

# Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax, Third Quarter, 1983

By Michael Alexander\*

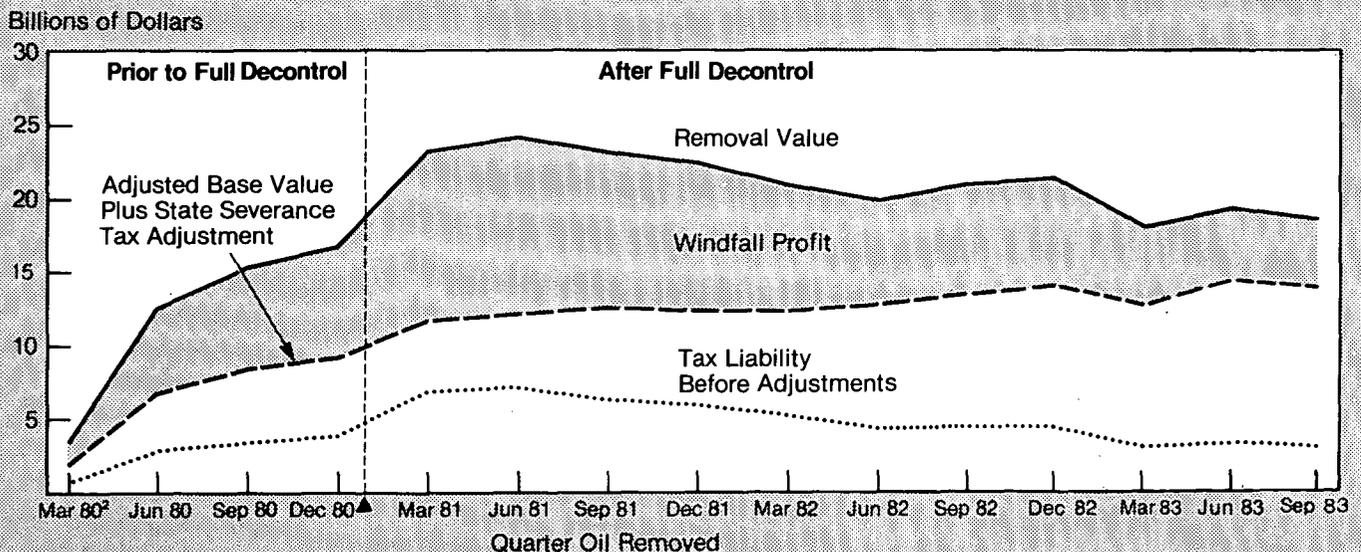
The windfall profit tax liability for the third quarter of 1983, \$2.5 billion after adjustments, was the lowest amount since the first full quarter (June 1980) for which liability was reported and was \$226 million lower than the total for the previous quarter. Since the inception of the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act of 1980, total reported windfall tax liability has been more than \$61 billion through September 1983.

The windfall profit is defined as the removal value less the sum of the adjusted base value and state severance tax adjustment. The windfall profit has declined by more than 61 percent from a high of \$11.4 billion in June 1981 to \$4.7 billion for the quarter ending September 1983 (Figure A). The average windfall profit has declined from \$16.40 per

barrel in June 1981 to \$6.63 in September 1983 (Figure B). The decrease in windfall profit was a result of declining removal prices (generally the price for which oil is sold) and rising adjusted base prices and state severance tax adjustments.

Since June 1981, the average removal price has fallen by almost 22 percent, from \$33.09 to \$25.86 per barrel. The decrease in removal prices resulted from a combination of declining demand in the United States for oil products and the worldwide surplus of crude oil. According to the *Oil & Gas Journal*, the demand for oil products in the United States declined for the fifth straight year in 1983 [1]. The demand in the first half of 1983, 14.98 million barrels of oil a day, was a decrease of 3.5 percent below the first half of 1982.

