U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

North Slope Science Initiative Science Technical Advisory Panel

CHARTER

1. **COMMITTEE'S OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** North Slope Science Initiative Science Technical Advisory Panel (Panel).

2. **AUTHORITY:** The Panel is a statutory advisory committee established under Section 348(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15906); Section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as amended (43 U.S.C. 1739); the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600); Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a); and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131). The Panel is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

3. **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:** The Panel will advise the North Slope Science Oversight Group (Oversight Group) through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) on proposed inventory, monitoring, and research functions.

4. **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** The Panel's duties and responsibilities are as follows:

   a. Advise the Oversight Group on proposed inventory, monitoring, and research functions;

   b. Advise the Oversight Group on scientific information relevant to the Oversight Group's mission;

   c. Review selected reports to advise the Oversight Group on their content and relevance;

   d. Review ongoing scientific programs of North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) member organizations on the North Slope to promote compatibility in methodologies and compilation of data;

   e. Advise the Oversight Group on how to ensure that scientific products generated through NSSI activities are of the highest technical quality;

   f. Periodically review the North Slope Science Plan and provide recommendations for changes to the Oversight Group;

   g. Provide recommendations for proposed NSSI funded inventory, monitoring, and research activities to the Oversight Group; and

   h. Provide other scientific advice as requested by the Oversight Group.

5. **AGENCY OR OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE PANEL REPORTS**: The Panel reports to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the NSSI.

6. **SUPPORT**: Administrative support and funding for activities of the Panel will be provided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

7. **ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF YEARS:** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Panel's activities are estimated to be $45,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.50 Federal staff years support.

8. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER**: The DFO is the Director of the NSSI, who is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Panel and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Panel and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.

9. **ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** The Panel will meet approximately two to four times annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.

10. **DURATION:** Continuing.

11. **TERMINATION:** The Panel will be inactive 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Panel will not meet or take any official action without a valid current charter.

12. **MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION:** The Panel shall consist of a representative group of not more than 15 scientists and technical experts from diverse professions and interests, including:

    a. the oil and gas industry;

    b. subsistence users;

    c. Native Alaskan entities;

    d. conservation organizations;

    e. wildlife management organizations; and

    f. academia.

    Members appointed as special Government employees (SGEs) are required to complete annual ethics training and may be required to file on an annual basis a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report.

13. **ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS**: No Panel or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department of the Interior (DOI) in which the member has a direct financial interest.

As provided in 43 CFR 1784.2-2, members of the Panel shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by BLM, or in any litigation related thereto. For the purposes of this paragraph, indirect interest includes holdings of a spouse or dependent child.

The DOI will provide materials to members appointed as SGEs explaining their ethical obligations. Consistent with the ethics requirements, members will endeavor to avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Panel's operations, activities, or advice. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

14. **SUBCOMMITTEES**: Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the Panel for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO.

15. **RECORDKEEPING**: The Records of the Panel, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Panel, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Sally Jewell

Secretary of the Interior

MAY 27 2016

Date

JUN 20 2016

Date Filed