




City of NORFOLK

To the Honorable Council
City of Norfolk, Virginia

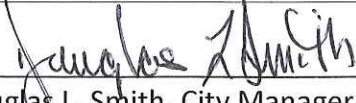
July 18, 2017

From: Wynter C. Benda, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Resolution opposing offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic testing

Reviewed: 
Michael G. Goldsmith, Deputy City Manager

Ward/Superward: Citywide

Approved: 
Douglas L. Smith, City Manager

Item Number:

R-8

- I. **Recommendation:** Adopt Resolution
- II. **Applicant:** City of Norfolk
- III. **Description:**
This agenda item is to approve a resolution stating the City of Norfolk's (the "City's") opposition to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic testing.
- IV. **Analysis:**
The United States Department of the Interior has endorsed seismic testing, and oil and gas exploration and drilling in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean from Delaware Bay to Cape Canaveral. The endorsed activities could prove harmful to the City's tourism industry and economy, to the activities of the U.S. Navy and of the Port of Virginia, as well as to marine life and the environment.
- V. **Financial Impact:**
A healthy tourism industry and economy are necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of our citizens.
- VI. **Environmental:**
Seismic testing has been found to be disruptive to marine mammals, fish, and other marine life. Oil and gas exploration and production pose threats to coastal wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay which are ecologically valuable habitat for migratory birds, serve as essential nursery habitat for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surges and hurricanes.

VII. Community Outreach/Notification:

Public notification for this agenda item was conducted through the City's agenda notification process.

VIII. Commission Action:

In a letter dated July 11, 2017 the Norfolk Environmental Commission expressed their concerns about the potential negative impacts of seismic testing and drilling for oil and gas on the environment, Navy operations, and Norfolk's economy.

IX. Coordination/Outreach:

This letter and ordinance have been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Office and the Department of Public Works.

Supporting Material from the City Attorney's Office:

- Resolution

07/12/17

Form and Correctness Approval

RAP

Contents Approved:

By


 Office of the City Attorney

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

By _____

DEPT. _____

Resolution

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS
 DRILLING AND EXPLORATION, INCLUDING SEISMIC
 TESTING.

- - -

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior has endorsed seismic testing, and oil and gas exploration and drilling in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean from Delaware Bay to Cape Canaveral; and

WHEREAS, the endorsed activities could prove harmful to the City's tourism industry and economy, to the activities of the U.S. Navy and of the Port of Virginia, as well as to the marine life and environment, which are all integral to the City's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, a healthy tourism industry and economy are necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of our citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Norfolk:

Section 1:- That the Council opposes offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling, including seismic testing.

Section 2:- That this resolution shall be in effect from and after its adoption.