Ohio Sunset Review Committee
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Council - ORC 1509.38

Point of Contact Ben Bruns, ODNR Legislative Director

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Oil & Gas Technical Advisory Council (TAC), when requested by the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management, shall consult with and advise the Chief and perform other duties that may be lawfully delegated to it by the Chief. The Council may participate in hearings held by the chief under this chapter and has powers of approval as provided in sections 1509.24 (minimum acreage requirements for drilling units and minimum distances for wells) and 1509.25 (special order for drilling unit requirements in particular pool) of the Revised Code. The Council shall conduct the activities required, and exercise the authority granted, under Chapter 1510. of the Revised Code.

The Chief, with approval of the Council, 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.

The Chief, with the written approval of the Council, may issue a special order for the drilling conditions in a particular pool if necessary to protect correlative rights or to provide effective development, use, or conservation of oil and gas.

Additionally, the Council, upon receiving a request from the chairperson of the Oil and Gas Commission under division (C) of section 1509.35 of the Revised Code, immediately shall prepare and provide to the chairperson a list of its members who may serve as temporary members of the oil and gas commission as provided in that division.

Agency’s past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

In addition to the appointed members of TAC, three staff members from ODNR's Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management are utilized to facilitate the Council. All of these staff members attend to Council responsibilities in addition to their regular duties.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

There has not been a budget created, as there have been no expenditures associated with the Council. Should there be any expenditures in the future, the source of funding would come from the appropriations for the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

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 council holds quarterly meetings and has a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary.

All members are entitled to their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members, payable from the appropriations for the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management. No members have applied for reimbursement, nor have they received any other compensation for their work on the Council to date.

Additional notes

The TAC is a valuable tool to ODNR's Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management through its technical guidance in relation to our administrative rules on well spacing and mandatory pooling. The current composition of the Council allows for good governance, and thus, we would suggest leaving the number of appointees at eight.

ODNR recommends that the TAC be retained by the Sunset Review Committee.