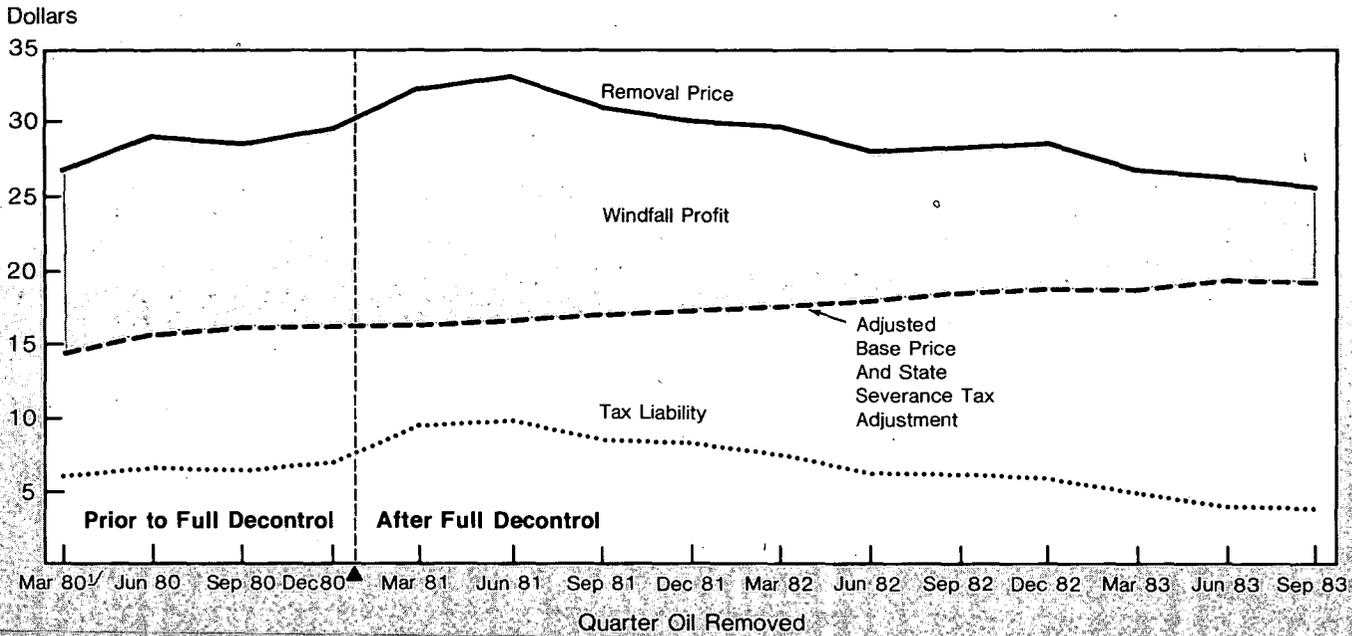
Figure A  
Components<sup>1</sup> of Windfall Profit Tax Liability Before Adjustments:  
Aggregate Values By Quarter Oil Removed



<sup>1</sup>Some returns report windfall profit tax liability only; therefore, data for removal value, adjusted base value and state severance tax adjustment have been adjusted to reflect totals as if all returns reported this detail.

<sup>2</sup>One month only.

Figure B  
Components of Windfall Profit Tax Liability:  
Averages per Barrel by Quarter Oil Removed



NOTE: Because of price controls during 1980, there were cases where the removal price was less than the adjusted base price and no Form 6047 was filed. The data in the figure are based on information reported.

<sup>1</sup>One month only.

The sum of the adjusted base price and the state severance tax adjustment has risen 15 percent from \$16.69 per barrel for the quarter ending June 1981 to \$19.23 for the quarter ending September 1983. The adjusted base price increased primarily as a result of an inflation adjustment, which is derived from the Gross National Product (GNP) "implicit price deflator."

The following table is a summary, by quarter, of tax liability before and after adjustments since the tax went into effect in 1980. The adjustments were necessary because of errors by withholding agents during previous quarters or, more frequently, reflect the application of the net income limitation. The net income limitation adjustment amounted to -\$270 million, and adjustments to previous quarters were approximately -\$30 million, for a total adjustment of -\$300 million for the quarter ending September 1983.

The net income limitation generates an adjustment because this provision limits the windfall profit to 90 percent of the net income per barrel of oil and can be estimated by certain taxpayers for the current quarter. The adjustments in the following table include under- or over-withholding from previous quarters that the depositing or withholding agent (usually the first purchaser) corrects by

adjusting the amounts withheld in succeeding quarters. Producers can claim as a refund or a credit on their income tax returns additional over-withholding of windfall profit tax, due to error or the net income limitation that has not been corrected by the withholding agent.

