

NORTH SLOPE POTENTIAL AND EFFECT ON DOMESTIC EXPLORATION IN THE 70's

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ABSTRACT

A general review of the history of exploration and development of the Arctic Slope is presented together with an outline of the geology of the Brooks Range and the North Slope Province.

Early exploration of the North Slope yielded information that led to an intensive effort in Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4. This, in turn, led to industry exploration which resulted in the discovery of Prudhoe Bay in 1968.

The special methods utilized in exploration, production and transportation operations are discussed and illustrated.

Economics of producing and transporting crude oil to markets is discussed in comparison to similar operations in the "Lower 48." General conclusions indicate that exploration activity must continue in order to provide economic health and national security for the country.

The risks of tariffs and subsequently higher imports and the risks of curtailing domestic exploration and production are too severe for the United States to embark on such programs in the 70's.

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