United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Region
949 East 36th Avenue, Suite 308
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508-4363

JUN 1 1998

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is requesting comments on British Petroleum Exploration (Alaska)'s Northstar Project Description [Development and Production Plan (DPP)]. The Project Description is included as Appendix A of the Northstar Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and analyzed as Alternative 2 in the DEIS. The Northstar development project includes drilling wells into, and producing oil from, two Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leases, and requires an approved DPP. The Northstar Project Description was developed to meet the requirements under 30 CFR 250.34 for a DPP. The MMS has determined that the Project Description, in conjunction with the Draft EIS, meets the requirements under 30 CFR 250.34(f), and has deemed the DPP submitted on June 1, 1998.

Comments on the Project Description are requested, and should be sent to the Corps of Engineers (COE), the lead Federal agency for this DEIS, by July 30, 1998. Comments submitted on the Project Description will be forwarded by the COE to the MMS for consideration. No OCS action to approve, disapprove, or require modification to the DPP will be taken by MMS until the Final EIS is released. No OCS development and production activities can be conducted unless and until the DPP is approved, as required by 30 CFR 250.34(l). The Northstar development offshore facilities will be located on State of Alaska submerged lands. An Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) will be submitted pursuant to 30 CFR 254.53 for facilities in State waters. Under 30 CFR 254.53, operators of offshore facilities in State waters may submit to MMS a spill response plan that has been submitted to a State agency for approval. The Northstar response plans will be reviewed under the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Walker
Regional Supervisor, Field Operations