

Discovery of Natural Gas in West Cameron Block 552 in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico

April 22, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

Nippon Oil Exploration U.S.A. Limited ("NOEX USA"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Oil Exploration Limited (President, Makoto Koseki), which is the upstream arm of Nippon Oil Corporation (President, Shinji Nishio), announced a gas discovery by the drilling of a successful exploration well located on the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico in the United States. NOEX USA is the Operator and has an 80% working interest in West Cameron 552 Block.

The West Cameron Block 552 is located in a water depth of approximately 200 feet, and is approximately 110 miles offshore of the State of Louisiana. This successful exploratory well was spudded in December last year and encountered gas bearing sands at a depth of approximately 15,000 feet. NOEX USA has confirmed enough volume of gas for the project to be commercially successful and expects further addition to reserves depending on the results of additional drilling on the lease.

Since 1989, Nippon Oil Group has actively participated in oil and gas E&P activities in the Gulf Coast region through NOEX USA based in Houston, Texas. Its recent achievements include an acquisition of a portion of the K2 Unit working interest in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico from Anadarko Petroleum Corporation in May 2007, and also the discovery of two hydrocarbon bearing sands on the South Marsh Island Block 44 in July last year which started production in December. NOEX USA currently holds 38 producing oil and gas fields in the United States and is the Operator for 18 of such fields.

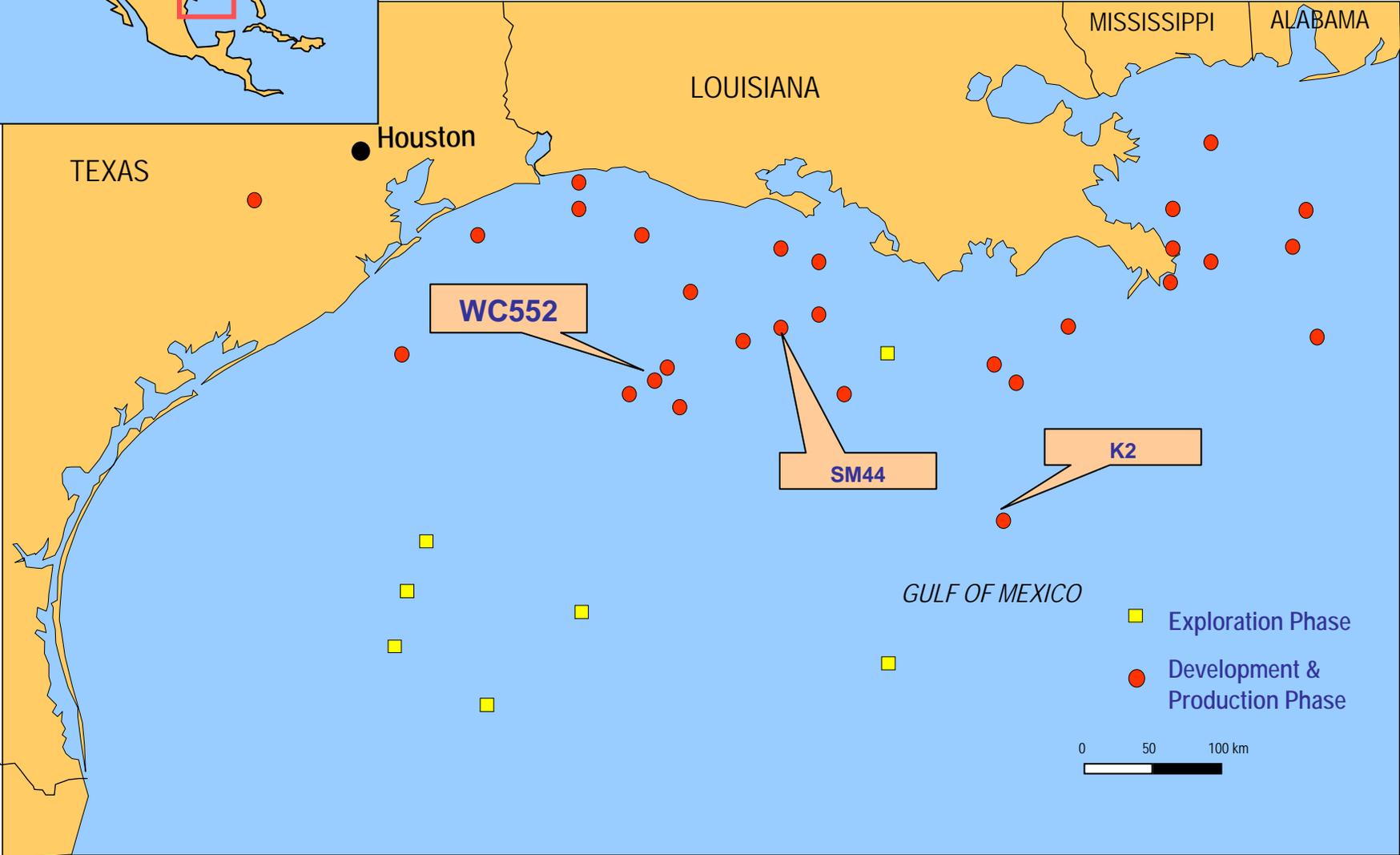
Nippon Oil Group has been focusing its efforts on the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, where there are a number of oil and gas fields both in production and undeveloped with high potential. Nippon Oil Group is committed to expanding its E&P business activities in the U.S Gulf of Mexico, which is one of its strategic core areas. In addition to the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, Nippon Oil Group is also focused on other areas, which include Asia, Oceania and the North Sea.

Information Summary

1. West Cameron Block 552
 - i. Location of Lease
 - ✓ Located on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 110 miles offshore of the State of Louisiana and in a water depth of approximately 200 feet (Please see attached map)
 - ii. Partners and Working Interest
 - ✓ Nippon Oil Exploration U.S.A. Limited (Operator) 80.0%
 - ✓ Fidelity Exploration & Production Company 20.0%
 - iii. Lease Development
 - ✓ In April, 2005, NOEX USA acquired certain leases in oil and gas fields in the Gulf of Mexico from Devon Energy which included West Cameron block 552
 - ✓ From December 2007 through to March 2008, an exploratory well was drilled resulting in a gas discovery

2. NOEX USA
 - i. Company Name: Nippon Oil Exploration U.S.A. Limited (US Company)
 - ii. President & COO: Tadashi Ohmura
 - iii. Capital: 68 million US Dollars
 - iv. Established: August 24th, 1989
 - v. Business Conducted: Exploration, development, production and marketing of oil and gas onshore in the State of Texas and offshore in the Gulf of Mexico
 - vi. Shareholder: Nippon Oil Exploration Limited 100%

NOEX USA Lease Location Map



TEXAS

Houston

LOUISIANA

MISSISSIPPI

ALABAMA

WC552

SM44

K2

GULF OF MEXICO

- Exploration Phase
- Development & Production Phase

