

Initial Draft
**Proposed Committees and Study Groups for
NC Oil & Gas Commission**

Civil-Penalty Remission Committee- A statutory requirement of the Oil & Gas Commission. Must be staffed with at least three OGC members and has quasi-judicial authority to consider matters not resolved by DEQ and Operators who have been assigned civil penalties, but who challenge the penalty or wish the commission to consider matters of extenuation or mitigation.

Rules Committee- The committee chartered to internally review and edit rules so they conform to the state's Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and statutory Rulemaking standards. This committee reviews proposed rules or rule changes prior to consideration by the full Oil & Gas Commission. The committee is the rules-producing committee for matters related to administrative hearings and legal matters not otherwise assigned to the other standing committees. The DEQ Rulemaking coordinator will assist this committee with clarifications of the APA and act as its liaison to the Rules Review Commission.

Operations Committee- The committee chartered to develop rules pertaining to development of drilling units and permits, landman activity, operator procedures, drilling and well stimulation operations, reporting, disclosures, management of trade secrets, safety, and emergency services .

Environmental Standards Committee- The committee chartered to develop and manage rules related to ground water, surface water, air, soil, and other geological concerns. These rules include waste water storage and recycling, water testing, pit and tank standards, air monitoring, environmental mitigation, remediation of contaminated soil, and disposal of drilling wastes.

Best Practices Study Group- The group of commissioners and subject matter experts chartered to monitor and study technology developments, rulemaking, and statutory guidelines for horizontal drilling and well stimulation in other states, and for making recommendations for rulemaking to the full commission.

Public Health Study Group- North Carolina was the first state in the US to perform a ground water baseline, an air quality baseline, and a seismic baseline (of the Triassic Basin) prior to the execution of drilling operations. No state has yet performed a public health or a socio-economic baseline from which a comprehensive impact analysis could be performed after the commencement of drilling operations. This study group would be chartered to collaborate with the Department of Labor, DHHS/DPH, and public health officials in and around the Triassic basins to capture relevant endocrinological, fetal health, and chronic disease data to effectively baseline public health conditions to be used in future impact analyses.