

Schedule for OCS hearings set

The BLM Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Office will hold public hearings concerning the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on proposed oil and gas leasing in the Diapir Field (proposed sale 71) in the following locations: Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Barrow, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

The hearings are open to everyone. Anyone desiring to testify is urged to register by phoning Laura Yoesting at the Alaska OCS Office, 276-2955 or by sending the hearing registration card accompanying the DEIS. Registrations must be received by the close of business Jan. 29.

Anyone unable to attend

the hearing may send written statements to the BLM's Alaska OCS Office by Feb. 12. All comments, written or oral, become part of the public hearing record and will be evaluated and considered in the final version of the document. Publication of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) date does not constitute a decision to proceed with the proposed lease sale.

The environmental statement details potential impacts of oil and gas development on approximately 1.8 million acres of federal submerged land, divided into 372 blocks — from 3 to 37 miles offshore and in water depths from 16 to 131 feet. Major issues discussed in the DEIS are: En-

dangered species and marine mammals, subsistence, Inupiat culture, Coastal Zone Management, cumulative impact assessment — impact of arctic energy development, impact of oil spills on marine and coastal environments and on the Inupiat way of life, and adequacy of arctic offshore drilling technology to deal with ice hazards.

Copies of the DEIS are available for public viewing at public libraries throughout the State of Alaska; community government offices within the affected area; major institutional libraries such as the University of Alaska libraries, the Interior Department's Alaska Resource Library, the Corps of Engineers headquar-

ters in Anchorage, and at the Alaska OCS Office.

The hearings will be held at the following locations and times:

Barrow, Feb. 2, 1982 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.-11 p.m., Presbyterian Church; Nuiqsut, Feb. 3, 1982,

7 p.m.-11 p.m., Nuiqsut School; Kaktovik, Feb. 4, 1982 7 p.m.-11 p.m., Community Building; Fairbanks, Feb. 4, 1982 9 a.m.-1:15 p.m., North Star Borough, Assembly Chambers; Anchorage, Feb. 5, 1982, 9 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Anchorage Historical Fine Arts Museum.