



STOP OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ATLANTIC

Offshore Seismic Blasting & Drilling: Claims vs. Facts

Pro-drilling supporters claim:	Opponents know the FACTS:
Energy independence: South Carolina can make an important contribution to America's energy independence by exploiting our offshore oil and gas resources.	• We don't need to explore for new resources offshore because the US has a glut of oil and gas. Thanks to the "shale revolution," the U.S. is now the world's largest natural gas producer, with an 80-100 year supply, and the world's largest oil producer. • U.S. oil production has reached such high levels that Congress passed a law in December 2015 to allow oil companies to EXPORT crude oil for the first time since the 1970s. We are now exporting over a million barrels of crude per day to countries like China and India. • Congress also authorized the sale of 190 million barrels of oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which began in January 2017.
Long-term impact: Actually, proponents only talk about potential short term benefits.	• Like the damage the oil and gas business has caused to the Gulf of Mexico and the California coast, the impact of this decision will harm the Atlantic coast for decades to come. • Offshore California wells were drilled 50+ years ago. The first Santa Barbara spill occurred in 1969 and led to a moratorium on new drilling leases in 1982. But production and drilling on old leases continues. The May 2015 pipeline spill oiled 9+ miles of the California coast. The October 2015 Aliso Canyon methane leak, the largest in US history, spewed for 4 months. Over 11,000 people and 2 schools were temporarily relocated. • The Atlantic coast decision is our legacy. Our children and generations to come will have to deal with future spills, health impairment, pollution and economic harm.
Jobs for South Carolinians: Tens of thousands of high paying jobs will be created.	• High-paying offshore jobs require extensive training and oil field experience. Oil field workers are like nomads who travel from their homes elsewhere in the U.S. or the world to a drilling rig where they work for 2 or 3 weeks - living on the rig - and then return to their homes on their time off. • Therefore, offshore drilling jobs will not be local. • Some onshore support jobs may be created, but they will be few in number, low-paying, high-risk, and/or temporary. * Continued on other side *

December 2018

State revenue: Shared (with the federal government) offshore oil and gas revenues will provide \$3.7 billion to South Carolina. [Source: API -funded Quest report 2013]	• The Trump Administration has said it will not share OCS oil-leasing revenues with states. At this time, there is no provision or law enacted that would provide revenue sharing to South Carolina. • Best-case projected revenues from SC oil and gas development is less than 1/25th of forecasted tourism income. [Source: Tourism vs. Oil Report 2015 http://www.drilldownsc.com/tvo]
Seismic surveys are safe: Environmental damage caused by seismic surveys and exploratory drilling will be inconsequential.	• Seismic blasts are many times louder than the firing of a howitzer and occur every ten seconds, all day and night, for months. The noise travels across the ocean over 2500 miles. • Five seismic companies have applied for permits to run over 90,000 miles of seismic lines in the Atlantic Ocean. Collectively, they have requested permission to harm or kill over 435,000 marine mammals. The combined amount of noise in the ocean would be unprecedented. • Recent research has demonstrated that seismic blasting reduces the abundance of reef-fish by 78% and can kill zooplankton, the foundation of our marine food chain, from a distance of almost ¾ mile away.
Make the decision to drill after we see the seismic data: Seismic surveys will tell us the size of the Atlantic gas and oil reserves and allow us to make an informed decision about drilling.	• Seismic survey interpretation DOES NOT tell you “what’s out there.” To know what is there, you must drill. • Shell recently drilled a \$7 Billion dry hole in the Arctic. Because of the uncertain geology, exploratory wells are successful less than 40% of the time and are the most likely to blow out. • Seismic data and interpretation is proprietary to the seismic testing and oil companies. It will not be shared with anyone but BOEM for 25+ years.
Drilling safety through technology: Technological advances have made deep-water drilling safer than it was in 2010 at the time of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster.	• The Trump Administration is making drilling less safe by revising or removing recently enacted regulations, such as the Well Control Rule, proposed after Deepwater Horizon. • Improvements in technology only go so far; human error remains a major cause of oil spills and blowouts. The number of recorded human errors is almost as high in the 2000s as it was in the 1970s and 1980s. • BSEE, the government agency responsible for inspecting offshore rigs and platforms, has only 100 inspectors for about 4500 facilities it must inspect every year.
Onshore infrastructure: Proponents have not addressed this issue.	• Communities hosting the onshore industrial infrastructure required for drilling will be forever changed. This infrastructure, including hundreds of miles of onshore and offshore pipelines, oil and gas processing facilities and refineries is a dirty, dangerous, health hazard.