

MMS Alaska OCS Region

News Release

For Immediate Release
February 27, 2001

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MMS To Hold Public Hearings on North Slope for Liberty Development and Production EIS

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold public hearings to gather public comment on a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on BP Alaska's Development and Production Plan (DPP) for Liberty.

Public hearings will be held in Nuiqsut on Monday, March 19, 2001, from 7-10 p.m. in the Kisik Community Center; in Kaktovik on Tuesday, March 20, 2001, from 7-10 p.m. in the Kaktovik Community Center; and in Barrow on Wednesday, March 21, 2001, from 7-10 p.m., in the Inupiaq Heritage Center.

The draft EIS evaluates the BP Exploration (Alaska) Development and Production Plan for the Liberty Project submitted to MMS in February 1998. BPXA proposes to develop Liberty from a gravel island on a Federal lease located about 6 miles from shore in Foggy Island Bay in the Beaufort Sea 20 miles east of Prudhoe Bay and about 8 miles east of its Endicott development. A sub-sea and onshore pipeline will connect Liberty Island to the Badami Oil Pipeline. The draft EIS analyzes BP's proposed development and production plan, the oil spill contingency plan, and a variety of alternatives, such as pipeline and island design and location, pipeline routing, and potential gravel sources.

BPXA estimates that there are 120 million barrels of recoverable oil in the Liberty Prospect. If approved, proposed construction would occur during two winter construction seasons beginning with the island in 2003 and the pipeline in 2004. First production would occur in late 2004. The State of Alaska will receive 27 percent of the rental fees and any Federal royalties.

For more information about the public hearings or to receive a copy of the draft EIS, please call Fred King at 907-271-6696 or Robin Cacy at 907-271-6070, or toll-free at 1-800-764-2627. Requests also may be sent via e-mail to akwebmaster@mms.gov.

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