



Workshop Report on Updating the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines

The Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group of the Arctic Council is reviewing and updating the 2002 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (Guidelines), based on an Arctic Council decision to undertake such work. These Guidelines, first published in 1997 and updated in 2002, recommend voluntary standards, technical and environmental best practices, management policy, and regulatory controls for Arctic offshore oil and gas operations. The United States, as the lead country for the revision, hosted a workshop in Miami, Florida, 7-8 December 2007 (Annex I: Agenda), to solicit comments on the existing Guidelines. Arctic Council country representatives, Permanent Participants, and other experts attended the workshop (Annex II: Participants).

A very brief summary of the meeting is provided below. Due to the large volume of comments received on the Guidelines before, during, and after the workshop, we have opted to incorporate these into a revised Guidelines version rather than try to summarize all the input. This revised document will serve as the point of departure for further comment and discussion. Presentations by meeting participants, a copy of the 2002 version of the Guidelines, and a copy of the revised Guidelines can be viewed on the PAME website at: www.pame.is under the “Offshore Oil and Gas” icon.

The process for further review of the Guidelines can be found in Annex III.

Summary

Comments on the Guidelines from this group of stakeholders fell into roughly three categories.

- 1) Addition or updating of technical and regulatory issues related to operations, such as use and disposal of chemicals, and socioeconomics issues.
- 2) Widening the scope of the Guidelines to include a broader audience beyond just authorities. Specific areas of discussion included training and communications.
- 3) Widening the scope of the Guidelines beyond operations and activities to include strategic or ecosystem-based management and regional planning approaches.

All participants felt that the “operational” aspect of the Guidelines should be maintained, but moving toward setting goals should be a part of the new Guidelines. However, how far to go in that direction was a matter of some debate. Specific comments to the 2002 Guidelines are contained in presentations and statements posted on the website, as well as rolled up into the revised 2002 Guidelines.

Annex I: Agenda

Friday 12/07/07

- 8:30 sign-in
- 9:30 Welcome, Introduction and Background for the Workshop; Tom Laughlin NOAA and PAME U.S. Head of Delegation
- 9:45 Country Comments on the 2002 Guidelines from the PAME Secretariat; Dennis Thurston MMS
- 10:00 Discussion and Comments
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 ISO Technical Committee 67—ISO Arctic Structures; Joe Levine MMS
- 11:30 Arctic Council Oil and Gas Assessment; Dennis Thurston MMS/Assessment Co-lead
- 11:45 Lunch
- 1:15 Norway Presentation on Suggestions for the Guidelines; Tone Sjørgård, SFT
- 2:00 Norway Integrated Management Plan for the Barents Sea; Inger Helene Madland NPD and Hanne Etterlid, PSA
- 2:45 Use of the 2002 Guidelines by the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources; State Monitoring Program of the Offshore statement for North-West Russia; and Russian comments on the 2002 Guidelines; Oleg Korneev, MNR Russia.
- 3:15 Comments from the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North; Valery Kryulov, RAIPON
- 3:30 Break
- 4:00 North Slope Borough Comments to the Guidelines; Craig George, NSB
- 4:30 Comments on the Guidelines from the Climate Policy Center; Brooks Yeager
- 5:15 Comments from World Wildlife Fund for Nature; Frances Grant-Suttie, WWF
- 5:30 Discussions
- 5:45 End day one

Saturday 12/08/07

- 9:00 Remarks on the workshop and call for more Comments; Tom Laughlin
- 9:15 Comments from ConocoPhillips-Alaska; Caryn Rae, CPPI
- 10:00 Comments from North Slope Borough; Craig George, NSB
- 10:45 Comments from Climate Policy Center; Brooks Yeager
- 11:00 Comments from Oceana; Michael Levine, Oceana
- 11:15 Comments from Alaska Wilderness League; Richard Fineberg
- 11:30 Comments from Parker Associates Alaska; Walter Parker
- 11:45 Comments from Indigenous Peoples Secretariat; Laila Chemnitz, IPS
- 11:45 Discussions
- 12:00 Wrap up: What is the nature of the product and the process?; Tom Laughlin
- 12:15 Discussions
- 12:30 Closing Remarks/Next Steps; Tom Laughlin
- 1:00 End Meeting

ANNEX II: Participants

1. **Laila Chemnitz**, Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS) +45 32 83 3790
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22. **Dennis Thurston**, MMS Alaska (907) 334-5338 dennis.thurston@mms.gov
23. **Brooks Yeager**, Climate Policy Center (202) 775-5191 yeager@cpc-inc.org
24. **Sigvart Zachariassen**, PSA +47 93 43 9747 Sigvart.Zachariassen@ptil.no

Note: Ron Morris, API attended Friday only; Bharat Dixit NEB Canada and Russell Tait, OGP, attended Saturday only.

Annex III: Timeline and Process for Further Review of the Guidelines

Date	Action
March 13, 2008	Revised Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines posted to PAME website for comment
May 1, 2008	Comments on Guidelines due to PAME Secretariat and posted on website
May 30 - June 3, 2008	Guidelines (March 13 version) discussed/revised during PAME Meeting based on comments received by May 1 and additional comment made at PAME Meeting.
June 3 - Fall 2008	US-led Electronic Working Group continues to revise Guidelines.
Fall 2008	Fall PAME Meeting finalizes Guidelines and seeks Working Group approval of Guidelines.
Late Fall 2008	Fall SAO Meeting reviews and approves the Guidelines.
April 2009	Spring Ministerial Meeting adopts the Guidelines.