



Council

Samuel E. Murray
Mayor

Mary Beth Heyward
Mayor Pro Tempore

Vernon DeLoach
Tom Klein
Joe Lee

Van Willis
Town Manager

T. Alan Beach
Chief of Police

Jeffrey S. Coppinger
Daniel G. Lemieux
Operations

Linda Bridges
Planning

Resolution 1-2015

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE TOWN OF PORT ROYAL'S OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the mid-Atlantic Ocean 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 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 Port Royal Sound and it's Estuaries, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous migratory bird species, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Port Royal is a South Carolina municipality where a major economic force is tourism 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 business recruitment and attracting new residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Port Royal endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal environment and its resources; and,

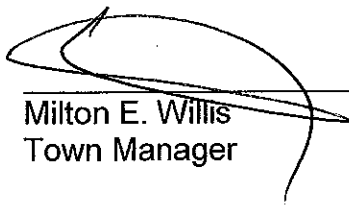
WHEREAS, the Town of Port Royal believes that more research should be done to fully understand and to better address the impacts of seismic testing and the options for mitigating those impacts before exploration begins, including incorporation of the National Marine Fisheries Service's soon-to-be-released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

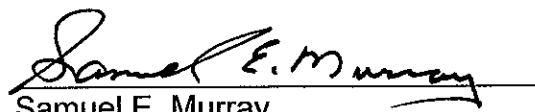
WHEREAS, the exploration and development of oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic coast will not effectively or fully address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,


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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORT ROYAL, IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED, THAT THE TOWN IS OPPOSED TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT OFF OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COAST.

Done this 11th day of February 2015.


Milton E. Willis
Town Manager


Samuel E. Murray
Mayor


Tanya L. Payne
Municipal Clerk