

# PETROLEUM IN MEXICO 2002

## 1. PEMEX WILL DRILL 86 WELLS IN CAMPECHE AND TABASCO IN THE NEXT 4 YEARS CIUDAD DEL CARMEN,

Camp., (Notimex).-- Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex), will attempt to drill 86 wells along the coasts of Campeche and Tabasco states in the next four years, informed the coordinator of Social Development and Communications in the Northeast Marine Region of PEP, Héctor Gervacci González.

The functionary of Pemex, Exploration and Production (PEP) explained that the first 10 wells will be located in the Northeast Marine Region, in Campeche, and the other 76 in the Southwest, on the coast of Tabasco.

Concluding the V Meeting of PEP, in which the Federation of Cooperative Societies of the State of Campeche participated, as well as the National Fishing Industry Board, revealed that PEP is looking for harmonious cooperation that will allow the development of the nation without affecting the inhabitants of these zones.

Pemex Exploration and Production has a priority of constant communication with the fishing industry through forums that supposedly allow for harmonious cooperation.

Gervacci González indicated that all of the explorations will be in the area of the platforms, with the exception of Malah-1, which is located 20 kilometers from the Xicalango coast and which will start activity between August and November of this year.

He said that Pemex will be in Campeche for 20 or 25 years more, because they have presented to the Secretary of Hacienda and Public Credit a project that extends to 2016, with the objective of obtaining resources for projects during this time.

The paraestatal has the disposition to continue with dialogue and information with social sectors in order to achieve harmonious cooperation during the time that they are in Campeche.

He also commented that this fifth meeting with the fishing cooperatives was to introduce the exploration and production projects in the short and long term that they are thinking of carrying out in the above-mentioned marine regions.

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### 3. HISTORIA PETROLERA DE MEXICO

During more than 25 years Mexico has destined around 80 percent of its crude exportations to the United States, and in the last few years it has been one of the few producers in the world that has decreased its' reserves.

In 1977 Mexico had an exportation platform of 202 thousand barrels per day, of which 179 thousand were sold to the United States. According to export capacity of Petróleos Mexicanos, this amount was increased, and the sale to the United States also grew in proportion.

In 1981 when Mexico raised its platform exportation to more than a million barrels per day, the United States only bought 547 thousand barrels per day. This tendency to reduce the percentage of bought national oil followed according to the available data until at least 1991.

According to the latest reports from PEMEX, the volume of exportations during 2000 was a million 652 thousand barrels per day, of which one million 241 thousand 600 were destined for the United States, where they were sold for an average of 24,89 dollars per barrel, meaning an income for the country of approximately 11 thousand 368 million dollars.

In Mexico the excessive sale of crude is prioritized. As a consequence, reserves have decreased to 26 thousand 941 million barrels.

Between 1985 and 1998 hydrocarbon reserves in the country decreased by more than 13 billion barrels. With this decrease, the importation of oil derivative products has increased. In 1998 Mexico imported products derived from oil for two thousand 233 million dollars. In the last ten years the spectacular increase of the importation of products derived from oil has been registered (gasoline, natural gas, petrochemicals).

Petrolifero wells are being over-exploited. According to some studies, one of the most important wells, Cantarel, located in Campeche, increased extraction from 900 thousand barrels per day to more than one million 400 thousand, which means the application of modern water injection techniques in order to exercise more pressure and obtain more hydrocarbons. It is reaching its' limit for injecting nitrogen to surpass the detection of water in order to obtain the last drop from this well.

In the last government administration the original idea of PEMEX was changed from PEMEX being the company that satisfied internal consumption, to an oil policy

reoriented at converting the country into an exporter of crude and importer of derivatives.

President Fox, since his arrival, has started a negative campaign for Mexico as well as for the United States against PEMEX. Fox wants to privatize Petr6leos Mexicanos, give it to large corporations. President Bush has congratulated him recently for having supplied the United States so well with oil.

In this respect, George W. Bush, declared "not only oil, but also gas that is found in Mexico is of benefit to the United States and Canada." His secretary of energy, Spencer Abraham, declared, "access to Mexican energy is of national security to the United States".

The Americanization of Mexico is not new, but was conceived by the founding fathers of the United States, Jefferson, Madison and afterwards even more intensely by the famous president James Monroe, -who coined "America for the Americans"- such as the formation of an exclusive geopolitical zone in the American continent for the exclusive benefit of the United States. Ronald Reagan then came up with the idea of Free Trade Agreement to convert Mexico into a strategic reserve for the United States, for the period 1976-2000, converting Mexico, Canada and Venezuela into natural providers of oil for the United States.

After Reagan, the silent Americanization began through policies of economic liberalization, by way of the Free Trade Agreement, signed in 1994 by the United States, Canada and Mexico. In this time, ex – vice-president Al Gore compared the Agreement of the buying of Alaska that the United States did, with the Czar of Russia.

The American plan is to have free access, not only to oil, but also to other hydroelectric resources. Mexico is currently resolving the energy problem in California.

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