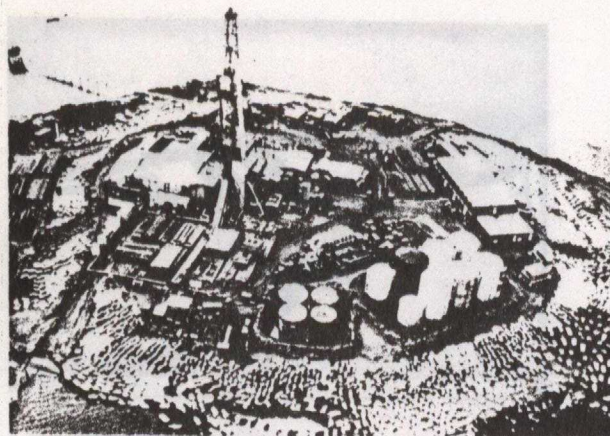


THE ARCTIC PETROLEUM OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION

The Arctic Petroleum Operators' Association was formed in 1970 as a non-profit industry research organization under the joint sponsorship of a group of oil companies with interests in the Canadian Arctic. The main objective of the Association was, and is today, the coordination of efficient and cost-effective Arctic research projects.

APOA research is conducted on a participation basis. Member companies fund projects on a voluntary basis, with those companies sharing the apportioned costs receiving the study results. Over the past 14 years, APOA has sponsored over 200 research projects at a cost of more than \$53 million. APOA research projects include a wide range of topics relevant to hydrocarbon exploration throughout the Arctic. Environmental research in the Beaufort Sea, Mackenzie Delta, High Arctic and Eastern Arctic regions has included studies of seabirds, marine mammals, lower life forms, climate, oceanography, and geomorphology. A number of studies have been dedicated to the various forms of sea-ice and icebergs in each of these regions, including theoretical modelling, and field measurements of the strength and behavior of ice and its effects on structures. Other APOA projects relate to the design, evaluation and testing of Arctic vehicles, as well as other aspects of Arctic transportation, such as road construction. Oil spills, including spilled oil behavior and oil spill countermeasures and contingency actions, have been examined through various APOA projects. Certain APOA projects have sought to refine Arctic drilling operations, logistics and the design of suitable, safe and effective drilling units.

Membership in the Association has varied since its inception, with between 15 and 35 companies participating. At present, APOA is comprised of 20 active members. The Association is administered through a Board of Directors, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-chairman, Executive Director, and five Directors. The Board is elected from among the member companies.



In addition to research, APOA supports communications among persons and agencies involved with northern development, and between government and industry associations, through technical workshops and the sharing and dissemination of information. As well, APOA is involved in the development of operating techniques and enhanced safety procedures for northern hydrocarbon exploration.

A significant part of the Association's work is undertaken through seven standing committees: Environmental, Oil Spill, Drilling and Production, Offshore and Remote Medicine, Remote Sensing, Safety, and Public Information. With the exception of Public Information, each committee is operated jointly with the Offshore Operators Division of the Canadian Petroleum Association (CPA), formerly the Eastcoast Petroleum Operators' Association (EPOA), and apply their efforts to projects pertinent to their spheres of responsibility. As an example, the Offshore and Remote Medicine Committee has reviewed medical concerns in Beaufort Sea operations and successfully arranged a course for upgrading the skills of rig medics. The APOA/EPOA Offshore Safety Task Force, whose report on offshore safety was published in December, 1983, was formed under the auspices of the Safety Committee.

APOA and EPOA co-founded the Canadian Offshore Oil Spill Research Association (COOSRA) in 1980, a five-year, \$5 million program with the objective of investigating oil spill countermeasures in Canadian offshore regions. APOA works closely with the Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA) and APOA members have access to some 220 AOGA research projects. Through this sharing of information, costly duplication of effort is minimized among the respective member companies. Also, APOA has been an active supporter of the Arctic Land Use Research (ALUR) program since its inception.

APOA work has included a number of programs oriented to operational techniques, complementing APOA

operations research. For example, some ten years ago, APOA was involved in the creation of a blow-out prevention training facility and related courses, still being operated by the Petroleum Industry Training Service.

APOA participates in other joint government/industry programs through Committee and Task Force representation. These initiatives have included the 1979 Joint Government/Industry Steering Committee on Problems of Arctic Hydrocarbon Development (SCOP), and the 1982 Steering Committee on the Disposal of Waste Drilling Fluids in Arctic Regions. At present, APOA is actively assisting the federal government in the organization of its Environmental Studies Revolving Fund (ESRF) under the Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration (COGLA).

Since 1970, APOA has co-sponsored (with the Canadian Petroleum Association and recently with government departments) an annual Environmental Workshop. The workshops have been held variously in Calgary, Alberta; Fairmont, B.C.; Montebello, Quebec; Yellowknife, N.W.T.; and Whitehorse, Yukon. These workshops have contributed to an ever improved liaison and understanding between various involved government, academic, industry, media and public interest groups in relevant environmental, technical and governmental topics of interest. Other, more specialized, workshops have been conducted under the auspices of a number of APOA Standing Committees.

Public information and the dissemination of information is an important part of APOA activities. APOA played a leading role in the founding of the Arctic Science and Information System at the Arctic Institute of North America in Calgary. Over 300 APOA Study Reports have been placed in 23 reference libraries across Canada, in the United States and Great Britain. As well, these reports are available for purchase. The Association also publishes the APOA Review in English and Inuktitut, a magazine dedicated to the history, content and progress of research undertaken by APOA, and the inter-relationship and relevance of various study projects and Arctic operations.

