

Senate to hold ANWR hearings

The Senate Energy Committee has scheduled four hearings this month in Washington, D.C., on the subject of oil exploration in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, according to Sen. Frank Murkowski's office.

The oversight hearings will focus on the April 20th report by the secretary of the Department of Interior recommending exploration of the Coastal Plain of the refuge. It is about 65 miles east of Prudhoe Bay in the northeast corner of Alaska.

The secretary's report was required



under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, which set aside the Coastal Plain for further review.

Hearings include:

- Tuesday — Interior Secretary Donald Hodel will lead off the testimony.

- Thursday — Gov. Steve Cowper will present the state's position, along with two panels representing Alaska Native organizations. One panel supports opening ANWR, the other opposes it.

- June 11 — Representatives of national environmental organizations will testify.

- June 12 — Representatives of the oil industry will present their position.