

# CHARTER

## North Slope Science Technical Group

**Official Designation:** North Slope Science Technical Group (The Science Group).

**Scope and Objectives:** The purpose of the North Slope Science Technical Group is to advise the North Slope Science Oversight Group on issues such as identifying and prioritizing inventory, monitoring and research needs, and providing other scientific advice as requested by the Oversight Group.

**Duration:** The need for the Science Group is expected to continue indefinitely. In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Science Group will be rechartered every 2 years by the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary).

**Agency or Official to Whom the Group Reports:** The Science Group reports to the Oversight Group through the Secretary's designee who shall serve as the Designated Federal Official of the Science Group.

**Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support:** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Science Group will be provided by the Bureau of Land Management.

**Estimated Annual Operating Costs:** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Science Group's functions are estimated to be \$45,000 per year plus .5 man years.

**Description of Duties:** The duties of the Science Group are solely advisory to the Oversight Group, which will give direction to the Science Group regarding priorities for decisions needed for the Department of the Interior's management. Duties could include the following:

- a. Advise the Oversight Group on science planning and relevant research and monitoring projects;
- 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 at the request of the member organizations 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;

- h. Provide other scientific advice as requested by the Oversight Group; and
- i. Coordinate with groups and committees appointed or requested by the Oversight Group to provide science advice, as needed.

**Allowances for Science Group Members:** Members of the Science Group will receive no compensation as members. Members shall, however, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem, when engaged in actual performance of Science Group duties, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Federal Government service are allowed such expenses under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

**Frequency of Meetings:** The Science Group will meet two to four times annually, but in no case less than once. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary.

**Group Membership:** The Group will consist of not more than 15 members, appointed by the Secretary. The members will be selected from among, but not limited to the following disciplines: expertise in North Slope traditional and local knowledge, landscape ecology, petroleum engineering, civil engineering, petroleum geology, botany, hydrology, limnology, habitat biology, wildlife biology, marine ecology, biometrics, sociology, cultural anthropology, economics, ornithology, oceanography, civil engineering, fisheries biology, and climatology.

**Ethics Responsibilities of Members:** All members will comply with applicable ethics rules and regulations. The Department of the Interior will provide materials to those members appointed as Special Government Employees, explaining the ethical obligations which the members should be familiar. Consistent with the ethics requirements, members will endeavor to avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Commission'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.

**Subgroups:** The Science Group may establish such workgroups or subgroups as it deems necessary for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such workgroups may not conduct business and must report to the full Group.

**Termination Date:** The Science Group will terminate 2 years from the date this charter is filed unless prior to that date it is renewed by the Secretary in accordance with the FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix (1988).

**Authority:** The Secretary of the Interior having determined that it is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed by law on the Department of the Interior.

/s/ Gale A. Norton  
**SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**

September 01, 2005  
**DATE SIGNED**

January 11, 2006  
**DATE CHARTER FILED**