

# OCS Deck Stacked

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One of the biggest shockers coming out of the recent OCS hearings on OCS lease sale 46 is that current spill cleanup technology would be grossly inadequate to deal with conditions in the Gulf of Alaska should any kind of major event occur.

And the Assurance that such a spill is unlikely is not reassuring, to say the least. As Arnie Hansen, borough assemblyman, points out in his testimony, an earthquake of the intensity of the one which hit Alaska in March of 1964 would certainly break any pipelines on the seabed.

But even if that didn't happen the possibility of a major spill can't be overlooked; and even minor spills could devastate the fish which inhabit the Kodiak Shelf.

We agree heartily with Dr. David Hoopes, borough OCS consultant, that the draft environmental impact statement on Sale 46 appears to have been prepared with the idea of justifying the sale rather than truly addressing the issues.

Given the wealth of testimony showing the inadequacies of the document prepared by the Bureau of Land Management on the sale it stretches the imagination to think the sale could go forward. Yet, the frightening feeling persists that Kodiak is being viewed as a test case; that our population is so small the government can ignore our voice and set a precedent for proceeding with OCS development.

William Hopkins, director of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, here last week, stressed the need to stick with the leasing schedule in spite of risks, inadequacies with the environmental impact statements or any other factors.

If the BLM has indeed catered to the oil and gas interests in preparing the draft statement, and it appears they have, won't they also cater to those interests in sticking to the schedule?