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Guatemala: Government Plans For Oil Exploration Concessions In El Peten

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On Nov. 8, Energy and Mines Minister Carlos Hurtarte announced that the government plans to open up competition for oil exploration operations next year in six areas of El Peten department. Hurtarte said US companies Amoco, Montgomery, Tarpon, Pentagon and Hunt have expressed interest in such exploration. According to the minister, the government will require environmental impact statements from foreign oil companies competing for exploration concessions. In addition, firms operating in El Peten will be obligated to coordinate activities with the National Environmental Commission (CONAMA). In 1989, the ministry suspended an exploration concession in El Peten held by the US-based Exxon result of expected disastrous effects on the local eco-system and damage to the Ceibal archeological site. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 11/08/91)

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