



Health Effects Institute

Energy Research Program

Winter 2018

LAUNCH OF THE ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAM AND EARLY PRODUCTS

The purpose of HEI's new Energy Research Program is to identify and conduct highest priority research on the potential population exposures and health effects from development of oil and natural gas from shale and other unconventional resources (UOGD) across the United States. The Energy Research Program is an independent program that will benefit those who need high-quality impartial science to inform decisions about UOGD through balanced funding, high-quality science, open extensive communication, and without advocacy.

YEAR 1

Year 1 is designed to provide the foundation for a four-year program of research to assess potential exposures and, if warranted, health effects research. To do this, the Energy Research Committee will review the current scientific literature addressing two key questions:

- What does the current scientific literature tell us and not tell us, about potential exposures and health effects?
- What knowledge gaps merit research?

ENERGY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Energy Research Committee is a body of subject-matter experts that independently defines and oversees the overall research program

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Internationally recognized expertise in subject areas relevant to the Committee's work
- Demonstrated ability to conduct and review scientific research impartially
- Independent of sponsor organizations
- Vetted for conflicts of interest

INITIAL MEMBERS

George Hornberger (Chair), Vanderbilt University, Director, Vanderbilt Institute for Energy & Environment, Nashville, TN
➤ Primary expertise: hydrology

Shari Dunn-Norman, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO
➤ Primary expertise: petroleum engineering

Elaine M. Faustman, University of Washington–Seattle
➤ Primary expertise: toxicology and risk assessment

Howard Hu, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

➤ Primary expertise: environmental epidemiology and medicine

Judy S. LaKind, LaKind Associates, LLC, Catonsville, Maryland, and Adjunct Faculty, University of Maryland–Baltimore

➤ Primary expertise: exposure assessment

Armistead (Ted) G. Russell, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta

➤ Primary expertise: mechanical engineering

Stefanie Ebelt Sarnat, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

➤ Primary expertise: environmental epidemiology

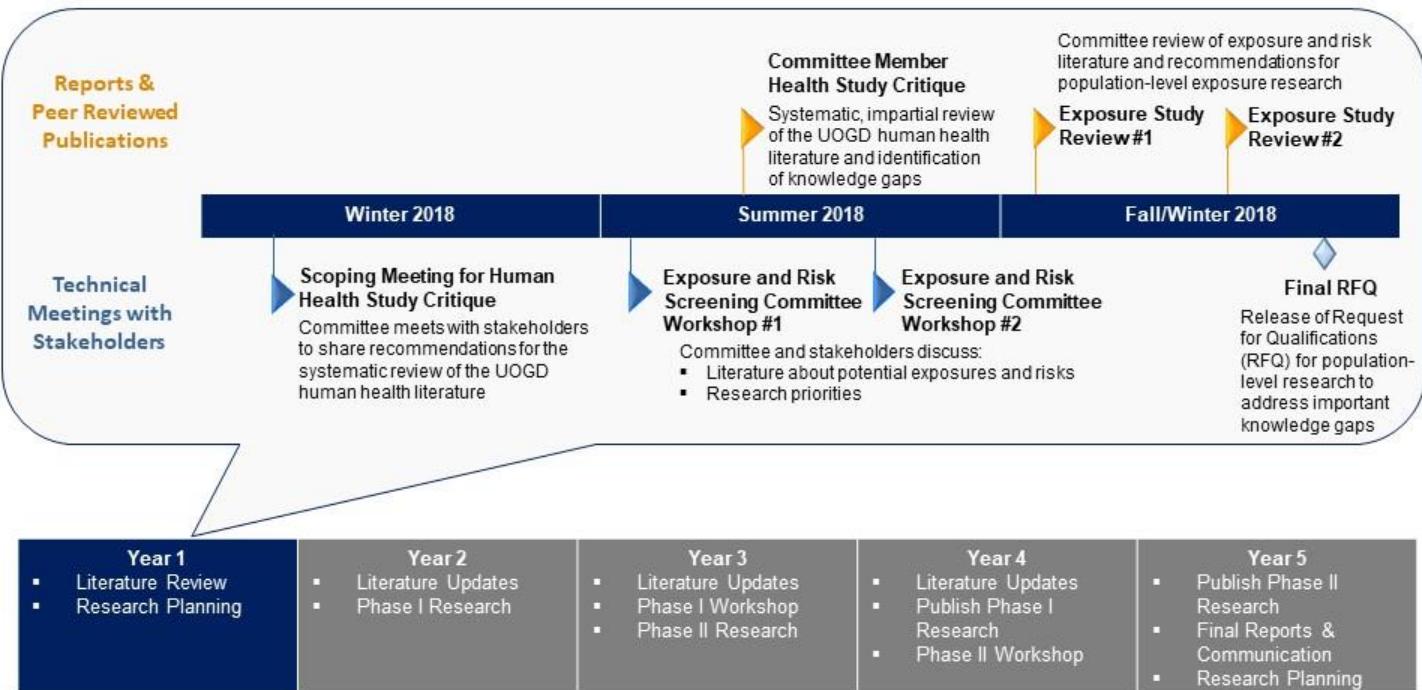
STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Provides guidance to the Energy Research Committee on:
 - Oil and gas industry technology, innovations, and future trends
 - Regulatory trends as they relate to the potential for human exposure
 - Other important areas of expertise
- Provides the diverse perspectives of its members, including: NGOs, academia, community organizations, industry & government



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YEAR 1 PROGRESS AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTS



COMPLETED

- Appointment of Energy Research Program Board
- Appointment of Initial Energy Research Committee & initial meeting
- Scoping Meeting for the Human Health Study Critique with a wide range of stakeholders

ONGOING

- Initial work on the Human Health Study Critique:
 - Systematic review approach
 - Selection of studies
- Preparation for Exposure and Risk Screening Workshops

OUTCOME YEARS 2-5

- Population-level exposure research
- Continuous updates of health and exposure literature reviews
- Research Committee reviews Phase I and Phase II exposure research
- Based on research in Years 2-4, initiate further exposure and/or health research
- Engage with stakeholders at key intervals
- Clear, plain English communication of all positive and negative results

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Donna J. Vorhees, ScD
Telephone: 617-488-2317
Email: dvorhees@healtheffects.org

Webpage:
<https://www.healtheffects.org/energy>