

4-21-1992

Colombia: Report On Oil Exploration, Production

Barbara Khol

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

Recommended Citation

Khol, Barbara. "Colombia: Report On Oil Exploration, Production." (1992). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/9073>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Colombia: Report On Oil Exploration, Production

by Barbara Khol

Category/Department: General

Published: Tuesday, April 21, 1992

On April 15, Fernando Delgado, vice president of the state-run oil company Ecopetrol, told reporters that most of the nation's oil resources remain unexploited. Oil deposits have been discovered in a 75 million-ha. area, but exploration and exploitation are underway on only 18 million ha. In conjunction with Ecopetrol, a total of 18 foreign and domestic companies are involved in exploration and production activities. Ecopetrol itself exploits deposits in five oil fields. According to Delgado, another six foreign companies from the US and Australia are interested in oil exploration in Colombia. The most attractive oil field is at Cusiana, located in Casanare department. Preliminary estimates indicate a productin potential of 500,000 barrels per day. The field is being partly exploited by a consortium comprised of Ecopetrol, British Petroleum (BP), French company Total, and the US-based Triton. When marketing of Cusiana crude begins, Ecopetrol will receive a 50% share, and will then pay 50% of exploration costs. In 1992, four new oil wells will be drilled at Cusiana, but an accurate figure for Cusiana proven reserves will not be available until 1993. A total US\$200 million have already been invested in Cusiana, and another US\$100 million are to be invested this year. Delgado said the oil pipeline linking Cusiana with the central region of the country will be expanded from 280 km. to 380 km. at a cost of US\$70 million. The capacity of another oil pipeline, which links Porvenir to Vasconia, will be increased from 100,000 to 200,000 barrels per day. The capacity of this pipeline is to be increased to 320,000 bpd. According to official figures, Colombian oil production averaged 467,000 bpd during the first two months of 1992, up 71,000 bpd compared to January-February 1991. On April 16, David Harding, director for BP's Latin American division, said, "To the present, exploration activities have been very encouraging. We already invested US\$200 million, and we will continue. Colombia has become a priority area for us." About 200 people work at the Cusiana site, and every day of exploration represents US\$80,000 of income to the local economy. Colombia's largest oilfield at present is Cano Limon, exploited by Occidental Petroleum. Output averages 215,000 bpd. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 04/15/92; Agence France-Presse, 04/16/92)

-- End --