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# KENTUCKY 290 ALASKA 17



**Y**ou probably associate Kentucky with fast horses and great basketball teams — not oil. Yet, in 1977 290 exploratory wells were drilled in Kentucky, while Alaska — the state with the nation's greatest oil and gas potential — had just 17.

Why this great difference? For one thing, it costs a lot more to drill a well in Alaska. Remoteness, difficult climate and terrain all drive costs up. But cost is not the only reason for the difference in drilling activity. There's also been a lack of available lease lands. And state tax policies

have tended to discourage investment in Alaska. Yet more investment means more jobs and increased business activity for our state.

Today, Alaska's oil industry and the state are working more closely, in an effort to generate increased exploration. And while it may be a few years before Alaska beats Kentucky in basketball, we hope before long we'll edge them out in the search for the oil needed to fuel our state's — and our nation's — economy.

Source: American Petroleum Institute

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