



## **Benton Oil and Gas Schedules Conference Call for 2001 Year-End Results**

HOUSTON, March 4 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Benton Oil and Gas Company (NYSE: BNO) will release its 2001 fourth quarter and year-end operational and financial results on Wednesday, March 6, 2002. The full text of the press release will be available on the Company's Internet site at [www.bentonoil.com](http://www.bentonoil.com) and PR Newswire at [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com), as well as other electronic business news services.

The Company will hold a conference call at 10:00 a.m. Central Time on Thursday, March 7, 2002, during which management will discuss the Company's 2001 fourth quarter and year-end results. The conference leader will be Dr. Peter J. Hill, President and Chief Executive Officer. The conference call can be accessed five to ten minutes prior to the start time at (800) 882-6637 or (706) 679-5321. A recording of the conference call will also be available for replay at (800) 642-1687 or (706) 645-9291, access code 3441428, until March 11, 2002.

The conference call will also be transmitted over the Internet through the Company's web site at [www.bentonoil.com](http://www.bentonoil.com). To listen to the live webcast, enter the web site fifteen minutes before the call to register, download and install any necessary audio software. For those who cannot listen to the live broadcast, a replay of the webcast will be available beginning shortly after the call, and will remain on the web site until April 5, 2002.

Benton Oil and Gas Company, headquartered in Houston, Texas, is an independent oil and gas exploration and development company with principal operations in Venezuela and Russia.

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This press release may contain "Forward-Looking Statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this release may constitute forward-looking statements. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to have been correct. Actual results may differ materially from the Company's expectations due to changes in operating performance, project schedules, oil and gas demands and prices, and other technical and economic factors.