DNR seeks comments on leasing plan

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is requesting comments on a proposal to add three competitive oil and gas lease sales to the state's five-year leasing program for 1987, Commissioner John W. Katz announced today.

Two of the sales consist of onshore acreage on the North Slope; the third would offer state-owned submerged lands in the Beaufort Sea.

State law requires that the oil and gas leasing schedule be updated by the department each year and presented to the legislature.

A sale of uplands acreage south of the Prudhoe Bay field is tentatively proposed for January 1987. The sale (No. 51) would consist of approximately 280,000 acres which were excluded from competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale 34 (to be held September 28, 1982) because of insufficient data to complete a pre-sale evaluation.

Additional Sale 51 acreage, approximately 270,000 acres, will be selected from expired upland leases in the vicinity of these tracts.

A Beaufort Sea sale (No. 52) is proposed for May, 1987. This sale would offer about 135,000 acres of state-owned submerged lands offshore of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, between Pitt Point in the east and Tangent Point in the west.

A sale of uplands near Icy Cape (No. 53) is proposed for September 1987. This sale would consist of approximately 261,000 acres of state lands onshore between Icy Cape and Cape Beaufort along the west coast of the North Slope.

The selection of the Beaufort Sea Sale 52 acreage for addition to the state's five-year oil and gas leasing schedule reaffirms the department's stated goal to offer at least one high potential sale area for competitive leasing annually, according to Katz.

Proposed Sale 51 contains moderate to high potential acreage in an area of expanding exploration and development between Prudhoe Bay and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Proposed Sale 53 contains acreage of moderate potential in the upland area west of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

Katz said the Department of Natural Resources is seeking comments from industry, local communities and all other interested persons and groups. Comments on the proposal are needed by October 8, 1982, and should be mailed to Director, Division of Minerals & Energy Management, Pouch 7-005, Anchorage, AK 99510.

For additional information on the State of Alaska's oil and gas leasing program, contact the Division of Minerals and Energy Management, (907) 276-2653, ext. 4275.