

---

**MMS** Alaska OCS Region

# News Release

---

For Immediate Release  
February 23, 1998

Robin Lee Cacy  
907-271-6070; 1-800-764-2627  
akwebmaster@mms.gov

## **BP Submits Development and Production Plan for Liberty**

BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc., has submitted a development and Production Plan (DPP) and associated Oil Spill Contingency Plan to the Minerals Management Service (MMS) for a development project in the Beaufort Sea 20 miles east of Prudhoe Bay.

BP's proposed plan of development for the Liberty Project encompasses a single Federal OCS lease. About five miles from shore, the project consists of a self-contained offshore drilling and production facility on a conventional gravel island and associated sub sea pipelines to shore connecting to existing pipelines. BP estimates there are 120 million barrels of recoverable oil in the Liberty Prospect. Construction activities are proposed during the 1999/2000 winter season, with first production anticipated by the end of 2000.

A copy of the DPP, Environmental Report, and Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been provided to mayors in the area of the project. The DPP and associated documents may be checked out or viewed Monday through Friday at the MMS Resource Center, 949 East 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The MMS has determined that an environmental impact statement on the activities described in the DPP is required, and is proceeding to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. A draft EIS is expected to be available to the public in the fall of 1998.

Comments on the DPP and associated documents may be sent to MMS, 949 East 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4363 or via the Internet to akwebmaster@mms.gov. We are requesting Initial comments on the plan through April 9, 1998.

Scoping meetings will be held March 17, 18, and 20, 1998 in Nuiqsut, Barrow, and Kaktovik, respectively. A scoping meeting will be held in Anchorage the following week.

For more information about the plan, please call 907-271-6070, or toll-free at 1-800-764-2627. Requests also may be sent via e:mail to akwebmaster@mms.gov.

MMS is the federal agency that manages the Nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the OCS, and collects, accounts for, and disburses about \$4 billion yearly in revenues from offshore federal mineral leases and onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

--MMS--