



**Sunset Review Committee  
Testimony on the Oil & Gas Technical Advisory Council  
Provided by ODNR Chief of Oil & Gas Resources Management Rick Simmers  
December 7, 2015**

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Good afternoon Chairman Brown and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Rick Simmers and I am the Chief of the Division of Oil & Gas Resources Management within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present testimony on the Oil & Gas Technical Advisory Council (TAC) for your consideration.

**Purpose of the Oil & Gas Technical Advisory Council**

The TAC was created in 2000 to consult with and advise the Chief of Oil & Gas Resources Management on issues pertaining to well spacing requirements, mandatory pooling units, and other issues as the Chief delegates. More specifically, the TAC may adopt, amend, or rescind rules relative to minimum acreage requirements for drilling units and minimum distances from which a new well may be drilled or any existing well deepened, plugged back, or reopened to a source of supply different from the existing pool from boundaries of tracts, drilling units, and other wells for the purpose of conserving oil and gas reserves.

**Composition of the Oil & Gas Technical Advisory Council**

The TAC consists of eight members to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Three members shall be independent oil or gas producers, operators, or their representatives, operating and producing primarily in this state, three members shall be oil or gas producers, operators, or their representatives having substantial oil and gas producing operations in this state and at least one other state, one member shall represent the public, and one member shall represent persons having landowners' royalty interests in oil and gas production. All members shall be residents of this state, and all members, except the members representing the public and persons having landowners' royalty interests, shall have at least five years of practical or technical experience in oil or gas drilling and production. Not more than one member may represent any one company, producer, or operator. The TAC holds quarterly meetings and has a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary.

**Oil & Gas Technical Advisory Council Summary and Recommendation**

Members of the Committee, thank you again for giving me the opportunity to testify today. The TAC is a valuable tool to ODNR's Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management. For that reason, ODNR recommends that the TAC be renewed by the Sunset Review Committee. In addition, the eight-member makeup of the membership works effectively to meet the TAC's objectives and is representative of good governance. I would be happy to take any questions that you may have at this time.