United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Region
949 E. 36th Avenue, Room 603
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4302

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Feb 24 1998

Notification List:

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has received a Development and Production Plan (DPP), Environmental Report, and associated Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the Beaufort Sea Sale 144 area. The plan of development proposed by BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. (BPXA) for the Liberty Project consists of a self-contained offshore drilling and production facility on a conventional gravel island located in Foggy Island Bay about 5 miles from shore, and includes associated subsea pipelines.

These documents were deemed submitted in accordance with 30 CFR 250.34(f) on February 19, 1998. The MMS has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the activities described in the DPP is required, and is proceeding to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This EIS will be the basis for MMS's NEPA obligations for an OCS DPP under 30 CFR 250.34(j). No action to approve, disapprove or require modification to the DPP will be taken by the MMS until the final EIS released. No development and production activities will be conducted unless and until the DPP is approved.

As part of the NEPA process, MMS will be conducting scoping meetings in mid March in Barrow, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, and Anchorage to identify community concerns which will be analyzed in the EIS. We anticipate that a draft EIS will be available to the public in October 1998. The MMS has established an initial 45-day scoping period for comments on the DPP. Comments are requested by April 9, 1998, and should be sent to this office, attention: Mr. Fred King. Your comments and recommendations will be considered in identifying potential issues and alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. Following publication of the draft EIS, you will have an additional opportunity to provide recommendations and comments on the DPP in conjunction with the review of the draft EIS.

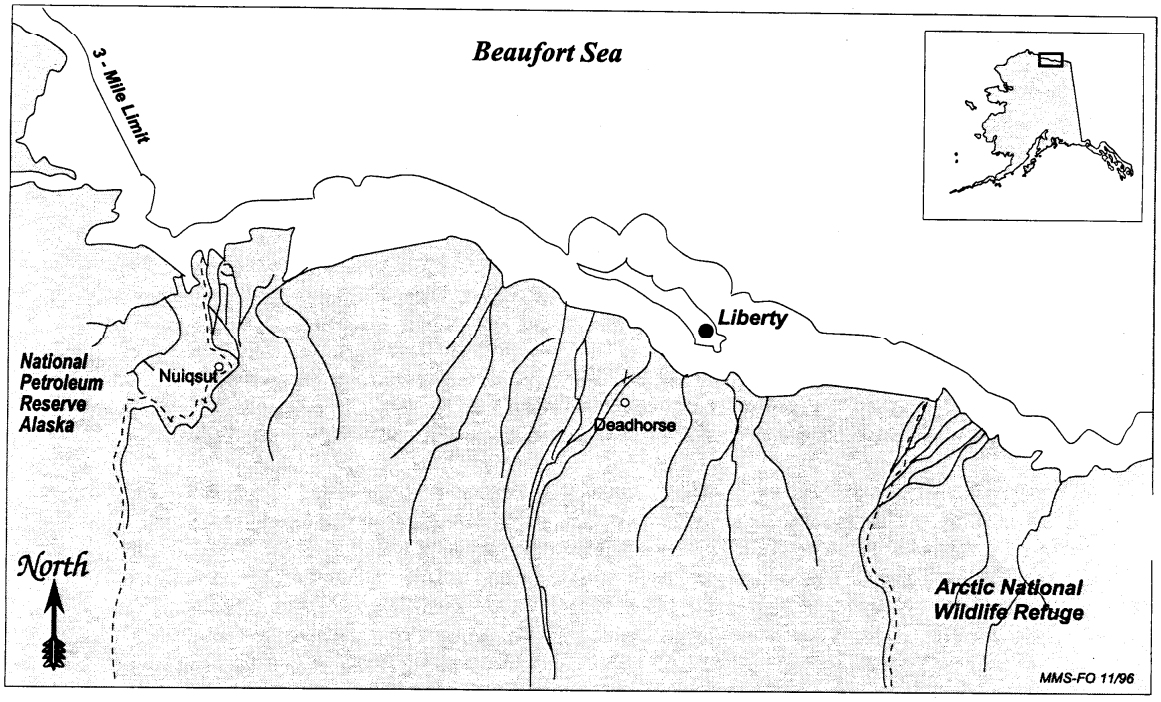
Copies of the DPP are available for public review or for check-out for a 3-day period at the Minerals Management Service office, 949 E. 36th Ave., Resource Center, Room 330, Anchorage, Alaska, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. To insure availability for check-out, please contact Ms. Lillian Williams at 271-6438. Copies of the plan have also been provided to the Mayor's offices of the North Slope Borough, Barrow, Nuiqsut, and Kaktovik. Copies are also available at the Tuzzy Consortium Library in Barrow and at the Fairbanks Northstar Borough Library in Fairbanks.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Phyllis Casey, Liberty Project Coordinator, at (907) 271-6065.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Walker
Regional Supervisor
Field Operations

Proposed Development and Production Plan



The Minerals Management Service has received a Development and Production Plan, Environmental Report and associated Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the Beaufort Sea Sale 144 area. BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. proposes to develop the Liberty discovery using a self contained offshore drilling and production facility operating from a gravel island. The island will be located about 5 miles from shore in Foggy Island Bay. The proposed project includes construction of subsea pipelines.

If you have any questions contact Ms. Phyllis Casey at (907) 271-6065, toll free at 1-800-764-2627 or through the internet at akwebmaster@mms.gov

Minerals Management Service
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