

World and Nation

Mobil seeks N.C. drilling permit

By SANDY WALL
Staff Writer

Mobil Oil Corp. recently released a 1,500-page draft report on how it intends to search for natural gas off the N.C. coast in its efforts to secure a permit for off-shore drilling.

In the report, Mobil outlined how it would take precautions to keep the environment clean while drilling.

The company wants to drill an exploratory well 45 miles northeast of Cape Hatteras, said Michael Kimmitt, a spokesman for Mobil's Exploration and Producing Division U.S. Inc., in Dallas, Texas.

The site is one of 21 that Mobil Oil leased between 1981-83, and is located on a large underwater reef, he said.

"We believe that the reef would be conducive to the accumulation of oil and gas," Kimmitt said. "We want to drill a well in this reef to see if this

happened."

In the past, the exploration of similar geological structures has revealed large sources of natural gas, but there is no guarantee that an exploratory well will detect anything, he said.

"Whether or not any gas is there is another matter entirely," Kimmitt said.

But before Mobil can begin its exploration, it must secure a permit to drill from the Minerals Management Service (MMS), a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The draft exploration report that the company submitted recently is only one step in that process.

Several state agencies are reviewing Mobil's preliminary report and plan to conduct public meetings on it within the next two months, said Kim Crawford, information specialist at the N.C. Outer Continental Shelf Office in Raleigh.

On Sept. 19, the Governor's Working Group will be holding a public meeting at the Archdale Building in Raleigh to study the Mobil report, she said.

Crawford said public hearings on Mobil's report are scheduled to be held this October in Wilmington, Greenville, Elizabeth City and Buxton.

On Nov. 1, MMS is scheduled to release a draft of the environmental report, said Angie Graziano, public affairs officer at MMS in Virginia. This preliminary study will address the possible environmental impact of natural gas exploration off the N.C. coast, she said.

"This environmental report is going to be addressing the specific needs of North Carolina," Graziano said. "After the draft environmental report is published, the public will get to comment on it."

Public hearings on the MMS Environmental Report will be scheduled in November, she said.

By Jan. 18 of next year, Mobil expects to complete its final exploration plan, Kimmitt said. On Feb. 1, MMS will submit its final environmental report, Graziano said.

Officials with the state and MMS will then review the reports. At that point, the state will have an opportunity to make official comments on the Mobil plan.

The final decision on whether or not to allow Mobil to drill an exploratory well will rest with MMS, Graziano said.

If all goes according to plan, Mobil could conceivably begin drilling the exploratory well by May, Kimmitt said.

"Natural gas reserves have been falling," Kimmitt said. "We need these kinds of resources."

Top officials push for veto of 'Emergency Drug' plan

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Top administration officials said Tuesday they would urge President Bush to veto a Democratic plan to expand his anti-drug fight by \$2.2 billion, saying it "simply throws money at the problem."

Democrats stuck with their proposal, which would beef up treatment, prevention and law enforcement initiatives, saying it was a badly needed response to the growing problem of illegal drug use and drug-related violence.

Democrats said they would finance their proposal with across-the-board cuts in hundreds of federal programs, and sought to graft the proposal to an unrelated appropriations bill on the Senate floor.

White House officials met privately with Senate Republican leaders as both sides held closed-door meetings on the latest round of political maneuvering over the drug issue.

The White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) distributed a statement saying Bush had "made the tough choices" when he unveiled his \$7.9 billion anti-drug plan last week. Bush's top drug advisers will urge the president to veto the Democratic drug-fighting proposal, OMB said.

"The proposed 'Emergency Drug' amendment makes no choices," the statement said. "It throws money at the problem rather than providing a plan."

News in Brief

state health systems fail to give their disabled patients a chance at life outside of hospitals and state institutions.

Paul Longmore, a California historian and quadriplegic, said institutionalized care for the disabled is the norm in most states.

"Many states are like that," Longmore said. "Essentially, states like Georgia ... give disabled people two choices: the nursing home or the cemetery."

