ARCTIC OFFSHORE REGULATORS FORUM (AORF)

Mark Fesmire, JD PE
Chairman, AORF
US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement,
Alaska Regional Director,
March 17, 2016
“Decide to establish a Task Force to develop an Arctic Council action plan or other arrangement on oil pollution prevention, and to present the outcomes of its work and any recommendations for further action at the next Ministerial meeting in 2015.”
Task Force on (Arctic Marine) Oil Pollution Prevention TFOPP

Co Chairs
Norway
Amb. Else Berit Eikeland
Russian Federation
Amb. Anton Vasiliev
Amb. Vladimir Barbin

Meetings
1. Oslo Norway January 16 and 17, 2014
2. Reykjavik Iceland March 18 and 19, 2014
3. Ottawa Canada June 12 and 13, 2014
5. Helsinki Finland November 24 and 25, 2014
Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic

• 2. Measures for Prevention of Oil Pollution from Arctic Petroleum Activity

• 2.3 Strengthen cooperation of national regulators.
  • The participants intend to:
    a) promote cooperation between competent national authorities on issues concerning the prevention of Arctic marine oil pollution from petroleum activities.
AORF PLANNING MEETING

Houston Texas  November 13, 2014
1. Definition

(a) The AORF is an Arctic forum of technical and operational offshore petroleum safety regulators whose members are dedicated to the common cause of continually improving offshore safety outcomes. The primary scope will be an exchange of information, best practices and relevant experiences learned from regulatory efforts related to developing petroleum resources in the Arctic regions of the globe. Topics addressed by the group may expand beyond this scope as the organization matures and other relevant topics are raised.

(b) The work of the AORF is intended to complement and not duplicate the work of other international bodies in the field of offshore petroleum safety or any body associated with the Arctic Council.

(c) The AORF may collaborate with the Arctic Council and other international fora, as appropriate.
The objectives of the AORF are:
(a) To further the recommendations of the Arctic Council’s Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP) to enhance the capacity of Arctic offshore petroleum safety regulators to prevent marine oil pollution through regular exchanges of knowledge and experience;
(b) To enable an exchange of technical and operational information among Arctic offshore petroleum regulators on:
   i. safety regulation;
   ii. oil spill prevention, including source control and containment equipment;
   iii. regulatory approaches;
   iv. relevant environmental regulation; and
   v. additional areas of collaboration;
(c) To provide a network of offshore petroleum safety regulators for mutual support and advice when required; and
(d) To facilitate the multilateral work toward safer offshore petroleum activities.
The AORF is intended to be a regular meeting of technical experts to discuss best practices, events, and developments in Arctic petroleum regulation.

It is not intended to be a policy group, but rather a way to exchange information or ideas, as well as to discuss technical approaches that have and have not worked.
AORF BUSINESS MEETINGS

Washington DC     April 30 and May 1, 2015

Tromso Norway     October 26 and 27, 2015

Washington DC     April 28 and 29, 2016

St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada     October 27 and 28, 2016 (Tentative)
“To promote safety, protect the environment and conserve resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement.”