Windfall Profit Tax Before and After Adjustments  
(Millions of Dollars)

Quarter Ending	Tax Before Adjustments	Total Adjustments	Tax After Adjustments
Total ....	\$64,960	-\$3,940	\$61,020
Mar. 1980 <sup>1</sup> ...	788	-	788
June 1980 ....	2,842	-21	2,821
Sept. 1980 ...	3,413	-88	3,325
Dec. 1980 ....	3,918	-927	2,991
Mar. 1981 ....	6,953	+242	7,195
June 1981 ....	7,253	-107	7,146
Sept. 1981 ...	6,344	-251	6,093
Dec. 1981 ....	6,007	-497	5,510
Mar. 1982 ....	5,222	-221	5,001
June 1982 ....	4,283	-295	3,988
Sept. 1982 ...	4,404	-445	3,959
Dec. 1982 ....	4,440	-634	3,806
Mar. 1983 ....	3,320	-193	3,127
June 1983 ....	2,951	-203	2,748
Sept. 1983 ...	2,822	-300	2,522

<sup>1</sup>One month only.

Based on returns of taxpayers who provided complete detail on windfall profit tax computation [2], tier one oil continued to dominate production for the quarter ended September 1983. Tier one oil (which consists of all domestically produced crude oil other than oil specifically classified as tier two or tier three, or oil explicitly exempted from the tax) represented 66 percent of total production. Tier two oil, which represented 9 percent of total production consists of oil produced from stripper well property not qualifying for the stripper exemption and oil from economic interests in a Naval Petroleum Reserve held by the United States. Tier three oil, which consists of heavy oil, incremental tertiary oil and newly discovered oil (64 percent of tier three), accounted for 25 percent of total production.

#### Percent of Oil Production by Tier of Oil

Quarter Ending	Tier One	Tier Two	Tier Three
June 1981 .....	70	14	16
Sept. 1981 .....	69	14	17
Dec. 1981 .....	69	13	18
Mar. 1982 .....	68	13	19
June 1982 .....	67	13	20
Sept. 1982 .....	65	13	22
Dec. 1982 .....	65	12	23
Mar. 1983 .....	68	9	23
June 1983 .....	63	8	29
Sept. 1983 .....	66	9	25

#### DATA SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS

The windfall profit tax is reported on the Quarterly Federal Excise Tax Return, Form 720. Form 6047, Windfall Profit Tax, shows how the tax is computed and is filed as an attachment to Form 720. Tabulations in this article are based on the Form 6047. Returns are due 2 months after the end of the quarter in which the oil is removed. Data are based on all returns with a tax liability of \$1 million or more before adjustments and a 10 percent sample of all other returns.

Sampling and nonsampling errors were controlled by a variety of methods. Although efforts were made to secure missing returns, some returns may have been omitted because of time and resource constraints. Attempts were made to correct imbalances in taxpayer entries for the components of windfall profit; if this proved impossible, an out-of-balance return was treated as a return on which the components were not reported, and therefore only the liability for each tier was tabulated. A number of verification checks were performed at all stages of manual data abstraction and computer tabulation.

The Statistics of Income Bulletin also includes data on excise tax collections. The excise tax collection figures show the liability after adjustments, as reported on Form 720, from returns entered into the IRS computerized Business Master File (BMF) each quarter. A number of considerations affect comparisons of data from these two sources. Returns are not due until 2 months after the close of the taxable quarter; however, the interval between the close of the taxable period and the final recording of the return often varies, so that the quarterly BMF totals usually represent several taxable periods. On the other hand, the data presented here have been tabulated for specific taxable periods. As a result, the two sets of statistics are not directly comparable.

#### DEFINITIONS

Brief definitions of the terms used in the tables are given.

Adjusted Base Price.--The base price multiplied by the inflation adjustment, which is derived from the Gross National Product (GNP) "implicit price deflator."

Adjustments to Liability.--Corrections applied to the current quarter's liability to correct for the net income limitation and over- and under-withholding in previous quarters.

Base Price.--For tier one oil, the upper tier ceiling price, as defined by Department of Energy price control regulations, which would have applied to the oil had it been produced and sold in May 1979, reduced by 21 cents. For tiers two and three oil, the base prices were \$15.20 and \$16.55, respectively, adjusted for grade and quality.

Crude Oil.--The term applies only to natural crude petroleum and does not include synthetic petroleum, such as oil from shale or tar sands. It does, however, include natural gas liquids treated as crude oil under the June 1979 energy pricing regulations issued by the Department of Energy.

Deposit Requirements.--The timing of any first purchaser to deposit amounts withheld depends on the identity of the first purchaser. Major refiners, other than independent refiners, are required to make semimonthly deposits of the withholding tax. All other first purchasers are required to make withholding deposits no later than 45 days after the oil is removed from the premises, except independent refiners that purchase oil under delayed payments contracts. They are required to make deposits by the first day of the third month beginning after the month of removal.

