

WESTERN GRAY WHALE ADVISORY PANEL
7th Meeting
PUBLIC

WGWAP 7/23
12 – 14 December 2009
ENGLISH

Article on a Possible Earthquake in the Area of the Drilling Platform on Sakhalin
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In the Area of the Drilling Platform on Sakhalin an Earthquake is Possible –Scientists say



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In the Area of the Drilling Platform on Sakhalin an Earthquake is Possible –Scientists say. Photo: RIA Novosti

The Sakhalin scientists do not preclude the possibility of a strong earthquake in the Northern Sakhalin in the area of "Piltun – Astokh - B" marine drilling platform of Sakhalin-2 project - the Director of the Institute of Marine Geology and Geophysics (IMG&G) of the Far Eastern branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences Boris Levin reported on Thursday at the administration's hour in the Sakhalin Oblast Duma.

"It is not a secret that the extraction of oil and gas can lead to an earthquake event. It is sufficient to recall the earthquake in Gazli, located in the North-West of Uzbekistan, that took place in 1976. The studies of the seismic regime in the northern part of the Sakhalin island and adjacent shelf for the period of 1930-2009, conducted by our scientists, showed that there is dramatic change in regime near Piltun-Astokh oil and gas field expressed in the activation of seismicity starting from 2005", - said Levin.

According to him, over the past 5-6 years there were five earthquakes in this area with a magnitude of 5.5.

"The facts gathered apparently indicate the appearance of the effect of directed seismicity caused, most probably, by development mining," said the scientist.

He also added that this information has been sent to the Regional administration. "The results of our research were shown in the letter addressed to the Governor Alexander Khoroshavin. In this letter we call upon the Governor to take urgent measures for organisation of an operational monitoring in the North of Sakhalin", said Levin.

He explained that the seismic monitoring in the area of Piltun-Astokh deposit is not organised efficiently.

"The Northern part of Sakhalin Island is poorly equipped with seismic stations. The operator of the Sakhalin-2 Project does not permit to conduct research on "Piltun – Astokh – B" platform. Taking into account the possibility of occurrence of a strong earthquake near this or other deposits in the North-Eastern shelf of Sakhalin Island, it is proposed to adjust monitoring in this area in accordance with the need", said the scientist.

For this, according to him, it is necessary to develop a programme that will describe in details where and how many stations there should be established.

The total value of "Sakhalin-2" is about 20 billion dollars. Offshore recoverable reserves of Piltun-Astokh and Lunscoe fields, exploited under the project, are estimated at the level of 150 million tons of oil and 500 billion cubic meters of gas.

The first oil well in Piltun part of Piltun-Astokh field was put into operation in the end of last year. As of today, the construction of five oil wells have been completed each of them has an average debit about 10 thousand barrels or 1.3 thousand tons per day, that exceeds the expectations of the company.

Reference: [RIA Novosti](http://ria.ru)

<http://ecoportal.su/news.php?id=40774>