



MMS Alaska OCS Region

News Release

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MMS Approves Northstar Development Plan

The Minerals Management Service approved the Development and Production Plan (DPP) for the BP Exploration Alaska Northstar Project on Friday, September 3, 1999. The approval covered the federal portion of the joint State/federal project, and is the first development plan approved for the Federal OCS offshore Alaska. The DPP provides for drilling up to seven wells from the Northstar Island into two OCS leases.

MMS included 10 conditions in the approval of the DPP. These include testing of production facilities, compliance with the terms and conditions of the State of Alaska Coastal Consistency Determination, and safety requirements such as determining the presence of hydrogen sulfide and the availability of relief well equipment. MMS also required continued coordination with the North Slope Borough, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Native villages, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope and other tribal governments.

The Northstar development project involves a joint Federal-State managed reservoir in the Beaufort Sea offshore the Alaskan arctic coast about 12 miles northwest of Prudhoe Bay. The production facilities and offshore pipeline would be located on State of Alaska submerged lands. Up to six development wells and one disposal well could be drilled from the Northstar production island into the Federal outer continental shelf.

The MMS prepared a Record of Decision which is available from the Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, AK 99508-4363, or calling the MMS at 907-271-6070 or toll-free 1-800-764-2627. Information about the Northstar Project may be found on our website located at www.mms.gov/alaska.

The MMS is the federal agency that manages and regulates the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and collects, and last year disbursed about \$6 billion in revenues from offshore federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

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