

From: Bowman, Randal
To: [James Cason](#)
Subject: UPDATE USGS ANWR oil assessment
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You had asked me to check on this some time ago; following is from an article in one of the Greenwire newsletters this morning:

Based on the new oil finds [NPRA, State lands], the U.S. Geological Survey is gearing up to revise its assessment of the oil potential in the NPR-A and on state-controlled property just east of the reserve. USGS research geologist Dave Houseknecht said the government recently licensed two 3-D surveys in the Alaska petroleum reserve.

But Houseknecht said there are no plans to reassess the oil potential of the Arctic refuge because no new well data or seismic studies have been produced since USGS issued its last report on the region in 1998. That assessment estimated that ANWR's northern plain, known as the 1002 area, is likely to contain a mean volume of 10.4 billion barrels of oil.

"I've been asked annually since the 1998 report why we haven't done an update on the Arctic refuge," he said. "And I say, there's nothing new. There's no new information that would compel us to think that we would do an assessment differently than the way we did it 20 years ago."

Houseknecht noted that federal scientists have not been given "marching orders" or the funding needed to conduct modern seismic studies in the Arctic refuge or to reprocess the 2-D studies conducted in the 1980s.