

State of South Carolina )  
County of Horry ) *Resolution #2015-03*  
Town of Briarcliffe Acres )

*To Oppose Seismic Testing & Offshore Drilling Activities*

**WHEREAS**, this matter comes before the Council of the Town of Briarcliffe Acres at a regularly scheduled meeting held the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the mid- and south-Atlantic planning areas to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas including risky methods, such as seismic blasting; and

**WHEREAS**, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean. These dynamite-like blasts can occur as frequently as every ten seconds for days to weeks at a time, and are loud enough to harm marine and aquatic life; and

**WHEREAS**, the full impacts of seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, BOEM or the Federal Government, and lower-impact alternative technologies may be available for exploration in the near future; and

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of a spill; and

**WHEREAS**, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which may harm the character of our coast; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats for the coastal wetland areas of the Town of Briarcliffe Acres, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous migratory bird species, serve as essential wildlife habitats, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Briarcliffe Acres is a South Carolina municipality wherein a major benefit is related to the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical environment, which are also the primary factors contributing to the high quality of life the Town's residents enjoy, enabling high property values and attracting new residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Briarcliffe Acres endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal environment and its resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Briarcliffe Acres Town Council believes that more research should be done to fully understand and to better address the impacts of seismic testing, and the options for mitigating those impacts before exploration begins, including incorporation of the National Marine Fisheries Service's soon-to-be-released acoustic guidance document; and

**WHEREAS**, the exploration and development of oil and natural gas in the mid- and south-Atlantic planning areas will not effectively or fully address the long-term energy needs of our country; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town believes that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy through solar, wind, biomass energy production projects that pose less risk to its coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic blasting for offshore oil and gas exploration.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Briarcliffe Acres Town Council does hereby submit its opposition to seismic testing and offshore oil and gas development off the coast of South Carolina.

**BE IT SO RESOLVED**, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015.

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Gary R. Pull  
Mayor

Council:  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Woods

Attest:  
Sheila Hamilton  
Town Clerk  
