



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Drilling in the Arctic has Nothing to do with National Security

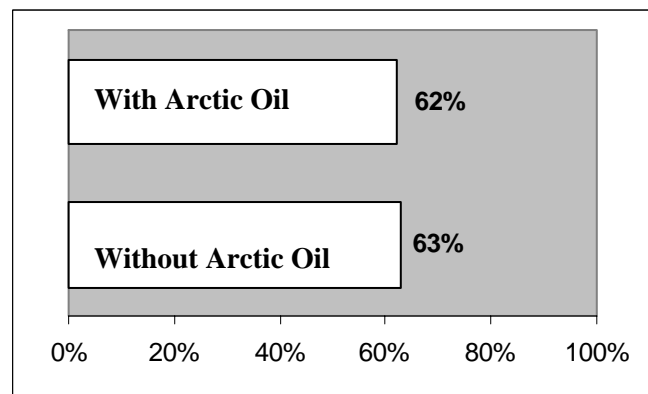
Drilling proponents would have you believe that oil from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will alleviate U.S. dependence on foreign oil. The truth is, any potential oil yield from the Refuge would make a negligible dent in our imports. Using existing technology to make our cars more efficient and investing in renewable energy are real solutions that will have a much greater impact on the amount of oil we import.

Arctic Refuge Oil Cannot Provide Energy Independence

According to a 2004 Energy Information Administration report entitled *Analysis of Oil and Gas Production in ANWR*:

- First oil production from the Arctic Refuge would not occur until 10 years after such drilling is authorized. In 2015 oil from the refuge would only reduce imports a tiny amount from, 63% of our supply to 62%.
- If the Refuge is developed for oil, production would not peak until 2025, providing only 7/10 of 1 percent (0.7%) of world oil production that year.
- Even at the peak of production, Arctic Refuge oil would never meet more than 3 % of U.S. oil needs.
- If peak production is in 2025, drilling in the Refuge would only reduce oil imports from a projected 70% of our total oil supply to 66%. Production would decrease thereafter.

Projected U.S. Imports in 2015

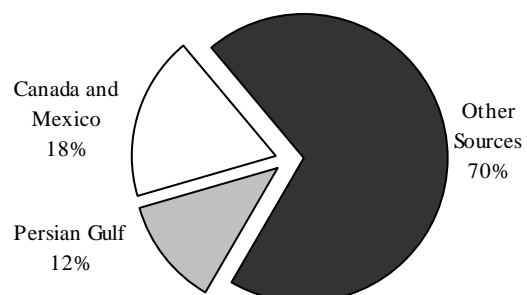


U.S. Sources of Imported Oil Are Diverse and Primarily Outside the Middle East

Drilling proponents have tried to convince the public that America is desperate for the limited amount of oil beneath the Arctic Refuge by playing on our fears of dependence on Middle East oil. Much has been done over the past few decades to ensure that our energy supply is secure. From the creation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, to the diversification of our sources of oil imports, to improvements in the fuel efficiency of our vehicles, we have developed many options to assure that our nation's energy needs will be met, even in times of crisis.

Where Our Oil Comes From

(based on daily U.S. consumption)



- Contrary to the rhetoric, EIA reports indicate that oil imports from the Middle East have declined since 1977. Imports from all OPEC countries have also dropped dramatically—from a 70.3% share of total imports in 1977 to 42.2% in 2003 while non-OPEC petroleum imports have more than doubled since 1977.
- In contrast, imports from Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Norway, and other American allies have increased since the 1970s.
- The nation currently imports oil from more than 60 separate nations.

U.S. Imports for January-November 2004

Non-Persian Gulf	Imports	% U.S.	Persian Gulf	Imports	% U.S.
Canada	2,116	10.32%	Saudi Arabia	1,561	7.61%
Mexico	1,645	8.02%	Iraq	654	3.19%
Venezuela	1,516	7.40%	Kuwait	253	1.23%
Nigeria	1,127	5.50%	Other Persian Gulf	20	0.10%
Algeria	437	2.13%	(Includes UAE and Qatar)		
United Kingdom	360	1.80%	Total Persian Gulf	2,488	12.14%
Virgin Islands, US	322	1.57%	Source: Energy Information Administration		
Angola	317	1.55%			
Russia	273	1.33%			
Norway	245	1.20%			
Other non-Persian Gulf	2,049	10.00%			

*“Imports” are in thousands of barrels daily
“% US” is percent of daily U.S. consumption*

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Exists for Emergency Needs

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) was created in 1975 to provide for our oil needs in times of crisis or extreme supply disruption. It is a large supply of crude oil stockpiled in storage along the Gulf of Mexico. The SPR has the capacity to hold 700 million barrels. Its current inventory is approximately 670 million barrels.

We Cannot Drill Our Way to Energy Independence

The simple fact is, the United States consumes about 25% of the world’s oil, but has less than 3% of the world’s proven oil reserves, according to EIA data. Energy experts agree that the best way to solve our energy problem is to invest in conservation and renewable energy efforts. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, increasing fuel efficiency standards for new vehicles by just 3 miles per gallon would save more than 1 million barrels of oil per day. That’s considerably more oil than the Refuge is likely to yield in its year of peak production.

Oil Drilling in the Arctic Refuge Would Not Impact Oil Prices

Even in the year of peak production, Arctic Refuge oil would only amount to a drop in the bucket (7/10 of 1 percent) of the world oil market, where oil prices are set. This is far too little to meaningfully affect oil prices. EIA’s 2004 *Analysis of Oil and Gas Production in ANWR* explains: “Assuming that world oil markets continue to work as they do today, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries could countermand any potential price impact of ANWR coastal plain production by reducing its exports by an equal amount.”

For More Information:

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