Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

Media Contact: Lovett 202/343-7445
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A proposed project to develop oil and gas resources within the boundaries of the Big Cypress Indian Reservation in Florida would not create significant environmental issues or concerns, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has concluded.

The BIA has prepared an environmental assessment on a proposal by Tesoro Oil Corporation and NRM Petroleum Corporation to engage in exploration, development and production activity for oil and gas on the reservation. The proposal calls for a seismic reconnaissance survey over 32,830 acres, drilling exploratory wells and the selection of approximately 50 wells for production. The project will require the construction of pipelines, tanks, manifolds and other accessory supply facilities prior to the commencement of actual production.

Short-term impacts on the environment would be typical of those encountered elsewhere in nearby locations in Florida, the BIA said. Potential impacts on land use, wildlife habitats and air/water qualities were judged to be insignificant.

Single copies of the environmental assessment may be obtained from the BIA Eastern Area Office, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W, Washington, D.C. 20245 or the BIA Seminole Agency, 6075 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024.