Exempt Alaskan Oil.--Oil from a reservoir other than the Sadlerochit reservoir that has been commercially exploited by any well north of the Arctic Circle; and oil produced north of the divides of the Alaska and Aleutian Ranges, and at least 75 miles from the nearest point of the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline System.

Exempt Charitable Oil.--Oil produced from economic interests held by qualified charitable medical facilities, educational institutions, and child care organizations (as defined in Internal Revenue Code section 170); if such interest was held on January 21, 1980, and at all times thereafter; and oil produced from interests held by a church on January 21, 1980, if, before January 22, 1980, the net proceeds of such oil were dedicated to the support of a medical facility, educational institution, or child care facility.

Exempt Governmental Oil.--Oil produced from an economic interest held by a state or a political subdivision (including agencies and instrumentalities), the net income from which is used for public purposes.

Exempt Indian Oil.--Oil produced from mineral interests held by or on behalf of Indian tribes or individuals on January 21, 1980, which is one of the following: (a) production received by Indian tribes and individuals from Tribal Trust Lands (the title to such land is held by the United States in trust for the tribes), (b) production from land or mineral interests held by an Indian tribe eligible for services provided to Indians by the Secretary of the Interior, or (c) oil the proceeds from which are paid into the U.S. Treasury to the credit of tribal or native trust funds pursuant to law. This exemption also applies to production of any Alaskan Native Corporation prior to 1991, including wholly-owned subsidiaries of the native Indian corporation as clarified by IRS on September 3, 1982.

Exempt Royalty Oil.--Qualified royalty owners are exempt from the windfall profit tax on two barrels of oil per day for each day of the calendar quarter for oil removed after December 31, 1981. For 1985 and thereafter, three barrels per day will be exempt.

Exempt Stripper Oil.--Oil removed from stripper wells after 1982 may qualify for exemption from the windfall profit tax if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The oil must be removed from a stripper well property after 1982;
- (2) The oil must be produced by an independent producer;
- (3) The oil must be attributable to the independent producer's working interest in the property; and

- (4) The stripper well property must not be a property transferred by a nonindependent producer on or after July 23, 1981.

Net Income Limitation.--The windfall profit on a barrel of oil may not exceed 90 percent of the net income attributable to the barrel.

Removal Price.--Generally, the price for which a barrel of oil is sold. In some instances, a constructive sale price is used.

Sadlerochit Oil.--Crude oil production from the Sadlerochit reservoir in the Prudhoe Bay oil field in Alaska.

State Severance Tax Adjustment.--A tax imposed by a state with respect to the extraction of oil. The windfall profit is reduced by the amount by which the severance tax exceeds that which would have been imposed had the oil been valued at its adjusted base price.

Stripper Oil.--In general, oil from a property for which the average daily production per well has been 10 barrels or less for any consecutive 12-month period after 1972.

Tier One Oil.--All domestically produced crude oil other than any oil classified in tier two or three, or explicitly exempted by law from the tax. This includes the bulk of domestic oil from reservoirs proven to be productive before 1979.

Tier Two Oil.--Any oil from a stripper well property within the meaning of the June 1979 Department of Energy pricing regulations and oil from a U.S. economic interest in a Naval Petroleum Reserve. Note that the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act of 1980 defined tier two oil as from a "National" Petroleum Reserve. This was amended to read "Naval" Petroleum Reserve by the Technical Corrections Act of 1982.

Tier Three Oil, Heavy Oil.--All crude oil (1) produced from property that had a weighted average gravity of 16.0 degrees or less on the American Petroleum Institute (API) scale, corrected to 60 degrees Fahrenheit, for the last month of production before July 1979, or (2) oil from a property with a weighted average gravity of 16.0 degrees API or less, corrected to 60 degrees Fahrenheit, for the taxable period.

Tier Three Oil, Incremental Tertiary Oil.--Production in excess of a base level on a property on which a qualified tertiary recovery

project (one using one of several specific chemical, fluid or gaseous recovery methods to extract oil not recoverable using standard techniques) has been undertaken. The non-incremental oil (i.e., the amount of production up to the base level) remains in the otherwise applicable tier.

Tier Three Oil, Newly Discovered Oil.--Crude oil sold after May 31, 1979, and produced from (1) an outer continental shelf area for which the lease was entered into on or after January 1, 1979, and from which there was no production in Calendar Year 1978 or (2) an on-shore property developed after Calendar Year 1978.

