

NEWS RELEASE

Head of Offshore Review Panel in Potential Conflict of Interest

May 16, 2003: For immediate release

Natural Resources Minister Herb Dhaliwal's appointment yesterday of oil industry economist Roland Priddle to head the independent panel to review the federal moratorium on offshore BC oil and gas exploration poses a potential conflict of interest that could derail the entire consultation process.

"Mr Priddle is a director of Talisman Energy, a major offshore oil exploration corporation, and an active member of the Canadian Petroleum Institute," said SPEC president Helen Spiegelman. "I have no doubts of Mr Priddle's industry qualifications, but I have strong reservations about his running the 'independent' panel that will determine the future of offshore oil exploration in BC."

Priddle's appointment follows Dhaliwal's March 28 announcement of a three-member panel to hold public hearings on the moratorium, including science, the environment, protected areas and economic issues.

According to the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame, Priddle is described as "an architect of energy free trade" who is credited with "breaking old

Canadian habits of government intervention in the petroleum industry, and in doing so earned respect throughout the Canadian oil and gas community."

Priddle started his career with Shell Oil and Royal Dutch Petroleum Corporation before joining the Federal Government where he played a key role in creating the 1985 federal-provincial Western Accord on Energy that dismantled the National Energy Board. After retiring from government, he has worked as a private consultant in addition to his duties on the board of Talisman Energy.

Calgary-based Talisman is a major international petroleum corporation that at year end 2002, had an enterprise value of \$11 billion. It is listed on both the Toronto and New York stock exchanges.

In 2000 Talisman made international headlines when it was pressured to pull out of Sudan following protests by international humanitarian groups over Talisman's ties with the dictatorial regime in Khartoum.

Information: Ivan Bulic 604 736- 7732, 604-318-0001
Oil Free Coast Alliance <http://www.oilfreecoast.org/>

For more information about the impacts of offshore oil and gas development visit our web page at [About Offshore Oil](#).