



CAPITAL WIRELINES

New Oceans Commission begins series of regional meetings

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OCEAN COMMISSION MEETINGS SET (WASHINGTON, DC)

The President's Ocean Commission has begun its series of regional meetings to take stock of the nation's constituencies involved in US coastal and territorial sea resources. The 16-member Commission, announced last year by President Bush, includes two representatives of the oil and gas industries: **Larry Dickerson of Diamond Offshore Drilling** and **Paul Kelly of Rowan Companies**.

Messrs Dickerson and Kelly have a heavy workload before them, and will rely principally on IADC, API and NOIA for data and industry logistical support. The three associations have organized an industry taskforce to respond to their needs, and to sound out the entire upstream and downstream sectors for input. The first regional meeting of the Commission was held in Charleston, SC in January, followed by one in February in St. Petersburg, FL.

The main event for the E&P sector will be from 6-8 March in New Orleans. The oil and gas industry will field a panel to discuss a range of issues and concerns, including federal coastal zone management legislation and regulations. The panel will also showcase the benefits that have accrued to the nation since offshore OCS development began, including the invention of technologies for exploration now routinely used by scientists to map the seabed and monitor marine life. All 16 members of the Commission will take a trip to a drilling rig offshore and will visit the Stennis Center on the Mississippi coast, which develops and encourages research on various activities in the Gulf of Mexico, including oil and gas.

The schedule for the remaining regional meetings of the Commission is: Los Angeles in April, Honolulu in May, Seattle in June, Boston in July, Anchorage in August, and Chicago in September. Prior to several of these meetings, members of the Commission will split into smaller groups to have sub-regional meetings to draw more broadly from public input. At the end of the process, the Commission will consolidate, refine and organize the record of these meetings to make formal recommendations to the President and Congress on legislative and regulatory policies involving the future of the nation's offshore resource management. These recommendations will likely establish the foundation for US oceans policy for several decades to come.

201 Steel Investigation (Washington, DC) – The International Trade Commission (ITC) has concluded its investigation into claims of injury by the domestic steel industry resulting from foreign competition. IADC testified last October in support of drillpipe manufacturer Grant Prideco's request that drillpipe be categorically excluded from any penalties or import barriers that might be threatened. While "green tube" was excluded, tool joints were not, because they fall into a separate category including "flanges and fittings" as stipulated by federal government product codes. Thus, the company and IADC have continued their campaign now to exclude tool joints by taking their case to the Trade Policy Staff Committee, which is charged with making direct recommendations to the President on the basis of the ITC hearing records. IADC Senior Vice President—Government Affairs Brian T Petty participated in presentations in January at the Department of Commerce and US Trade Representative's office along with **Grant Prideco** and **Texas Steel Conversion** executives in requesting that tool joints also be excluded from any recommendation to the President for import penalties. The President is expected to make his initial decision and announcement on which steel products will be penalized in late February. ■