Windfall Profit.--The excess of the removal price of the barrel of oil over the sum of the adjusted base price and the State severance tax adjustment.

#### NOTES AND REFERENCES

- [1] Beck, Robert J., "Midyear Review/Forecast," Oil & Gas Journal, July 25, 1983, p. 114.
- [2] At the inception of the windfall profit tax (March 1980), taxpayers were not required

to complete the detail of the Form 6047, which shows how the tax is computed. However, taxpayers have been required to provide full information as of January 1981.

- [3] Beck, Robert J., "Forecast Review," Oil & Gas Journal, January 30, 1984, p. 117.
- [4] Joint Committee on Taxation (Staff), General Explanation of the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act of 1980, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1981.
- [5] See also Belal, Carol, and Clark, Phil, "Windfall Profit Tax Liability for 1980," Statistics of Income Bulletin, Fall 1981, pp. 50-54.
- [6] See also Coleman, Michael, "Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax for 1981," Statistics of Income Bulletin, Fall 1982, pp. 41-46.
- [7] See also Alexander, Michael, "Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax for 1982," Statistics of Income Bulletin, Fall 1983, pp. 35-40.

## Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax, 1983

Table 1.--Windfall Profit Tax Liability by Oil Tier and Tax Rate for Quarter Ending September 1983 Aggregate Components of Windfall Profit

[Money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Oil tier and tax rate	Number of barrels of oil (000's)	Removal value	Adjusted base value	State severance tax adjustment	Windfall profit	Tax liability before adjustments
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Returns with tax liability shown by oil tier and tax rate, total .....	572,210	14,801	10,813	198	3,790	2,258
Tier one, other than Sadlerochit oil:						
Taxed at 70 percent .....	232,030	6,588	3,942	116	2,530	1,731
Taxed at 50 percent .....	23,388	683	400	17	266	133
Tier one, Sadlerochit oil:						
Taxed at 70 percent .....	120,555	2,083	2,016	16	51	36
Taxed at 50 percent .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tier two oil:						
Taxed at 60 percent .....	48,252	1,346	961	14	371	210
Taxed at 30 percent .....	2,262	66	47	1	18	6
Tier three oil (taxed at 30 percent):						
Newly discovered oil <sup>1</sup> .....	93,669	2,767	2,324	28	415	102
Incremental tertiary oil .....	23,261	678	563	6	109	31
Heavy oil .....	28,793	591	561	( <sup>2</sup> )	30	9
Returns with total tax liability only .....	-	-	-	-	-	558 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Newly discovered oil is taxed at 25.0 percent beginning in 1983.<sup>2</sup>Less than 500,000.<sup>3</sup>Also includes \$6 million for returns that reported by tier and type, but did not report data for columns 1-5.

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 2.--Windfall Profit Tax Liability for Returns Reporting Components of Windfall Profit by Oil Tier and Tax Rate for the Quarter Ending September 1983 Average Daily Production and Average Dollars per Barrel

Oil tier and tax rate	Daily production (000's) (barrels)	Removal price	Adjusted base price	State severance tax adjustment	Windfall profit	Tax liability before adjustments
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
All returns, total .....	6,358	25.86	18.89	.34	6.63	3.94
Tier one, other than Sadlerochit oil:						
Taxed at 70 percent .....	2,578	28.39	16.98	.49	10.92	7.45
Taxed at 50 percent .....	260	29.19	17.08	.73	8.38	5.66
Tier one, Sadlerochit oil:						
Taxed at 70 percent .....	1,339	17.27	16.71	.13	.43	.29
Taxed at 50 percent .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tier two oil:						
Taxed at 60 percent .....	536	27.89	19.91	.29	7.69	4.35
Taxed at 30 percent .....	25	29.15	20.68	.46	8.01	2.78
Tier three oil (taxed at 30 percent):						
Newly discovered oil <sup>1</sup> .....	1,041	29.53	24.80	.29	4.44	1.09
Incremental tertiary oil .....	258	29.12	24.21	.27	4.64	1.35
Heavy oil .....	320	20.53	19.50	-	1.03	.31

<sup>1</sup>Newly discovered oil is taxed at 25.0 percent beginning in 1983.

