

## BLM to begin work on Naval Reserve No. 4

Ten Bureau of Land Management employees will begin work in Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 later this summer to monitor oil exploration activities as part of BLM's surface management responsibilities there, BLM State Director Curtis V. McVee said recently.

Coordinating the surveillance will be James Coan, an engineer with arctic experience who has worked in Alaska for the past decade, McVee said.

"The Dept. of the Interior has given BLM special hiring authority so it can begin on-the-ground surveillance in Pet 4 this summer," McVee said. Professionals in various fields will spend most of their time in Pet 4, and five of the 10 employees have already been hired.

"All of the new positions will be in the BLM Fairbanks District Office, with the exception of project coordinator Coan who will be on my staff in

Anchorage, McVee said.

Coan received a B.A. in civil engineering from Colorado State University in 1953. He worked in private enterprise in heavy construction and engineering design until 1967, when he moved to Alaska to join the Army Corps of Engineers Design Branch. While with the Corps, he received arctic engineering training from the University of Alaska.

In 1970, Coan transferred to the Bureau of Land Management to help develop stipulations for protecting the environment during trans-Alaska pipeline construction. He has practical experience in arctic construction activities, building of snow roads and all-weather roads, rehabilitation of disturbed permafrost areas, and enforcement of federal stipulations designed to minimize impacts on the environment.

For the past two years he has been directly involved in geotechnical and environmental

evaluation of the proposed Alaskan Arctic Gas Pipeline application at BLM.