

§ 143-215.94HH. Oil spill contingency plan.

(a) The State Emergency Response Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Administration or his designee in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Office, shall develop a State oil spill contingency plan relating solely to the undersea exploration, extraction, production and transport of oil or natural gas in the marine environment off the North Carolina coast, including any such development on the Outer Continental Shelf seaward of the State's jurisdiction over its territorial waters.

(b) The Secretary of Public Safety or his designee shall establish, pursuant to such a plan, an emergency oil spill control network which shall be comprised of available equipment from appropriate State, county and municipal governmental agencies. Such network shall be employed to provide an immediate response to an oil discharge into the offshore marine environment which is reasonably likely to affect the State's coastal waters. Furthermore, such network shall be employed in conjunction with the cleanup operations under this Article or any applicable federal law, required of the owner or operator of the discharging operation, vessel, or facility, the Department of Environmental Quality, and any federal agency.

- (1) The Secretary of Public Safety or his designee shall make an inventory, including its location and condition, of all equipment owned by the State, its counties and municipalities, and private equipment that is available to the State for leasing in the case of an oil spill including costs of leasing, that would be capable of participating in discharge cleanup operations.
- (2) The Secretary of Public Safety shall at his discretion have the power to deploy such equipment in participating in a discharge cleanup operation.
- (3) The Secretary of Environmental Quality shall be authorized to reimburse such State agencies, counties, and municipalities for use of such equipment with such funds as may be available from the "Oil or Other Hazardous Substances Pollution Protection Fund" created pursuant to G.S. 143-215.87 or any other sources.
- (4) The oil spill contingency plan and oil spill response network developed pursuant to this section shall be reviewed and evaluated for adequacy and continued feasibility every three years, or more often if deemed appropriate by the Secretary of Public Safety. (1989, c. 656, s. 5; c. 727, s. 218(111a); c. 770, s. 75.5; 1997-443, s. 11A.119(a); 2011-145, s. 19.1(g); 2015-241, ss. 14.30(u), (v).)