

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE BRIEFING STATEMENT

Unit: Padre Island National Seashore

Title: Notice of Availability of a Plan of Operations, and accompanying Environmental Assessment and draft floodplains and wetlands Statement of Findings for BNP Petroleum Corporation's Lemon/Lemon Seed Unit Wells.

Congressional Districts:

Texas: U. S. Senators Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison
27th District – U. S. Representative Solomon Ortiz

The scooping process for this project indicated little or no public interest, and moderate potential for controversy due to local political interest. The Senators and Congressmen have been informed of this project.

Issues:

- When this unit of the National Park System was created, the U.S. Government acquired surface ownership, but either private entities or the State retained subsurface mineral interests. Thus, the federal government does not own the subsurface oil and gas in the park.
- Inquires from the Sierra Club/Lone Star Chapter have reflected the increased public interest in BNP's drilling projects within Padre Island National Seashore. This increased interest has been stimulated by the political race for the Texas Senate. The connection being one candidate's ties (Barbara Canales Black) to BNP Petroleum Corporation and her environmental ethic in relation to this park.
- Publication of a notice of availability in the *Federal Register* is required by section 9.52 (b) of the National Park Service's Nonfederal Oil and Gas Rights Regulations (36 CFR 9B). Written comments received within thirty (30) days will become a part of the official record (9.52(b)).
- The Environmental Assessment identified no potential for major impacts and no potential for impairment on park resources and values. The Environmental Assessment further identified that by permitting BNP Petroleum Corporation to drill and produce the Lemon/Lemon Seed Unit Wells within Padre Island National Seashore there would be negligible impact to natural resources and minimal impact on domestic energy supplies.

Contact: Jock Whitworth, Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore,
361-949-8173, ext. 222
Ken McMullen, Chief, Science and Resources Management, Padre Island
National Seashore, 361-949-8173, ext. 227
Arlene Wimer, Environmental Protection Specialist, Padre Island National
Seashore, 361-949-8173, ext. 224



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:

L 3025 (PAIS)

March 4, 2002

Memorandum

To: Federal Register Liaison Officer, WASO-237

From: Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore

Subject: Federal Register publication – BNP Petroleum's Plan of Operation, Environmental assessment, and Floodplains and Wetlands Statement of Findings for BNP Petroleum Corporation's Lemon/Lemon Seed Unit Wells within Padre Island National Seashore, Texas

Enclosed are the original and three copies of the signed subject notice for publication in the *Federal Register*, an approved DI-1 to cover the cost of publication, a Word 2000/98 disk containing the notice, formatted to ASCII, and a letter to the Director of the Office of the Federal Register stating that the disk is certified to be a true copy of the original document. Also enclosed is a copy of the memorandum from the Field Solicitor, Santa Fe, New Mexico providing a standard legal citation for use in preparing notices of availability of non-Federal oil and gas plans of operations for publication in the *Federal Register*.

Sincerely,

Jock Whitworth
Superintendent

Enclosures

NPS DOCUMENT # 507



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:

L 3025 (PAIS)

March 4, 2002

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

Subject: Federal Register publication – Notice of Availability of BNP Petroleum's Plan of Operations, Environmental Assessment, and Floodplains and Wetlands Statement of Findings, Padre Island National Seashore, Texas

Dear Mr. Mosely:

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

Sincerely,

Jock Whitworth
Superintendent

NPS DOCUMENT # 507



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Field Office, Southwest Region
P.O. Box 1042
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1042

REFERENCE NO.

L3025 (SWR-REC)
(x) 24

02 JUN 1995

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Southwest Support Office
From: Field Solicitor, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Subject: Legal Citation for Federal Register Notices of
Availability of 36 CFR 9B Plans of Operations and
Environmental Assessments

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide standard legal citations for use in preparing notices of availability of non-Federal oil and gas plans of operations for publication in the Federal Register, reduce paperwork, and minimize redundant legal sufficiency reviews.

The Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights Regulations require the Superintendent to publish a notice in the Federal Register advising the availability of a plan of operations for public review and comment. It is standard practice for the National Park Service to publish notice of the availability of the plan of operations along with an environmental assessment.

The proper legal citation to include in the Federal Register notice to reference the 36 CFR 9B requirement to publish notice should be shown as: Section 9.52(b) of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9, Subpart B.

Occasionally, non-Federal oil and gas proposals require compliance with National Park Service Floodplain Management and Wetland Protection Guidelines. In these situations, the additional legal references to include in the Federal Register notice should be shown as: Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management; and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

NPS DOCUMENT# 507

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
REQUISITION

Page _____ of _____

Requisition No.

0-4

Date

4 March 2002

INSTRUCTIONS - Prepare in single space typing. Use double space between items. Fill out top of requisition completely, showing complete shipping instructions and appropriation if different from that to which requisition is chargeable.

To

~~MEPA~~
Procurement

Bureau/Office

FTS Phone No. (include area code)

FTS Fax No. (include area code)

Appropriation/Allotment No.

9496-2002 NZZ-241E-

Charge shipping costs to

Vendor

Federal Register

Deliver to

National Park Service
Padre Island National Seashore

ITEM OR FORM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
1	Federal Register printing Justification notice of availability in <u>Federal Register</u> required by 36 CFR 9.52(b)				

NPS DOCUMENT # 507

TO BE COMPLETED BY FISCAL AUTHORITY ONLY

FUND CERTIFICATION: Funds in the amounts shown are available and chargeable to the cost authorities shown above

Signature

Ken McMullen

Title

Chief Science & Resources Mgmt.

Date

3/04/02

Requisitioned by (Signature)

Title

Date

Approved by (Signature)

Title

Date

Bureau Officer (Signature)

Title

Date

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Padre Island National Seashore, Corpus Christi, Texas

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Plan of Operations, Environmental Assessment, and Floodplains and Wetlands Statement of Findings for a 30-day public review at Padre Island National Seashore, Kleberg and Kenedy Counties, Texas.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service (NPS), in accordance with Section 9.52(b) of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands has received from BNP Petroleum Corporation a Plan of Operations for drilling and production of the Lemon/Lemon Seed Unit Wells, No.1-1000S and No.1-1008S from a surface location 12.5 miles south along the Gulf beach, from the end of Park Road 22, within Padre Island National Seashore. Additionally, the NPS has prepared an Environmental Assessment and Floodplains and Wetlands Statement of Findings for the site of the proposed well.

DATES: The above documents are available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days from the publication date of this notice in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: The Plan of Operations, Environmental Assessment, and Floodplain and Wetlands Statement of Findings are available for public review and comment in the Office of the Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore, 20301 Park Road 22, Corpus Christi, Texas. Copies of the Plan of Operations are available, for a duplication fee, from the Superintendent, Padre Island National Seashore, P.O. Box 181300, Corpus Christi, Texas 78480-1300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arlene Wimer, Environmental Protection Specialist, Padre Island National Seashore, P.O. Box 181300, Corpus Christi, Texas 78480-1300, Telephone: 361-949-8173 x 224, e-mail at Arlene_Wimer@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you wish to submit comments about this document within the 30 days; mail them to the post office address provided above, hand-deliver them to the park at the street address provided above, or electronically file them to the e-mail address provided above. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of responders, available for public review during regular business hours.

DATED: March 4, 2002

Karen Wade
Regional Director
Intermountain Region

NPS DOCUMENT# 507