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Risk Governance for the Arctic

Dr. Reto Schneider Swiss Re

some of our concerns





Fig. 2 Visualization of Iceberg Gouging Seabed (after Ref 9)

Fig. 2 Nobahar, A., Kenny, S. and Phillips, R., "Buried Pipelines Subject to Subgouge Deformations," International Journal of Geomechanics, ASCE, Volume 7, No. 3, June 2007







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ATMOSPHERIC CIRCULATION FEEDBACKS

OCEAN CIRCULATION FEEDBACKS

ICE SHEETS AND SEA-LEVEL RISE FEEDBACKS

MARINE & LAND CARBON CYCLE FEEDBACKS METHANE HYDRATE FEEDBACKS

marine cargo, fishery, biodiversity, food- chain, migration routes benthic organisms ...

Relevance (2/3)



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Source: The Guardian, November 2010

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Risk Assessment

- Risk = Probability(x) * Severity(x)
- Insurance premium is a proxi for an return period for expected losses



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Risk Assessment in insurance

Risk in (Liability insurance):

 $Risk = \frac{P(x) * S(x)}{acceptance}$

- Event, accident, spill > injuries, damages, environmental impacts, financial losses
 - Liability?
 - Insured/"covered loss"
 - Insurance limits bought?
 - Legal defence costs are already part of insured losses!

Global Risk Assessment Framework



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Risk Governance, risk characterization



Pre-assessment:

- Problem framing
- Early warning
- Screening risk and concern assessment
- Modelling and evaluating risks and concerns

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Appraisal, concern assessment:

perception of fear and dread, generations involved, personal institutional control, trust, type of damage, uncertainty, ubiquity, persistence, delay, reversibility, fairness, potential for mobilization

Risk Appraisal



Source: 'White paper on Risk Governance – Towards an integrative approach' IRGC, Ortwin Renn

Headline risk: Examples 2008- today Reputation Risk

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NGO Activism in the Finance Sector



- Top NGO topics are energy-focused:
 - bank investment in carbon industries
 - bank investment in oil sands
 - bank investment in large dams

Source: SIG Watch, Nov 2011: *Global NGO Tracking and Issues Analysis*

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Pre-emptive Reputation Risk Management: Canadian Oil Sands



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A cross-functional approach: Oil sands (primarily Canada)

Due to great carbon intensity of oil sands operations, insuring them is in stark contrast with Swiss Re's climate change positioning \rightarrow reputation risk



Business opportunity and sustainability

Swiss Re considers sustainability aspects in the underwriting process, including

- Pure insurance risk-related aspects, such as frequency and severity assumptions of global warming
- Reputational risk-related aspects, considering the consistency of corporate values and insurance activities. Regular monitoring of potential conflicts provides information on critical segments

→ Oil sands and oil & gas shales are a general corporate social responsibility topic, if NGO activities is for example taken as indicator

 \rightarrow is arctic drilling the next upcoming topic?

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Ranking: Using public information and completed questionnaire



→ Better insight thanks to open communication and provided questionnaire improved rating

iNTegRisk Project



Oil exploration in remote areas

WP 1.4 Case specific early warning indicators
K. Oien, RK Tinmannsvik (SINTEF), G. Haugen, L Keane,
L. Nielson (Eni Norge) J. Buston, D. Lisboa, M. Wardman,
J. Wilday (HSE-HSL)

Example: Floating Production, Storage and Offloading vessel installation and connection to the sub sea system.

Process Safety indicators Risk control systems KPI's

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Number of Sensitive Business Risk referrals 2011 by Sustainability theme



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negative press releases & reputational risk



■2006 ■2007 ■2008 ■2009 ■2010 ■2011 ■2012

Future outlook Trend

- Arctic oil and gas is on the strategic agenda due to fear of energy dependence and/or shortages. This, combined with rising prices and increased accessibility to the Arctic, means that the pressure to exploit the region's hydrocarbon resources will further increase.
- However, geopolitical issues and stringent environmental regulations could hinder or delay development.

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Concerns for risks incl. reputation risks

- Arctic drilling will most likely continue, but with heightened governmental and public awareness of the potential consequences of a major oil spill following a blow out.
- Despite strict regulations, the potential for oil spills will remain. The Arctic ecosystem is perhaps one of the most vulnerable to oil spills on earth. Offshore Arctic drilling carries inherent risks for both the environment and communities. To date there is no proven technology to clean up an oil spill in the Arctic Ocean.
- Environmental and social risks will increase as industrial drilling activities increase.
- As the sea ice melts, untapped Arctic hydrocarbon resources become more accessible, resulting in increased oil drilling. Greater extraction of fossil fuels that will eventually be 'burned' for energy production will again result in more greenhouse gas emissions that further contribute to climate change.

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The future of the arctic



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Thank you

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