McAfee, 33, was injured four years ago in a motorcycle crash. He received at-home care until his health insurance ran dry; then he became a ward of the state.

No nursing home in Georgia could take him in. Social workers arranged for him to live in an Ohio facility, but that home returned McAfee to Georgia in January.

Bush backs Soviet restructuring

WASHINGTON — Soviet political maverick Boris Yeltsin met briefly with President Bush on Tuesday after publicly urging the administration to help salvage Mikhail Gorbachev's political and economic reforms.

"The president emphasized that the American people share his hope for the success of the reform movement in the Soviet Union," the White House said in a short statement after the 15-minute meeting.

Bush told Yeltsin his administration enjoys a "very positive relationship" with Soviet President Gorbachev and reiterated support for perestroika, or Soviet restructuring, the White House said.

The 58-year-old Yeltsin, ousted as Moscow's Communist Party chief and dumped from the ruling Politburo in late 1987, was elected to parliament with overwhelming popular support in a contested election.

Drug warning broadcast to schools

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — President Bush, in a televised appeal to millions of schoolchildren, said Tuesday that refusing drugs "won't make you a nerd" and urged youngsters to help others stay away from narcotics.

"I'm asking you not to look the other way," Bush said in an address beamed live from the White House to thousands of schools across the country.

Saying everyone knows someone who has a problem, Bush added, "I'm asking you to find someone who needs you. And offer to help. I'll say it again: If you're not in trouble, help someone who is."

On another front, as Bush made his speech, the White House uncorked a toughly worded, partisan attack against congressional Democrats who are criticizing the administration's anti-drug efforts as inadequate and underfunded.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Democrats were trying "to play price-tag politics" with the administration's plan, which calls for more prisons, more prosecutors, tougher sentences and aid to Latin American nations to help combat drug cartels.

"Their first answer was to tax more," Fitzwater said of the Democrats. "Then they had a daylong conference to decide why they can't win a presidential election. And now their new answer is to spend more."

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, proposed

legislation to boost anti-drug spending to \$10.1 billion, or \$2.2 billion more than Bush's program, in fiscal 1990 which begins Oct. 1.

Byrd proposed across-the-board cuts of .575 percent in many domestic and Pentagon programs. Bush had suggested taking money away from a handful of domestic programs to pay for his program.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., indicated that despite the White House opposition, he liked elements of Byrd's plan. "He may have the best solution on the funding side of the equation," Dole said of Byrd's proposal. "I'm not certain of the amount, but perhaps that's something we can work out."

White House spokesman Fitzwater said Byrd's proposal "throws money at the problem rather than providing a plan." The White House said Bush's advisers would recommend he veto the Democratic version.

While the White House argued with Democrats, the administration offered a new price tag for the long-term cost of the drug war.

William Bennett, the national drug control policy director, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee, "I don't think it's unreasonable to say that we are talking about a \$50 billion program over five years."

At the White House, Bush spoke for 15 minutes to schoolchildren in an address carried live by the four major television networks as well as educa-

tional cable systems.

The Education Department had alerted 15,000 superintendents and 55,000 principals of the broadcast, and some schools arranged to hold assemblies where students could watch the speech and discuss the drug problem.

"Presidents don't often get the chance to talk directly to students. So today, for each of you sitting in a classroom or assembly hall — this message goes straight to you," Bush said, speaking from the presidential library.

"Most of you are doing the right thing. But for those of you who let drugs make their decisions for them, you can almost hear the doors slamming shut."

Calling drugs "an equal opportunity destroyer," Bush said, "They have no conscience. They don't care where the money comes from. They just murder people. Young and old, good and bad, innocent and guilty — it doesn't matter. For too many, drugs mean death."

He said, "I'll tell you in on a secret: We all can succeed. If you don't use drugs, you can be anything you want to

be ... So don't blow it."

The president said "saying 'no' won't make you a nerd. It won't make you a loser. In fact, it will make you more friends than drugs ever will."

Equating drugs with death, Bush displayed the badge of a slain 22-year-old rookie policeman and said: "I keep this badge in a drawer in my desk to remind me of that."

