



The Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines Summary of Workshop in Miami 7-8 December 2007

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, to solicit comments on the existing Guidelines. Arctic Council country representatives, Permanent Participants, and other experts attended the workshop (Annex I: Participants).

A summary of the meeting is provided below. Presentations by meeting participants and a copy of the 2002 version of the Guidelines can be viewed on the PAME website at: (<http://arcticportal.org/pame/pame-document-library/scientific-and-technical-reports>). The revision process will continue via electronic correspondence. An additional meeting will be held in conjunction with the PAME Working Group Meeting in June in St. John, Canada. PAME would like to request WG participation in the review of this document. To be added to the correspondence group, please contact Tom.Laughlin@noaa.gov.

Summary of Miami Meeting (December 2007)

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 socioeconomic 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 thought 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.

ANNEX I: Participants

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