

27. PUBLIC HEARING; MODIFICATION OF OIL DRILLING MORATORIUM.

In connection with Calendar Item 26, a visual presentation by the staff was presented to the Commission regarding the natural seep reported off Coal Point on June 4, 1973. Aerial photographic slides and a video tape film were shown of the area depicting the oil and bubbles rising to the surface from the natural seep. In addition, a colored film was shown of the two-man submarine investigating the seep on the ocean floor.

The Executive Officer reported to the Commission that two public hearings were proposed to be held during August and early September on the oil drilling moratorium. These hearings will not concern themselves with new offshore leases, but only the broad issues on proposed drilling and operating procedures. The first hearing is proposed to be held in August in Los Angeles to review and hear comments and critiques of the proposed procedures. Following that, in early September (possibly late August), a second set of hearings in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara are proposed to discuss oil spill containment devices, alternate sources of oil containment equipment, damages from spills, and that general subject matter. When plans are developed, the exact time and date of the proposed hearings will be widely announced.

After the second set of hearings (early September or late August) the staff will prepare a report of the responses, with recommendations and alternatives, available for distribution in about 30 days. After wide distribution, a concise but brief summary will be presented to the Commission for discussion.

The Chairman requested that the Commissioners be furnished an agenda on the proposed hearings. The Executive Officer stated that within 10 days or so an agenda would be prepared and circulated to the Commissioners.

The attached Calendar Item 26 was submitted to the Commission for information only, no action thereon being necessary.

Attachment:

Calendar Item 26 (1 page)

INFORMATIVE CALENDAR ITEM

6/73
RSG

26.

PUBLIC HEARING
MODIFICATION OF OIL DRILLING MORATORIUM

The Executive Officer will present the status of plans for public hearings related to new operating procedures and containment device capability preparatory to developing recommendations on modifying the oil drilling moratorium on existing leases.