The badge belonged to New York City police officer Eddie Byrne, who was killed in 1988 while protecting a witness in a drug case. It was presented to Bush during a campaign appearance in New York last year by Byrne's father.

Bush combined his appeal to stay off drugs with a warning of punishment for those who use narcotics.

"Some think there won't be room for them in jail. We'll make room. We're doubling prison space.

"Some think there aren't enough prosecutors. We'll hire them — with the largest increase in federal prosecutors in history. The day of the dealer is drawing to a close."

Polish parliament gives nod to Solidarity

From Associated Press reports

WARSAW, Poland — Parliament on Tuesday approved the first government in the East bloc not led by Communists, giving half the seats to Solidarity but reserving the key ministries controlling defense and police for the Communists.

"For the first time in half a century, Poland has a government that can be considered by millions of people as their own," said Solidarity leader Lech Walesa from Gdansk, where the independent movement struggled through eight years of communist repression to its triumph.

"My biggest dream has come true," said Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, also of Solidarity, after his Cabinet was approved by a vote of 402 in favor, none opposed and 13 abstentions.

The new Cabinet, called the Council of Ministers, includes Mazowiecki, 11 Solidarity members and a foreign min-

ister independent but sympathetic to Solidarity. The Communists have four seats.

The Solidarity-aligned United Peasant Party holds four seats and Solidarity's other coalition partner, the Democratic Party, has three.

The Communists, in addition to controlling the army and police, will retain considerable influence through President Wojciech Jaruzelski, a Communist. The new government also has promised allegiance to the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact military alliance.

Still, Mazowiecki, once a political prisoner, promised an overhaul of communist institutions in an eloquent speech that he was forced to interrupt for 45 minutes when he felt faint from exhaustion.

He called for reforming the police and the justice system; liberalizing laws on associations, gatherings and censorship; creating a new democratic constitution; removing political and

ideological barriers to promotion; giving universities full autonomy; and battling "catastrophic" environmental pollution.

The main focus was Poland's economy. Mazowiecki said the ranks of the poor were swelling and warned that production and living standards, already lower than 10 years ago, were likely to decline further.

"The new government will act under the pressure that at any moment the construction of democracy that only just started can collapse under the economic crisis," he said.

He called for immediate steps to combat triple-digit inflation, including tax reform, making the zloty convertible with Western currency and creating a stock exchange.

Mazowiecki, a Solidarity newspaper editor who became the East bloc's first non-Communist prime minister, rejected a course of action when the communist government "wanted to rule not only over the lives but the minds" of Poles.

"Poland can be lifted only by a society of free citizens and by a government that enjoys the confidence of the clear

majority of society," he said.

Marian Orzechowski, the Politburo member who heads the Communist parliament delegation, rose to support Mazowiecki.

"My party is not going into opposition," Orzechowski said. "We will govern together, and together be responsible for the fate of the nation."

In the Soviet Union, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said, "We are prepared to cooperate with (the new) government and develop our relations with Poland."

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler in Washington said the approval of the new government was another step "in what has been a historical process of transformation."

"The new government can count on our continued support," she said.

A succession of once-inconceivable events led to the moment when Mazowiecki celebrated the new government with the "V" for victory sign and when Jacek Kuron, who spent nine years in prison for his activism, sipped champagne as the new labor minister.

The Communist Party, realizing it was unable to control economic and

Playboy

publications at UT.

The Daily Texan was not asked to run the Playboy ad, and Barger said he has not seen it. The decision whether to run it would involve "a very fine line," he said.

"Sexy does not necessarily mean sexist," Barger said. "Each case has to be decided on its own merits."

The DTH has an advertisement policy that does not specifically prohibit suggestive or sexist ads. DTH policy

uses five objective standards for accepting advertising, said Kevin Schwartz, DTH director and general manager.

The policy requires that ads not be untruthful or misleading; that they not advertise services and products that are illegal in North Carolina; that they not promote or condone actions that are illegal in North Carolina; that they not contain profane language; and that they comply with all state regulations.

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