

Federal officials to make OCS decision soon

By MARY DOWNES

The go-ahead on the controversial offshore drilling program on Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) will be made by federal officials in Washington, D.C. according to an official from the federal OCS office in Alaska.

Don Hininger, chief of the Environmental Analysis Division of the Bureau of Land Management, said last week that Alaska's OCS office does not always have sufficient data to give a go-ahead on offshore drilling. The Department of Interior has the authority to decide whether the data provided from the local OCS offices is sufficient in making any decisions.

Impact studies concerning the OCS are currently being prepared in sequence of the sales time schedule. According to Hininger, the final draft for the Gulf of Alaska has been completed, along with the original draft for the Cook Inlet area. The OCS office is currently working on the primary draft for the proposed Kodiak sale, and they are in the process of gearing up for the tract selection process for the Beaufort Sea.

Because two-thirds of the entire OCS program centers around Alaska's coastline, it is receiving the highest priority here despite the fact that it runs the highest environmental risks.

Last week, Gov. Hammond sent a letter to the secretary of the Interior which outlined the state's position on the drilling program and included what can be considered the state's compromise to the existing sales schedule. This compromise will be reviewed by the secretary before he formulates the new schedule, said Hininger.

The compromise basically restated the state's opposition to the hasty scheduling of the sales that would affect Alaska. There are eight sales which involve almost the entire Alaskan coastline, including the Cook Inlet, Gulf of Alaska and Beaufort Sea areas. According to Hininger, the State's long-held position is that the Department of Interior scheduled the sales too hastily without adequate State input.

Governor Hammond submitted his own proposal to the Dept. of Interior, stating the State's compromise position, accepting the need for Alaskan

oil and doing the minimum amount of social and environmental damage.

The first sale proposed by Hammond was that oil exploration proceed in the Cook Inlet in February of 1977. "The State has acknowledged the rationale of going with Cook Inlet pretty much as scheduled by the department," said Hininger.

The governor then proposed a joint sale with the Bureau of Land Management in the Beaufort Sea in September of 1977. About 180,000 acres of near-shore land in the Beaufort Sea would be involved in

this sale. About one-third of that land, however, is presently being contested between the federal and state governments. When there is a contesting over a certain offshore area, said Hininger, the provision is that both governments enter in an interim agreement which would state which agency would be responsible for certain areas.

"I honestly cannot tell you the status of the negotiations on that," said Hininger, "and if they are going on, they are certainly not on the field level, they would be done at the highest levels within the department and within the State."

Most OCS off-shore personnel would come from outside Alaska, but Hininger does not anticipate a major influx of people to Alaska as a direct result of the OCS exploration process. Relatively few people would be involved in the local communities on-shore, even though there will be administrative and other personnel coming to Alaska. "But even if something were discovered tomorrow, the delay factor between that and really large influxes of the population either to the state or the local communities would still be a number of years off," said Hininger.

Native Arts Conference begins August 16



JIM PEPPER will lead his Quintet in a series of seminars and performances at the Native Arts of Alaska Conference. He is the winner of "Downbeat" magazine's 1971 "New Star of Year" award and the first annual Ralph Gleason Music Award. The Jim Pepper Quintet will perform on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the conference.

The Native Arts of Alaska Conference begins this coming Monday, Aug. 16, and continues through the week at the Anchorage Consortium Library (mornings) and AMU (evenings).

Special features of the week will be a Native Arts Show, Auction and Sale with auctioneer Willie Hensley on Monday evening, Aug. 16 at 8:00, performances by the Point Hope and King Island Dancers, poetry readings by Robert Callahan, seminars on native visual arts from prehistoric carvings to contemporary and religious art, and much more.

There is no admission charge for the conference or the auction and evening performances. The public is welcome. Contact Andrew Hope, c/o 360 K St., Suite 240, Anchorage 99501. Phone 279-3824 or (evenings) 279-1944.

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ALEUT DANCER and actress, Jane Lind, currently lives in New York City and has worked with the New York University Theatre, Carter Baron, the Walker Arts Group, and the LaMama Experimental Theatre Club. Jane will speak at the Native Arts of Alaska Conference Wednesday and Friday mornings, and will perform Friday evening.

Letters

plished. to this offer will be prompt.

Time, of course, is crucial in this effort. For that reason, we hope that your response

Sincerely,
Raymond E. Paddock, Jr.
President

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Alaska Election Code, as amended, and in conformity therewith, a primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 1976, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates by direct vote for:

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Location of polling places and precinct boundaries will be posted in three (3) places in each voting precinct in all election districts. Further information regarding polling places and precinct boundaries in Central Alaska is available at the Office of the Election Supervisor, Fairbanks Regional Office Bldg., 675 7th Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99701. (452-5111)

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