



**Sunset Review Committee  
Testimony on the Ohio Geology Advisory Council  
Provided by ODNR Deputy Director of Geological Survey Andrew Ware  
November 16, 2015**

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Good afternoon members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Andy Ware and I am the Deputy Director over the Division of Geological Survey within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present testimony on the Ohio Geology Advisory Council for your consideration.

**Purpose of the Ohio Geology Advisory Council**

The Ohio Geology Advisory Council was established by law in 1990 to provide guidance to ODNR's Division of Geological Survey in matters of legislation, programs, and policies that promote the wise use and protection of the state's mineral resources, proper assessment of geologic hazards, and fundamental mapping and research that will benefit the health, safety, and welfare of Ohio's citizens.

**Composition of the Ohio Geology Advisory Council**

The Council is comprised of seven individuals who have expertise in diverse areas of geology and mineral resources. Each member of the Council serves a three-year term and is appointed by the Governor. Not more than four members of the Council may be from the same political party. Members must have a demonstrated interest in and represent one of the following areas: oil and gas, industrial minerals, coal, hydrogeology, environmental geology, and higher education. One additional member of the Council serves in an at-large capacity, representing citizens in general. Members receive no compensation for their services other than reimbursement for their expenses. The Council meets quarterly.

**Workload of the Ohio Geology Advisory Council**

In addition to providing advice and recommendations on policy initiatives, the Council administers a grant program utilizing the contributions that are paid to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles by persons who purchase "Ohio Rocks!" license plates. The Council is responsible for awarding grants to geology departments of colleges and universities located in Ohio for graduate level research conducted at locations of geological interest in Ohio. Unfortunately, sales of any new plates have been discontinued due to lack of sales on plates in years past. Therefore, future administration of the grant program will not be possible since the funding to support it is no longer being generated.

**Ohio Geology Advisory Council Summary and Recommendation**

ODNR values the work of the Ohio Geology Advisory Council, but feels that the same level of input can be offered to the Department and the Division of Geological Survey through a less formalized and bureaucratic process. Therefore, ODNR recommends that the Ohio Geology Advisory Council be sunset by the Sunset Review Committee. We are committed to maintaining the same level of communication and engagement between the Department and these valuable stakeholders, but in a more efficient manner.

Members of the Committee, thank you again for giving me opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to take any questions that you may have at this time.