The Committee does not review proposals submitted under RPSEA solicitations, nor recommend awards.**
  - **RPSEA is a contractor of the U.S. Department of Energy and does not report to the UDAC.**
  - **Members may not advise both RPSEA and the Secretary of Energy at the same time.**



# Committee Responsibilities

## ➤ 2011 Annual Plan Review Process

### February 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting:

- Establish ad-hoc Review Subcommittees
  - Q: Does the UDAC wish to continue the Standing Subcommittee on Portfolio?
  - Q: Does the UDAC wish to continue the Standing Subcommittee on Process?
- Each Subcommittee will meet to develop draft findings and draft recommendations for the UDAC.
- Subcommittee meetings are held via conference calls and/or WebEx.
  - DOE provides logistics and support services for such meetings.



# Committee Responsibilities

## ➤ 2011 Annual Plan Review Process

### Meeting on April 6-7, Houston, TX :

- Subcommittees present their reports to the UDAC
- UDAC develops *final* findings and recommendations on the *2011 Annual Plan*
- Chair appoints Editing Subcommittee to develop the UDAC's written report
  - Editing Subcommittee may not change the letter or spirit of the UDAC findings or recommendations
- Editing Subcommittee begins meeting immediately after the UDAC meeting adjourns



# Committee Responsibilities

## ➤ 2011 Annual Plan Review Process

**Conference Call Meeting on April (TBD)  
Washington, DC:**

- UDAC meets via conference call to vote on the Editing Subcommittee report (date April 2011 TBD)
- Chair delivers the UDAC final recommendations to the Secretary of Energy via the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).