

# Exxon plans Prudhoe ice island

Construction of an ice island in Prudhoe Bay is proposed by Exxon Company, USA. The 1,200-foot diameter "structure" is planned to be built about six miles north of the Prudhoe Bay East Docks.

In their application to the Corps of Engineers for an Army permit to do the work in navigable waters, the company stated the island is for experimental purposes to gain additional knowledge regarding the construction of these islands and their use as temporary drill sites

in shallow arctic waters.

Exxon proposes to start developing the island this November and to complete work two years later. It will be in about 10 feet of water. Most of the island's surface will be 20 feet above mean low water, with the narrow edge of the circular structure sloping to 11 feet above MLW.

No drilling will occur here; there will only be scientific observations, and any waste materials that accumulate will be disposed of on shore, under directions issued by the State of Alaska.

Persons wishing to comment on the issuance of the permit by the Corps' Alaska District office should communicate with the District's Regulatory Functions Branch, Box 7002, Anchorage, 99510, by October 20.