

PAME I-2019: Annotation to Agenda Item 7.2 (a)-(c)

PAME Offshore Oil and Gas Project Proposals for 2019-2021- Overview for Discussion

The following provides an overview of three Preliminary Concept Papers for consideration as possible projects for 2019-2021.

Preliminary Concept Paper No 1: Information handbook / Reference guide on Meaningful Engagement

In follow-up to the MEMA Project, is a new project to develop an information handbook or reference guide as a practical tool for engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This project would be informed by the MEMA Part II Findings for Policy Makers Report and associated MEMA Database.

PAME has invited SDWG to collaborate with PAME on this project, given SDWG's human dimension mandate and interest in engagement issues.

The proposed project could be scoped out by PAME and SDWG intersessionally, following the next meetings of both Working groups (in early Feb 2019), and draw from other examples of other Arctic Council handbooks that have been developed.

The project would be included in the Work Plans of (both) Working Groups.

Concept Paper No 2: Guidance on Engagement of Indigenous Peoples in Offshore Oil and Gas Activities [*Note: This project is a place holder in case no other MEMA followup project is put forward*)]

The guidance for industry and government engagement in offshore oil and gas activities dates to the first Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines over 20 years ago in 1997. These recommendations were ground breaking for the Arctic Council. Since then, we have come to a better understanding of this important aspect of regulating and managing activities. In addition, the MEMA project has provided background on meaningful engagement and good practices. There are 29 Recommendations for engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities from the AOOGG 2009.

This MEMA follow-up project to update the guidance on engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in offshore oil and gas activities, could take place as part of the updating of the AOOGG 2009 joining the Non-Emergency Operations, Monitoring, and Decommissioning/Site Clearance project.

Concept Paper No 3: Guidance on Non-Emergency Operations, Monitoring, and Decommissioning/Site Clearance

In response to the call for a periodic review of the guidance contained in the 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines, recognizing that the EPPR has the mandate for the emergency topics covered in the 2009 AOOGG, and further recognizing the new Arctic Offshore Regulator Forum and their focus on operational issues, the PAME Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG) determined that updating sections (4) Environmental Monitoring, (5.2) Compliance Monitoring, (6.1) Waste Management, (6.2) Use and Discharge of Chemicals, (6.3) Emissions to Air, and Decommissioning and Site Clearance (8.0) could be a useful objective.

This project proposal is driven by the recent increase in offshore oil and gas activities coupled with the age of the recommendations –which are now 10 years old. In addition, although the guidance in the AOOGG 2009 is considered good, it was the bare minimum that could be considered useful. The topics above amounted to a mere 9 pages. It is time to revisit these guidelines and see what needs updating and possible elaboration.

PAME I-2019 actions: Review and provide comments and agree to final versions for inclusion into the PAME 2019-2021 Work Plan.