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# US district court orders halt to drilling in the Chukchi Sea

US district court judge Ralph Beistline has ruled that all activity on oil and gas leases in the Chukchi Sea off north-western Alaska must halt until federal regulators complete a thorough evaluation of the environmental impact of the drilling. Most of the leases in the Chukchi Sea, which is estimated to hold around 15 billion bbl of oil and 76 Tcf of natural gas, are held by Shell.



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