



Prudhoe Bay's new Central Gas Facility, now in operation, soon will be producing more than 40,000 barrels of natural gas liquids. The plant removes natural gas liquids from the natural gas stream and blends them with the crude oil stream in the trans Alaska pipeline.

Arco photo

Gas plant produces 5,000 barrels a day

The world's largest natural gas plant has gone into operation on Alaska's North Slope, making it possible to recover several hundred million additional barrels of oil from the Prudhoe Bay oil field, according to spokesmen for the operator of the new plant, Arco Alaska Inc.

"That's a significant amount of additional oil," according to Harold Heinze, Arco president. "It's the equivalent of finding a giant new oil field."

The new Central Gas Facility serves the entire Prudhoe Bay field.

The plant has a dual purpose:

- To produce a mixture of natural gas and gas liquids which will be in-

Arco OKs \$1.6 billion spending plan

Arco announced recently that its board of directors has approved a capital spending plan for 1987 totaling about \$1.6 billion, compared to a 1986 capital budget of \$2 billion.

Arco officials said the reduction from the 1986 spending level primarily reflects the installation this year of the

last major facilities required to complete current development plans for the Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk River and Lisburne oil fields on the North Slope.

Total worldwide spending for exploration and production in 1987 is budgeted at about \$900 million.

jected into selected areas of the sandstone reservoir and act as a solvent, enabling the recovery of additional oil.

- To process the natural gas now produced along with crude oil from the

Prudhoe Bay field, removing more than 40,000 barrels a day of natural gas liquids. The liquids will be added to the oil stream in the trans Alaska

pipeline. The remaining dry gas will continue to be injected into the reservoir for storage until there is a market for the gas.

The Central Gas Facility is part of a \$750 million project at Prudhoe Bay. The facility was built in Tacoma, Wash., and Japan, and it was delivered to the North Slope on the 1986 summer sealift. Some of the modular pieces weigh 2,300 tons and stand 10 stories high.

The plant is now producing some 5,000 barrels a day of natural gas liquids, and it is expected to reach 40,000 barrels a day by March.

The new facility is operated by a crew of 32 people.