

Agenda Item 6.1(b)
Terms of Reference
PAME Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG)

The Oil and Gas Contact Group is renamed the Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG) and will operate in the same manner as the Oil and Gas Contact Group.

The REDEG will continue to address offshore oil and gas activities but will also consider other current and possible future resource exploration and development activities taking place or being considered in the Arctic onshore and offshore, that may affect the marine and coastal environment.

The REDEG will consider issues in these sectors similar to those it currently addresses for offshore oil and gas, as appropriate, such as environmental and socio-economic issues. This may possibly include other issues related to resource exploration and development not addressed by other Working Groups or Task Forces of the Arctic Council.

REDEG will periodically review emerging issues in resource exploration and development and report to PAME on topics for consideration and update the Scope of Work accordingly.

Justification

The PAME group of oil and gas experts has been working since 1996, originally developing and subsequently updating the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (AOOGG) in 1997, 2002 and 2009. After the 2009 update, the current PAME “Oil and Gas Contact Group” was informally initiated to address the standing agenda item for PAME meetings on “Follow-Up to the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines 2009”.

In the wake of updating the guidance in the AOOGG 2009, as well as the focus of EPPR and the newly formed Arctic Offshore Regulators Forum (AORF) to address several issues in the AOOGG 2009, there has been a shift in focus of the work of PAME in regards to offshore oil and gas. PAME will no longer update the AOOGG 2009, but will consider future Arctic oil and gas issues as needed. Recognizing the relative decline in Arctic oil and gas activities, it is time to narrow the oil and gas topics PAME considers, and widen the types of other resource extraction activities that it considers in anticipation of current or future Arctic offshore and onshore activities that affect the marine environment.

PAME will consider these other offshore resource activities in the future and how it might address these activities.

Scope for Potential work

The Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group will consider resource activities that affect the marine and coastal environment and where no other Arctic Council Working Group or international government entity covers. The focus will be predominantly on the environmental

and socio-economic aspects of these activities. As appropriate, PAME will collaborate with others where there is overlap or synergies.

The REDEG will submit updates to the Scope of Work items as circumstances may warrant or every two years prior as part of the development of PAME's Work Plan.

Addenda to the Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group

Scope of Work for 2017-2019

1) Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Project – PART II (2017 – 2019)

Work to Date: Significant work has been completed on the MEMA project to date. A database has been compiled with hundreds of documents pertaining to engagement of Indigenous peoples and communities. An analysis has been conducted on these documents to ascertain the current practices and guidance. A narrative summary of the legal basis for engagement and common practices has been written. Two workshops have been held in support of the project (in Anchorage in October 2015; and in Maine in September 2016 with a workshop report).

Next Steps: The Project Team is proposing to extend the project (into 2017-2019) to complete the following:

- i. Collect further input from Indigenous people and organizations – particularly from Scandinavian and Russian Arctic;
- ii. Host coordinated outreach with indigenous peoples to capture additional recommendations / protocols, including from oral tradition;
- iii. Incorporate additional documents from countries / sectors;
- iv. Expand the analysis to include the additional information; and
- v. Prepare the (full) project report.

2) Other Resource Activities that Affect the Marine Environment:

REDEG members responded to a survey questionnaire on applicable national activities, current, planned or imagined to be considered for the PAME Work Plan 2017-2019. The REDEG does not foresee putting forward any new formal project proposals for the PAME Work Plan 2017-2019. The REDEG will focus on information gathering for the next two year period (2017-2019) and will work with the PAME Secretariat to identify and invite experts to address PAME at biennial meetings on the following topics:

Alternative or Renewable Offshore Energy:

- Wind Farms
- Tidal Generation
- Wave Energy
- Solar

Noise:

- Seismic surveys
- Drilling operations
- Pile driving

Mining:

- Minerals
- Gravel

Offshore Oil and Gas:

- Updating relevant sections of the AOOGG 2009 as required
- Maintaining and updating the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Regulators Resource
- Addressing other cross-cutting issues with relevant working groups and outside bodies as required

The REDEG may also invite information papers - “Think Pieces” - from PAME members on any of these issues. The first being considered are on marine noise and/or offshore renewable energy.