

Oil Firms May Start Multi-Exploratory Well Program

Though some people are trying to write off the possibility of drilling for oil in the Arctic, several companies still are thinking about it.

The Alaska Scouting Service, a division of Petroleum Publications, Inc., reports that an attempt to initiate a multi-exploratory well program may get started by the end of summer.

Under the program, about a dozen major oil companies will drill nine wells in a area under lease on the Arctic Slope. The project, called "Ungoonpuk," will use two rigs over three years to drill the holes, ranging from 4,000 to 12,000 feet in depth.

In other developments, Pan American Petroleum Corp. this week started building a road to its Albert S. Kaloa Jr. No. 1 well.