

Oil Companies will explore 7 protected areas up to 2016

These projects will cover 7 departments



Tarija. The new plane with SFD Technology for hydrocarbon exploration, at the IV Brigada Aérea Cnl. Eustaquio Méndez Arenas. Photo: YPFB

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Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB) released the seven first protected areas where oil exploration activities will be developed in 2016. These are located in Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz, Tarija, Cochabamba, Beni and La Paz.

On May 20th, the government approved the Decree 2366 which gives green light to the development of oil activities in the country's protected areas. According to the regulation, the hydrocarbon projects conducted in these zones, must "incorporate and use more adequate, cleaner and cutting-edge mechanisms, equipment and technologies progressively to maintain the goal of minimizing the negative impact and to encourage the pros, prioritizing the airborne technology. (sic)".

The regulation "has an impact on all protected areas currently defined in the national territory. However, there are some in particular where the exploration activities would be developed earlier", YPFB said in response to a questionnaire sent by La Razón.

Iñau in Chuquisaca, Carrasco in Cochabamba, Amboró Espejos in Santa Cruz, Aguaragüe and Tariquia in Tarija, Pilón Lajas in Beni and the east of La Paz and Madidi in La Paz are the first seven protected areas identified by the national oil Company where oil activities will be done.

PROCESS. YPFB's report reveals that the exploration activities "have already been initiated in some of these areas" by obtaining data through seismic surveys and drilled wells in previous years.

This "information has been valuable to indicate that there are technical conditions entitling a greater data acquisition (2D seismic) to define exploratory drilling prospects in the aforementioned zones, to corroborate the existence of hydrocarbons"

"Considering the current datelines, we can say that these new 2D seismic activities will start next year" said the NOC.

The report indicates that the oil industry, which is constantly evolving, is the one that causes the less social and environmental impact in the development of exploration and exploitation projects of natural resources.

"Indeed, for future activities in the protected areas, new generation equipment will be used. YPFB will be very strict on the operator's requirements (service providers) for the use of last generation technologies in these areas, as well as on the development of operations without the need to open new paths in order to preserve the environment."

All these activities will be tendered taking into account specialized companies with presence in Bolivia and in the absence of sufficient quality, international tenders will be put in place.

New reserves will be announced

Liquids (Fluids sounds much better but this is the word in the article)

Hydrocarbons ministry, Luis Sánchez announced that in the upcoming days, new hydrocarbon reservoirs will be confirmed in the Huamampampa area H3."The explorations have resulted in new hydrocarbon reservoirs, especially liquids", he said.

SFD will analyze the ground in the entire country

The Government emphasizes the importance of the non-invasive exploratory project

Wálter Vásquez

The SFD project of YPFB, whose results will be known in November, will analyze the sub-surface of the entire country in search for data to guide the detection of geomorphological anomalies associated with the potential presence of hydrocarbons.

The new \$US 16,5 million project, implemented by the Canadian company NXT, is based on an

airborne, non-invasive geophysical method which can reduce the exploratory risk of a project when its data is correlated with the existing seismic data. This initiative “will have an impact in the entire country. It has been planned to acquire (data) of 8.732 kilometers in 112 flight lines”, said the head of YPFB, Guillermo Achá.

The data is obtained with sensors specially calibrated for the area to be flown. Then, it is stored in hard drives to be subsequently uploaded into the NXT's processing systems already installed in Bolivia. The results will be studied by experts from YPFB and the Canadian company. “Thanks to this method we will ensure new gas and liquids reserves”, emphasized Achá. He also added that SFD, generated important results in México, Colombia, Argentina, Canada, EEUU and other countries.

“SFD will contribute to our challenge of end up having 15 TCF (gas) in the next five years”, since “we are going to be more exact when shooting seismic and faster when drilling wells”, said the minister of Hydrocarbons, José Luis Sánchez, stressing that this technology will contribute to the sale of the energy source to four countries.