

Legislation Prepared To Open Up Pet 4

Legislation to open the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 to oil and gas leasing is being prepared by Senator Bob Bartlett.

The measure would transfer the 37,000 square mile reserve from the Navy to the Interior Department, and would allow competitive

leasing. Aside from ordinary rental and other fees, it would bring in bonus money.

The bill would authorize continued use of the reserve for distribution of natural gas to federal agencies and residents of Barrow.

"Neither the Navy nor the Congress has, at this time, any plans for further exploration or use of the lands in this petroleum reserve," said Senator Bartlett.

"A naval petroleum reserve to be of use in time of emergency must be fully developed and ready in order to serve its purpose. To hold a vast tract of land, such as that covered by the bill I am introducing, idle and unused constitutes a waste and serves no useful purpose to the government."