

**Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Standards Committee of the
North Carolina Mining and Energy Commission
April 04, 2013
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

1. Preliminary Matters

Committee Vice Chairman Dr. Covington called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He read the ethics statement and asked Committee members whether or not they had conflicts of interest with respect to any action items on the agenda. None were expressed. Vice Chairman Covington invited members of the public who wished to formally address the Committee to sign their names to the “public speakers” sign-in sheet.

The following were in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Committee Members

Dr. Ray Covington (Vice Chair)
Dr. Vikram Rao
Dr. Kenneth Taylor
Ms. Amy Pickle

Attorney General’s Office

Jennie Hauser

DENR Staff Members

Trina Ozer, Office of the Secretary
Mell Nevils, Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR)
Walt Haven, DEMLR
Katherine Marciniak, DEMLR
Ryan Channell, DEMLR

Others in Attendance

Refer to the meeting sign in sheets (attached to these minutes).

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The Committee discussed the current style and structure of meeting minutes. After discussion with staff regarding the detailed nature of the March 07 minutes, the Committee directed staff to draft future minutes in keeping with “Robert’s Rules of Order.” Thus, future minutes will delineate discussion topics, Committee decisions, tasking, and specific items noted by members. Conversational details are to be excluded. Dr. Taylor motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Pickle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Standards Committee of the
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3. Diesel Fuel Constituents and Uses- Ryan Channell, DEMLR (See attached presentation)

Mr. Ryan Channell, DEMLR staff, made a presentation to the Committee on diesel fuel constituents and the banning of subsurface use of certain diesel fuel types based on the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers that have been banned by the US EPA.

The Committee further discussed the following items:

- If biodiesel would have the same level of aromatic compounds that are present in regular diesel fuel. Dr. Rao stated he would assist staff with looking into that.
- Diesel fuel should only be used in surface operations, the running of equipment, and should not be allowed in subsurface use.
- Adopt the same CAS list as the EPA's UIC program diesel ban.

Staff was directed to begin drafting rules on the banning of diesel fuel as was discussed at this meeting.

4. Hydraulic Fracturing Risk Assessment- Donna Womack, Jennifer Redmon, and William Wheaton, RTI (See attached presentation and documents provided by RTI)

Ms. Womack from RTI provided a presentation on a GIS based modeling system that RTI is currently developing to provide health, environmental, and economic analyses related to the oil and gas industry.

- Uses a three Tiered approach for modeling and analysis from very basic mapping to health risk modeling based on the need of individual, company, or agency.
- Anticipate having a product out within the next month that they will be able to begin getting client feedback from.

The Committee commented that the program could be a very useful tool to use in designing production units.

8. Public Comment

Vice Chairman Covington offered the opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee.

Martha Drelami, Chatham County Resident. Asked the RTI representatives what studies they used to present health modeling data in their presentation and if this was something that someone in the public could access and use. Ms. Womack answered that it was hypothetical data from other studies that RTI has conducted to assist the EPA with developing their models. Mr. Wheaton stated that the tool is still in the business model stage and would require revamping and design changes to be more user friendly, but they would anticipate it would be an internet based system similar to the GIS systems many counties provide online.

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Dianna Hales, Chatham County Resident. She stated that there is an extensive amount of GIS data currently being held by various state agencies and offices. This data can be obtained through the Center for Geographic Information and Assessment.

9. Discussion

There was some more discussion by the Committee and the Chairman about different ways that the RTI tool could be used and incorporated in the counties for use.

10. Adjournment

The Environmental Standards Committee adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.

DENR Staff Contact for this Committee: Mr. Mell Nevils, DEMLR