

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Region 10
Park Place Building, 13th Floor
1200 Sixth Avenue, OW-130
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 553-0523

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF A
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

Public Notice No. AK-005314-7

Technical Contact: Burney Hill
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Public Notice Issuance Date: January 12, 2001

Public Notice Expiration Date: Comment period is concurrent with the Liberty Development and Production Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Public Review and Comment Period. The Mineral Management Service's DEIS 60-day public review and comment period ends on March 13, 2001.

1. Applicant

BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
P.O. Box 196612
900 East Benson Boulevard
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6612

The Liberty Island oil and gas development and production project will develop oil and natural gas reserves beneath Foggy Island Bay in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea at 70°16' 45" north latitude, 147°33' 29" west longitude. BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. (BPXA) plans to construct an artificial gravel island between the McClure Islands and the coast in water depths of about 22 feet (ft) on federal OCS oil and gas lease OCS-Y-1650 (Sale 144) in Foggy Island Bay. The facility will support field development drilling and hydrocarbon extraction. A sub-seabed pipeline will bring sales-quality oil onshore to connect with the Badami Pipeline. A detailed project

description is provided in the fact sheet explaining this draft NPDES permit and the Environmental Impact Statement for the Liberty Development and Production Project.

2. Tentative NPDES Permitting Determination

The Region 10 Office of EPA has determined to issue an NPDES wastewater discharge permit to the applicant. NPDES permits impose limits on the pollutants and require best management practices as well as monitoring of the wastewater effluents. A fact sheet is available for the proposed NPDES permit.

3. Public Comments

Persons wishing to comment on the tentative determinations contained in the proposed permit may do so in writing within 60 days of the date of this public notice. Comments must be received within this 60-day period to be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. All comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the commenter and a concise statement of the exact basis of any comment and the relevant facts upon which it is based. All written comments and requests should be submitted to EPA at the above address to the attention of Burney Hill, Aquatic Environmental Scientist.

4. Public Hearings

The Environmental Protection Agency will be holding public hearings on the proposed NPDES permit coincident with the public hearings scheduled for the Liberty Development and Production Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement at the following locations and times:

· February 15, 2001	Anchorage	7:00 PM to 9 PM	Wilda Marston Theatre, Loussac Library
· February 19, 2001	Barrow	7:30 PM to 10 PM	Inupiaq Heritage Center
· February 20, 2001	Kaktovik	7:00 PM to 10 PM	Community Center
· February 21, 2001	Nuiqsut	7:00 PM to 10 PM	Kisik Community Center
· February 22, 2001	Fairbanks	6:00 PM to 9 PM	Alaskaland Exhibit Hall

Any person who has an interest or comments concerning the Applicant's proposed wastewater discharges are encourage to attend and submit comments during the above public hearings. All comments concerning the proposed NPDES permit obtained from these meetings will be considered in the Environmental Protection Agency's evaluation.

For additional information concerning these public hearings, please contact Fred R. King at the Minerals Management Service or you may access MMS' Liberty Project web page at:

<http://www.mms.gov/alaska/cproject/liberty>.

5. Administrative Record

The proposed NPDES permit and other related documents are on file and may be inspected at the above address any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copies and other information may be requested by writing to the EPA at the above address to the attention of the Water Permits Section, or by calling (206) 553-0523. The draft permit and fact sheet are also available from the EPA Alaska Operations Office, Room 537, Federal Building, 222 West 7th Avenue, #19, Anchorage, Alaska 99513, and EPA Alaska Operations Office, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 100, Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800. Copies of these documents can be found at the Region 10 website:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/offices/water/npdes.html>

To ensure effective communication, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the above representatives. For those with impaired hearing or speech, please contact EPA's telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) at (206) 553-1598.