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Northern Affairs Minister Chretien revealed that two of the Beaufort Sea interests, Dome Petroleum of Calgary & Hunt International Petroleum of Calgary have been authorized to start construction of drilling systems to be used in the Beaufort Sea.

According to industry and government estimates, both groups will spend about \$30 million each for construction of the drilling rigs (most likely floating rigs) and another \$20 million each for shore installations and support vessels.

The drilling rigs are expected to be ready for operation in mid-1976.