

# State of Alaska

Department of Revenue  
Commissioner's Office



**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**

333 Willoughby Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 110400  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0405  
Phone: (907) 465-2300  
Fax: (907) 465-2394

To: All Members of the Legislature

October 24, 2007

Dear Members:

I am distributing this attached document for your records entitled, *Capital Spending on North Slope Wells, Field Facilities and Exploration*. The document was compiled by the Department from publicly available data (individual company data) and tax data aggregated by the Department (All Companies data) relating to North Slope production costs.

A previous version, distributed as an attachment to a 10-17-07 letter from the Department of Revenue to Representative Doogan contained erroneous 2005 and 2006 data. Please replace any copies you may have with the attached document. We apologize for the confusion.

Sincerely,

Marcia Davis, *Deputy Commissioner*  
Department of Revenue

## Capital Spending on Alaska's North Slope Wells, Field Facilities and Exploration

Millions of nominal Dollars [dollars of the day]

	BP			ARCO/ConocoPhillips			Exxon			Other			All Companies		
	Exp	Dev	Tot	Exp	Dev	Tot	Exp	Dev	Tot	Exp	Dev	Tot	Exp	Dev	Tot
1975															3,827
1976															1,166
1977															890
1978												274	400	674	
1979												174	1,282	1,456	
1980												176	1,604	1,780	
1981												419	3,104	3,523	
1982												647	3,839	4,486	
1983												818	1,100	1,918	
1984												258	1,193	1,451	
1985												514	1,547	2,061	
1986												288	771	1,059	
1987												288	1,020	1,308	
1988												36	765	801	
1989												132	748	880	
1990												96	1,061	1,157	
1991		684	684		343	343		151	151			120	1,178	1,298	
1992		573	573		294	294		124	124			216	991	1,207	
1993		591	591		416	416		140	140			192	1,148	1,220	
1994		564	564		152	152		93	93			72	808	892	
1995		542	542		124	124		82	82			84	748	856	
1996		551	551		188	188		87	87			108	826	922	
1997		687	687		274	274		109	109			96	1,070	1,142	
1998		700	700		705	705		155	155			72	1,560	1,608	
1999		400	400		664	664		115	115		50	50	48	1,179	1,239
2000		670	670		725	725		150	150		100	100	60	1,545	1,697
2001	34	714	748	108	612	720		200	200	10	110	120	152	1,636	1,788
2002	9	439	448	102	434	536		172	172	15	9	24	126	1,054	1,180
2003	0	416	416	75	386	461		160	160	15	8	23	90	970	1,060
2004		412	412	35	400	435		160	160	32	8	40	67	980	1,047
2005													30	1,268	1,301
2006													123	1,591	1,714
2007													194	1,787	1,981

**Sources:** 1975-1989: Data from the "International Oil Tax Comparison Study", April 1990. Study did not provide a breakdown by company and no detail for the years 1975-1977.

1990-2000: BP and Arco annual reports; Communications with BP, Arco Alaska. Various published sources. A breakdown by company provided, but no breakout of exploration cost and development costs. Exploratory costs assumed to follow \$12 million dollar per well rule of thumb.

2001-2004 Communication with BP, ConocoPhillips 2002 & 2003 Annual Reports, publications/extrapolations for others. Breakout of capex by company & type Capex spending.

2005-2007: Unaudited taxpayer submitted EIC and PPT credit information as of 10/3/07. Exploration and development spending breakdown may contain inaccuracies, due to limited information and to the fact that costs that do not qualify for exploration credits may qualify under the PPT as development capital credits.

**Definitions:** Exp = Exploration. Dev. = Development spending. Tot = Explorations and development spending

Note: ARCO/Conoco Phillips exploration expenses in their Annual Reports include acquisition costs, lease rentals, and expensed overhead. BP's capex spend for 2001 and 2002 was only for capex.