

## **Joint Statement of the U.S.-Russia Workshop on Oil Spill Prevention and Response**

Environmental safety during production, processing and transport of oil is a major environmental problem of today that is even more significant in view of the increasing volume of production and transport of oil.

This requires integrated efforts by the all parties involved in this activity in order to minimize the negative impact on the environment, and requires effective oil spill prevention and response.

This U.S.-Russia workshop was organized in order to provide for sharing experiences and for discussing existing problems with the purpose of improving the effectiveness of spill prevention and response.

Workshop participants have listened to presentations on prevention and response policies and legislation of the United States and the Russian Federation. They have also reviewed experiences associated with oil spill prevention and response and best practices of international cooperation and have discussed problems existing in this area.

Participants in the U.S.-Russia workshop on oil spills prevention and response, after listening to presentations and discussing issues of mutual interest, have decided:

To specify three priority areas for the subsequent activity under the Protocol for oil spills prevention and response, specifically:

- Modeling of spill scenarios and risks to assess implications for deployment of financial, physical, and human resources;
- Analysis and harmonization of regulatory documents in this area recognizing best world practices and the experience available to multilateral organizations to permit the involvement of international Tier-III response capability within the territory of the Russian Federation.
- Standardizing oil spill prevention and response equipment, services, and technologies to be harmonized with world standards in order to improve Russian technological capability and develop production of Russian equipment.

To task the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation and the U.S. Department of Energy to summarize the proceedings of the workshop and distribute them among participants.

Workshop participants emphasize:

The workshop made an important contribution to the better understanding of the policies and measures taken by the U.S. and the Russian Federation for the prevention of oil spills, minimization of the risk of accidents and their mitigation.

In order to implement the further joint activities the sides have agreed to facilitate the work of experts in these three priority areas.

The sides have agreed to organize future workshops concerned with specific aspects of the selected priority areas.

The sides have agreed that the next seminar will be held in Trondheim, Norway, in conjunction with the "Interspill" international conference on oil spill prevention and response in June, 2004.

Participants in the dialogue are grateful to Norway for its willingness to host the next meeting.

Signed the 5th of December, 2003, in Moscow, in both English and Russian versions, both versions having equal force.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alexander R. Vershbow  
Ambassador of the United States  
to the Russian Federation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ivan.A. Matlashov  
First Deputy Minister of Energy  
of the Russian Federation