



OVERVIEW OF “SECTION 999” AND THE UNCONVENTIONAL RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee

SEPTEMBER 25, 2012



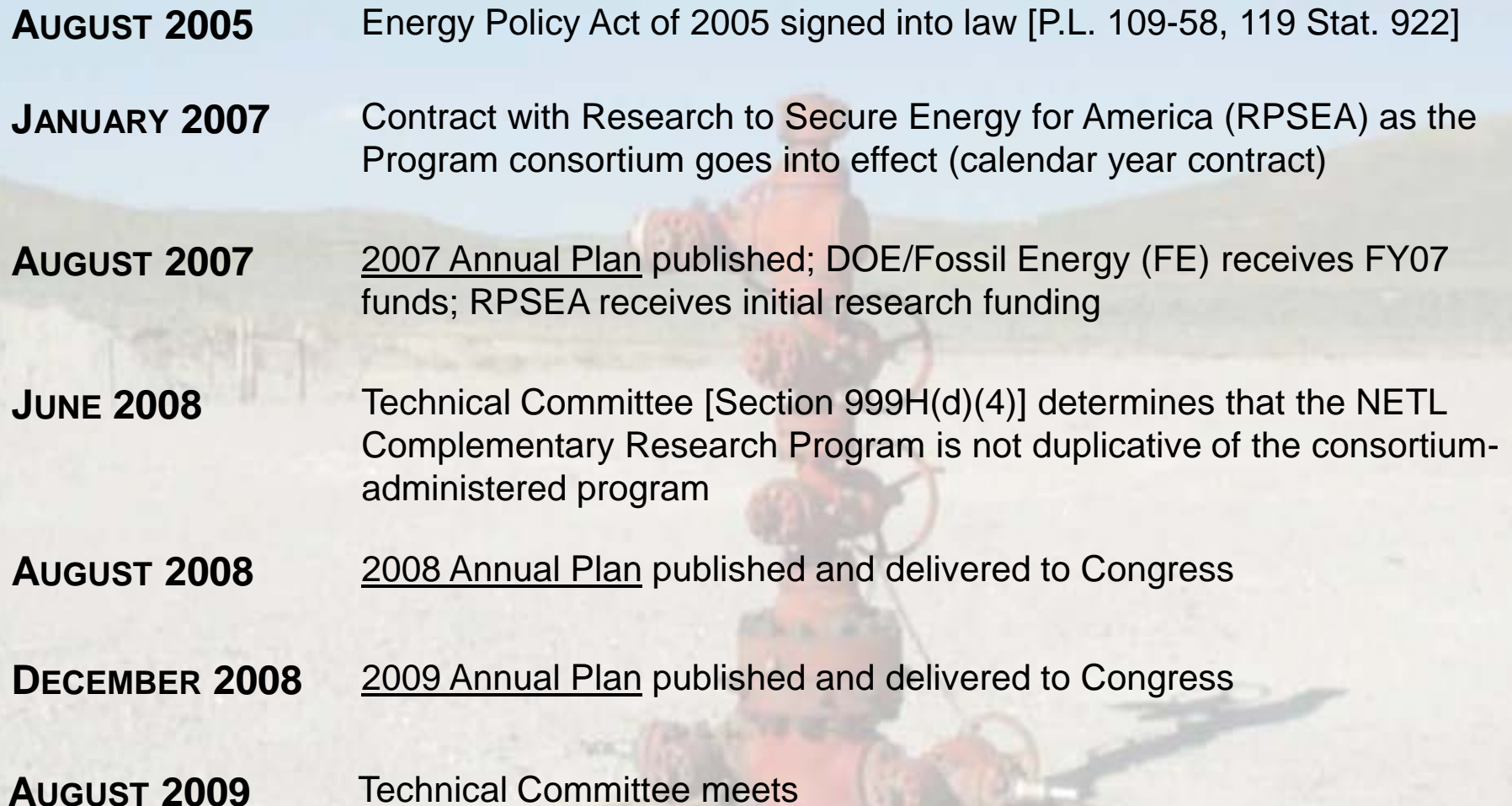
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Oil and
Natural Gas

- Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58
- TITLE IX – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
- Subtitle J – Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Resources
- Sec. 999 – Ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore natural gas and other petroleum research and development program
- Signed into Law August 8, 2005

- Program Elements
 - Ultra-Deepwater Resources
 - Unconventional Resources
 - Small Producer Program
 - NETL Complementary Research
- Other Requirements
 - Program Consortium
 - Annual Plan
 - Two Federal Advisory Committees
 - Technical Committee
 - Technology Transfer
 - Annual Audit
 - Benefits Assessment

- Advise the Secretary of Energy on development and implementation of activities related to:
 - Ultra-Deepwater Program (Ultra-Deepwater Advisory Committee [UDAC])
 - Include Committee sunset activities
 - Unconventional Resources Program (Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee [URTAC])
- Responsibilities
 - Review annual plans
 - Make recommendations
- ***<http://www.fossil.energy.gov/programs/oilgas/advisorycommittees/UnconventionalResources.html>***

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- AUGUST 2005** Energy Policy Act of 2005 signed into law [P.L. 109-58, 119 Stat. 922]
- JANUARY 2007** Contract with Research to Secure Energy for America (RPSEA) as the Program consortium goes into effect (calendar year contract)
- AUGUST 2007** 2007 Annual Plan published; DOE/Fossil Energy (FE) receives FY07 funds; RPSEA receives initial research funding
- JUNE 2008** Technical Committee [Section 999H(d)(4)] determines that the NETL Complementary Research Program is not duplicative of the consortium-administered program
- AUGUST 2008** 2008 Annual Plan published and delivered to Congress
- DECEMBER 2008** 2009 Annual Plan published and delivered to Congress
- AUGUST 2009** Technical Committee meets
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DECEMBER 2009 2010 Annual Plan published and delivered to Congress

APRIL 2010 *MACONDO EXPLOSION: 11 LIVES LOST*

JULY 2010 Technical Committee meets

AUGUST 2011 2011 Annual Plan published and delivered to Congress

SEPTEMBER 2011 Technical Committee meets

JULY 2012 Technical Committee meets

AUGUST 2012 2012 Annual Plan published and delivered to Congress

- The primary responsibilities of the Committee are:
 - Advise the Secretary of Energy on the “... development and implementation of activities related to unconventional natural gas and other petroleum resources ...”
 - Review the Annual Plan and provide written comments, findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy
 - The Committee does not provide recommendations to other bodies or discuss Committee business with the press

- Other responsibilities of the Committee include:
 - Committee members may not speak *in an official capacity* outside Committee meetings
 - Members are free to talk to Congress and Administration officials as individuals on matters not related to the work of the URTAC
 - The Committee does not review proposals submitted under RPSEA solicitations, nor recommend awards
 - RPSEA is a contractor of the U.S. Department of Energy and does not report to the URTAC
 - Members may not advise both RPSEA and the Secretary of Energy at the same time

➤ **SEPTEMBER 25, 2012**

- Establish ad-hoc Review Subcommittees
- Each Subcommittee will meet to develop draft findings and draft recommendations for the URTAC
- Subcommittee meetings are held via conference calls and/or WebEx
 - DOE provides logistics and support services for such meetings

➤ **OCTOBER 24 – 25, 2012; HOUSTON, TEXAS**

- Subcommittees present their reports to the URTAC
- URTAC develops *final* findings and recommendations on the *2013 Annual Plan*
- Chair appoints Editing Subcommittee to develop the URTAC's written report
 - Editing Subcommittee may not change the letter or spirit of the URTAC findings or recommendations
- Editing Subcommittee begins meeting immediately after the URTAC meeting adjourns

➤ **CONFERENCE CALL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 1, 2012**

- URTAC meets via conference call to vote on the Editing Subcommittee report
- Chair delivers the URTAC final recommendations to the Secretary of Energy via the Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

- **September 25, 2012:** Begin review
 - **October 24 – 25, 2012:** Deliberate on recommendations
 - **November 1, 2012:** Vote on Editing Subcommittee report
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- A red industrial valve or wellhead stands in a desert landscape. The valve is a vertical stack of several sections, each with a handwheel. It is mounted on a circular base. The background shows a vast, flat desert floor with low hills in the distance under a clear sky. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing the text.