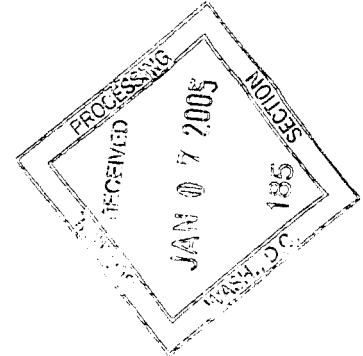




23 December 2004

SUPPL

Securities and Exchange Commission  
Office of International Corporate Finance  
450 Fifth Street N.W.  
Washington DC 20549  
United States of America



Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: WOODSIDE PETROLEUM LTD. - EXEMPTION FILE NO. 82.2280**

In accordance with Rule 12g 3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we enclose a copy of the following Stock Exchange Releases which has/have recently been filed with the Australian Stock Exchange ("ASX") in relation to:

- Mauritania Offshore Drilling Update, lodged with the Australian Stock Exchange on 21 December 2004.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could return by fax (+61 8 9214 2728) a copy of this letter as proof of receipt.

Yours faithfully  
WOODSIDE PETROLEUM LTD.

**Rebecca Sims  
Compliance Officer**

PROCESSED  
JAN 12 2005  
THOMSON  
FINANCIAL



# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT (ASX: WPL)

TUESDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2004  
10:45AM (WST)



## MEDIA

ROGER MARTIN  
W: + 61 8 9348 4591  
M: + 61 413 018 674  
E: roger.martin@woodside.com.au

## INVESTORS

MIKE LYNN  
W: + 61 8 9348 4283  
M: + 61 439 691 592  
E: mike.lynn@woodside.com.au

## MAURITANIA OFFSHORE DRILLING UPDATE

Woodside Mauritania Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Woodside Petroleum Ltd., reports the following activity offshore Mauritania since the last report issued on 14 December 2004.

### PSC-B, Block 4 Tiof-5 and Chinguetti Development wells

#### **Tiof-5 Appraisal well**

Following the completion of wireline logging operations, the Tiof-5 appraisal well was plugged and abandoned as planned. On 17 December 2004, the 'Stena Tay' drill rig moved to the Chinguetti Field to join the 'West Navigator' on the development drilling program.

#### **Chinguetti Development wells**

The 'West Navigator' and the 'Stena Tay' are currently conducting operations on Chinguetti Development wells. Woodside does not plan to issue announcements regarding operations on Chinguetti Development wells, but will do so if necessary in order to comply with its continuous disclosure obligations under the ASX Listing Rules.

All reported drilling depths are referenced to the rig rotary table and all times are Universal Time (UTC) (Mauritanian time).

The locations of the Chinguetti Oil Field, the Tiof and Banda discoveries and exploration wells are shown on the attached map.

Wells are expected to be drilled in two production sharing contract areas during the remainder of the 2004/5 campaign. Participating Interests in those areas are:

<b>Company</b>	<b>PSC-A</b>	<b>PSC-B</b>
Woodside group companies (Operator)	53.846%	53.846%
Hardman group companies	24.3%	21.6%
BG group companies	13.084%	11.63%
Premier group companies	--	9.231%
Fusion group companies	4.615%	--
ROC Oil group companies	4.155%	3.693%