

# **USGS, BLM coordinate Pet 4 management**

The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will coordinate in the management of Naval Petroleum Reserve No. Four (Pet 4) according to a joint working agreement explained Monday in Anchorage.

The Secretary of the Interior has delegated BLM responsibility for surface management on Pet. 4, and has delegated USGS responsibility for managing the ongoing petroleum exploration

program, enforcing stipulations related to it, and operating the South Barrow gas field.

According to USGS and BLM spokesmen, the new working agreement provides for both petroleum exploration on Pet 4 and precautions to minimize surface and ecological damage in accordance with the Congressional mandate. The agreement became effective January 18 and was published in the January 25 "Federal Register." Early

publication will provide the two agencies time to develop cooperative field procedures before their on-the-ground coordination begins June 1 when the US Navy turns the petroleum exploration portion over to USGS.

Agency spokesmen say the agreement provides for preparation of preliminary and final operation plans, coordination with government agencies and other interested parties, and inspections to insure compli-

ance with environmental protection measures.

Draft surface management regulations prepared in the September 1, 1976, 'Federal Register' will be modified by the new working agreement. Agency spokesmen said the agreement

streamlines procedures for coordinating the exploration program with surface management and environmental concerns.

Copies of the agreement are available from the Fairbanks District BLM Office, 1028 Aurora Drive in Fairbanks.