



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Padre Island National Seashore
P. O. Box 181300
Corpus Christi, Texas 78480-1300



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7619(PAIS)

October 10, 2007

Ray Mosely, Director
Office of the Federal Register
800 N. Capitol, Room 700
Washington, D. C. 20008

Subject: Plan of Operations, Environmental Assessment, and draft Floodplain and Wetland Statements of Findings for BNP Petroleum Corporation's proposal to Drill and Produce the State Tract 991 #1, Dunn-McCampbell 12A, and Dunn-McCampbell 11A wells, Padre Island National Seashore, Texas

Dear Mr. Mosely:

We hereby certify that the enclosed disk is a true copy of the original subject document, which is also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Joe Escoto
Superintendent

Enclosures (2)

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BRIEFING STATEMENT

Unit: Padre Island National Seashore, Texas

Title: BNP Petroleum Corporation State Tract 991 #1, Dunn-McCampbell 12A, and Dunn-McCampbell 11A wells Plan of Operations, and associated Environmental Assessment and draft Floodplain and Wetland Statements of Findings, Padre Island National Seashore, Texas

Congressional Districts:

U. S. Senators - Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn
U. S. Representative - Solomon B. Ortiz, 27th District

Issue:

BNP Petroleum Corporation (BNP) proposes to drill and produce the State Tract 991 #1, Dunn-McCampbell 12A, and Dunn-McCampbell 11A wells in Padre Island National Seashore. The NPS anticipates receiving a plan of operations as required by our regulations from the company soon for NPS review. Because of the time it takes to get a *Federal Register* notice approved for publication in the Department, we are initiating that clearance process.

Background

- As per the NPS's 36 CFR 9B Nonfederal Oil and Gas Regulations, an operator requiring access on, across, or through NPS lands or waters may conduct activities only under a Plan of Operations approved by the NPS. Section 9.37(b) of the regulations requires the Regional Director to complete an environmental analysis and in this case also prepare floodplain and wetland statements of findings, and make a decision on the plan of operations within 60 days of the NPS finding the plan to be substantially complete for formal processing.
- The Plan of Operations, and accompanying Environmental Assessment and draft Wetland and Floodplain Statements of Findings will be released for a 30-day public review and comment period from the publication date of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*, as required by 36 CFR § 9.52(b).
- When the National Seashore was created, the U.S. Government acquired surface ownership, but either private entities or the State of Texas retained subsurface mineral interests. Thus, the Federal Government does not own any of the subsurface oil and gas rights in the Park.
- The 30-day public scoping period for this proposal ended on February 28, 2007. The National Seashore released a public scoping brochure to its mailing list, including the Congressional delegation; Federal, State and local agencies; and interested organizations and individuals. The scoping brochure was also posted on the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. This proposal is not anticipated to have any potential for controversial effects, and is not likely to generate media interest at the national, state or local level.

Through internal agency scoping, the National Seashore has determined that preparation of an EA rather than an EIS is appropriate for evaluating BNP's proposal. Neither the issues nor level of impacts warrant preparation of an EIS. The EA will include cumulative impact analyses.

Contact: Superintendent
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