

# 3rd North Slope Block Opened To Oil Leasing

Four million acres of federal land on the Arctic Slope in northern Alaska are being opened to noncompetitive oil and gas leasing. The Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall, signed the opening notice on September 9.

The State of Alaska will receive 90 per cent of the rental monies, plus 90 per cent of the royalties from any oil or gas produced.

The lands are unsurveyed, but are described by protracted rectangular survey. Lease offers filed between 10:00 a.m. on September 13 and 3:00 p.m., November 15, will be considered simultaneously filed. A public drawing will be held soon after the closing date to determine lessees on the 1690 blocks in the leasable area.

Lease offers must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management's Fairbanks District and Land Office, 516 Second Avenue. Diagrams of the lease area will be available for sale or inspection in that office.

The area was opened to leasing by Public Land Order 3521, which provided that all unreserved lands north of a line generally parallel to the Brooks Range, from the Canadian Border to the Arctic Ocean, would be open when leasing maps were officially filed.

Notice of map filings for the area and leasing details are being published in the Federal Register on Saturday, September 11, 1965.

The area opened is bounded on the north and west by Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4, on the east by the Siksikpak River, and on the south by the Brooks Range.

This is the third in a series of northern Alaska openings, involving a total of about 20 million acres. With this opening, some eleven and a half million acres have been made available for oil and gas leasing.

In noncompetitive oil and gas leasing, an annual rental of 50 cents per acre is charged. Each applicant may file only one offer per block, and only one offer for each block is drawn to determine the successful offeror.