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 3.--Windfall Profit Tax Liability by Oil Tier and Tax Rate for January - September 1983 Aggregate Components of Windfall Profit

[Money amounts are in millions of dollars]

Oil tier and tax rate	Number of barrels of oil (000's)	Removal value	Adjusted base value	State severance tax adjustment	Windfall profit	Tax liability before adjustments
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Returns with tax liability shown by oil tier and tax rate, total .....	1,651,489	43,558	30,770	720	12,068	7,174
Tier one, other than Sadlerochit oil:						
Taxed at 70 percent .....	750,890	20,977	12,561	456	7,960	5,513
Taxed at 50 percent .....	67,971	2,007	1,146	53	808	405
Tier one, Sadlerochit oil:						
Taxed at 70 percent <sup>1</sup> .....	267,272	4,649	4,417	39	193	136
Taxed at 50 percent .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tier two oil:						
Taxed at 60 percent .....	133,683	3,825	2,660	50	1,115	614
Taxed at 30 percent .....	8,999	267	186	4	77	24
Tier three oil (taxed at 30 percent):						
Newly discovered oil <sup>2</sup> .....	279,428	8,343	6,776	100	1,467	353
Incremental tertiary oil .....	59,246	1,748	1,407	18	323	94
Heavy oil .....	84,001	1,742	1,619	1	122	36
Returns with total tax liability only .....	-	-	-	-	-	1,913 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>These numbers are understated because some returns that normally report detail in this category did not report any detail for the quarter ending June 1983.

<sup>2</sup>Newly discovered oil is taxed at 25.0 percent beginning in 1983.

<sup>3</sup>Also includes \$42 million for returns that reported by tier and type, but did not report data for columns 1-5.

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 4.--Windfall Profit Tax Liability for Returns Reporting Components of Windfall Profit by Oil Tier and Tax Rate for January - September 1983 Average Daily Production and Average Dollars per Barrel

Oil tier and tax rate	Daily production (000's) (barrels)	Removal price	Adjusted base price	State severance tax adjustment	Windfall profit	Tax liability before adjustments
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
All returns, total .....	6,049	26.37	18.63	.44	7.31	4.34
Tier one, other than Sadlerochit oil:						
Taxed at 70 percent .....	2,751	27.94	16.73	.61	10.60	7.34
Taxed at 50 percent .....	249	29.53	16.86	.78	11.89	5.96
Tier one, Sadlerochit oil:						
Taxed at 70 percent .....	979	17.39	16.53	.15	.72	.51
Taxed at 50 percent .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tier two oil:						
Taxed at 60 percent .....	490	28.61	19.90	.37	8.34	4.59
Taxed at 30 percent .....	33	29.67	20.67	.44	8.56	2.67
Tier three oil (taxed at 30 percent):						
Newly discovered oil <sup>1</sup> .....	1,024	29.86	24.25	.36	5.25	1.26
Incremental tertiary oil .....	217	29.50	23.75	.30	5.45	1.59
Heavy oil .....	308	20.74	19.27	-	1.46	.43

<sup>1</sup>Newly discovered oil is taxed at 25.0 percent beginning in 1983.

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 5.--Exempt Oil Volume by Tier and Category, Quarter Ending September 1983

[Thousands of barrels]

	Total	Tier one	Tier two	Tier three		
				Newly discovered oil	Incremental tertiary oil	Heavy oil
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total .....	70,553	18,207	37,032	13,930	652	732
Exempt governmental interest .....	17,771	13,754	687	2,443	326	560
Exempt charitable interest .....	726	378	170	138	29	10
Exempt Indian oil .....	771	340	274	140	15	2
Exempt Alaskan oil .....	7,317	44	-	7,273	-	-
Exempt Royalty oil .....	11,599	3,691	3,532	3,935	281	161
Exempt Stripper oil .....	32,369	-	32,369	-	-	-

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 6.--Exempt Oil Volume by Tier and Category, January - September 1983

[Thousands of barrels]

	Total	Tier one	Tier two	Tier three		
				Newly discovered oil	Incremental tertiary oil	Heavy oil
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total .....	187,729	48,028	97,137	38,977	1,674	1,912
Exempt governmental interest .....	46,925	35,904	1,809	6,870	876	1,465
Exempt charitable interest .....	2,302	1,148	694	375	58	24
Exempt Indian oil .....	2,428	1,101	800	481	29	17
Exempt Alaskan oil .....	21,910	94	583	21,233	-	-
Exempt Royalty oil .....	33,654	9,781	12,741	10,016	708	408
Exempt Stripper oil .....	80,510	-	80,510	-	-	-

NOTE: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.