

ANWR hearings set for June

The U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold four oversight hearings next month in Washington, D.C., on the Department of Interior's final report on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Sen. Frank Murkowski announced recently.

The report recommends to Congress that the entire Coastal Plain of ANWR be opened to oil and gas development.

Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, has scheduled the hearings for June 2, 4, 8 and 11.

The hearings are expected to include

testimony from all interested parties, including representatives of the Reagan Administration, the State of Alaska, environmental organizations, the Alaska Native community and the oil industry, Murkowski said.

The hearings will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Senate Dirksen Building, Room 366, in Washington, D.C.

Murkowski and Sen. Ted Stevens plan to introduce legislation in the Senate in the next few weeks to open the Coastal Plain for oil and gas exploration. Congressman Don Young already has introduced similar legislation in the House.