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**MMS** Alaska OCS Region

# News Release

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## **MMS Requests Modifications to Exploration Plan for Warthog Exploratory Well**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has requested two modifications to the exploration plan submitted by ARCO Alaska, Inc., for a prospect in the Beaufort Sea Sale 144 area dubbed "Warthog".

MMS requested the modifications after reviewing both the exploration plan and the comments received from other agencies and the public. The modifications included a confirmation that a tug will remain on site during refueling operations from the fuel barge during open water and that any ice roads or other activity would not occur on any portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

ARCO proposes to drill an exploratory well during the 1997-1998 solid ice season utilizing the Glomar Beaufort Sea 1 (CIDS), a concrete island drilling system. The well will be drilled from a surface location on a federal lease to an adjacent State lease.

MMS is the federal agency that manages the Nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the OCS, and collects, accounts for, and disburses about \$4 billion yearly in revenues from offshore federal mineral leases and onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

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