

Beverly Perdue, Governor

J. Keith Crisco, Secretary



**North Carolina
Department Of Commerce**

Release: IMMEDIATE
Date: March 1, 2011

Contact: Seth Effron
Phone: (919) 733-1922

Offshore Energy Panel Reschedules Outreach Sessions on Coastal Issues
Governor's Scientific Panel Sets 2 Public Fact-Finding Meetings in Coastal Communities

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue's Scientific Advisory Panel on Offshore Energy has rescheduled, for Thursday March 10 in Morehead City and Thursday March 24 in Manteo, the two public outreach sessions that were canceled in January due to adverse weather conditions. The panel is conducting the sessions as part of its mission to evaluate offshore energy options and recommend to the governor a comprehensive offshore energy strategy. The public meetings will enable members of the panel to hear, first-hand, from the residents, businesses and community leaders in coastal areas about their views and concerns in connection with offshore energy.

The public meeting schedule is:

- **4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10 (Morehead City)** – UNC Institute of Marine Sciences, 3431 Arendell Street, Morehead City.
- **4 p.m. Thursday, March 24 (Manteo)** -- Dare County Administration Building, 954 Marshall C. Collins Drive, Manteo.

Gov. Perdue created the Scientific Advisory Panel on Offshore Energy in September 2009 by executive order in response, in part, to a proposed five-year federal oil and gas leasing program for the sale of leases off the Atlantic coast. Perdue said the panel was created to "ensure that I have the best minds in our state evaluating all of our offshore energy options and working with me to develop a comprehensive offshore energy strategy."

As part of that mission, the panel is seeking to get direct input and comment from the public in the eastern coastal part of North Carolina most directly affected by the development of any offshore energy resource.

Members of the panel are:

- Chairman, Willis Whichard, former N.C. Supreme Court Justice
- Doug Rader, Chief Oceans Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund

- Bill Holman, former N.C. Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Duke University Nicholas Institute on the Environment
- Jim Leutze, former UNC-Wilmington chancellor
- Orlando Hankins, Assistant Vice President-Academic Affairs, Saint Augustine's College
- Ken Arnold, oil and natural gas consultant
- Margery Overton, N.C.State University coastal engineer
- Stan Riggs, East Carolina University Professor of Geology
- Gary Perry, town of Kitty Hawk Mayor Pro Tem
- Pete Peterson, UNC-Chapel Hill Marine Sciences Institute in Morehead City
- Carl Wilkins, Director for Renewables and Energy Efficiency, Quanta Technology
- Dave Owens, UNC School of Government and formerly with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management
- Dean Painter, president, Raven Capital
- Anne Coan, N.C. Farm Bureau director of environmental affairs
- Larry Baldwin, founder of the Land Management Group

A copy of the executive order creating the panel can be found online at:

<http://www.governor.state.nc.us/NewsItems/UploadedFiles/b0f0c6f6-816e-4633-8d6c-7f6376e7e1bf.pdf>

More background about the panel and offshore energy issues is online at:

<http://www.energync.net/GSP-OffshoreEnergy.html>

###