

Progress Report to PAME I 2013 on the Project “Management Regulation and Enforcement (MRE) Web-based Information Resource” for National Entities Overseeing Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Activities

Justification for the Project

Following up **Recommendation 13** of the *OGA*, which calls for the Arctic Council to compile *national regulatory laws, standards, guidelines, and procedures for oil and gas activities in force in the Arctic countries*. And to fulfill the standing Agenda Item to update the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines **References/Bibliography** section

The web site will provide easily and regularly updatable web-based information and data (for e.g. documents, websites, relevant fora, networks, etc.). The MRE web-based information resource will facilitate the sharing of current information on best practices from different Arctic countries and allow better communication in the management, regulation and enforcement of Arctic offshore oil and gas operations, while allowing all stakeholders easy access to this information.

The MRE web-based information resource will serve as an outreach tool for Arctic Council and will be useful to countries, Working Groups, Permanent Participants, observers, researchers, and other stakeholders. It will demonstrate and profile Arctic States’ stewardship efforts related to offshore oil and gas activities and provide up-to-date information about the activities and regulatory regimes across the Arctic.

Structure of the Webpage Resources

- 1) Country Agencies
- 2) Country Laws, Regulations, Notices, Rules, and Guidance and Management system documents
- 3) Science and Technical Reports
- 4) Strategic Environmental Assessments
- 5) Monitoring methods and results
- 6) Inspection/enforcement procedures and results
- 7) Accident and incident reporting
- 8) Statistics for discharge types and amounts, waste handling, etc.

The links and information will be updated at least once a year and as needed.

Progress since September 2012

The full development of the website is still behind schedule due to incomplete information and pending information requests.

In September 2012, PAME agreed on the following schedule for the work on the MREWIR:

- December 20, the PAME Secretariat will complete the incorporation of new information and links and format the website including graphics and user friendly design features.

PAME (I) 13/7.1/MRE Web-based Information Resource-progress report

- January to mid-February 2013, the Oil and Gas Contact Group will solicit reviews by selected outside stakeholders.
- Mid-March through April 2013, the PAME Secretariat will finalize the website
- May 2013, the MRE website will be completed and publically launched and highlighted for the Ministerial.

The project is now almost 2 months behind the last agreed schedule. We have not received the information requested and noted in the RoDs from the last PAME meeting in September (PAME II-2012) ***“PAME members are encouraged to review and verify the draft MRE document and provide additional links and information.... by 9 November, 2012.”***

The PAME Secretariat has sent three requests since the last PAME Meeting on 12th of September, 29th of October and 7th of December to country representatives of the Oil and Gas Contact Group for outstanding or updated information.

Canada has responded to the call with additional information and photographs, and the United States is correcting URLs that changed when BSEE and BOEM split into two agencies. Russia had said during PAME II 2012 that the information and links provided in the last version were outdated or wrong, but have not corrected them or provided updated information and links.

It is urged that countries respond to the request from the PAME Secretariat and provide information so that the website resources are complete. The plan is still to have the website—whatever it contains--up and publically available by the Ministerial meeting in May.

Possible Updated Timeline

- September through November 2012:
- February-March: Final push for filling in the Gaps and Construction of Webpage
- April: Circulate Webpage Access to the AC and selected Stakeholders for Review and Comments and Finalize Webpage
- May 1, 2013: Launch MRE Webpage and make available for the Ministerial Meeting