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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *d.g.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

March 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: JIM CANNON *J.C.*
FROM: MIKE DUVAL *M.D.*
SUBJECT: OIL AND GAS RESOURCES
OF THE GREAT LAKES

J.R.M.

During a recent meeting on the subject of sharing revenues from Outer Continental Shelf drilling, you inquired about the ownership rights to oil and gas under the Great Lakes. The Interior Department has provided the following information.

The boundaries of the various States in the Great Lakes area extend through the middle of the Lakes. This boundary (except for Lake Michigan) is also the international boundary. Under existing law, the States have jurisdiction over the land and all the resources of those portions of the Great Lakes which lie within their boundaries.

Some small offshore oil and gas discoveries have been made in Lake Erie. Oil and gas deposits probably exist in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron within the jurisdiction of Michigan, but we do not know if the bottomlands of Lakes Huron and Michigan are capable of significant commercial development. The geophysical data, which could identify potential oil and gas-bearing structures, are inadequate. Additional geophysical data are required to make assessments of specific areas which have potential for oil and gas development. Furthermore, Michigan prohibits drilling in the Great Lakes bottomlands under its jurisdiction. See Tab A for summary of oil and gas resources in this area and maps.