VESTI

Sakhalin Energy

OCTOBER 2020

read in this issue

18,000
man-hours were worked under the planned shutdown at the Molikpaq platform
See details on page 3

lead theme

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

This year, we are launching our Winter Safety Day campaign on 15 October. The event has always been at the forefront of the Sakhalin-2 project team's attention, and it is now high on the agenda amidst the new reality.

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed our world and the way we do business in Sakhalin Energy. Against the backdrop of unstable external factors, we have been facing challenges that require new urgent steps to maintain the robustness of our business and to deliver on all our production targets.

Under circumstances far beyond normal, the company was able to promptly adapt the production chain to the new conditions, ensure the safety of employees and, as a result, retain its position in the global oil and gas market.

In the meantime, the situation we are in not only once again proved the Sakhalin Energy's fundamental principles correct, but also gave us a new perspective on the company's and each of our employee's activities, staying even more focused on certain topics.

Today, we must greatly emphasise on the measures being deployed at all company assets to understand whether they are sufficient and how they correlate with everyone's personal responsibility. It is therefore crucial for all of us on this coming Winter Safety Day to reflect on how we can stay aware and self-disciplined in order to spare ourselves, our loved ones and our colleagues from both known and new risks.

We must change ourselves to respond to these challenges more efficiently. And we have been doing this by adapting to the rapidly changing environment, by shaping new task-solving approaches. This process is of global nature and affects all areas of our business. Winter Safety Day is no exception.

This event has transformed into a sort of marathon, which we are going to use to analyse the most pressing issues, from October this year through March next year. We will discuss some specifics of doing business in the new reality, readiness for change, staff morale in the teams and the role of leadership. We will surely talk about such "seasonal topics" as winterisation, winter driving, staying healthy, staying safe in the streets, and other topics.

The key goal of the Winter Safety Marathon is to analyse and eliminate the main reasons for safety incidents on the production assets of the Sakhalin-2 project and as a result to low the accident rate.

The Winter Safety Marathon has finally acquired a competitive feature – from now on all participants can compete against each other by scoring HSE points and through attending topical sessions and quizzes. Each team will be assessed by a panel of judges. Not only team score will be counted, but individual input of each employee into the marathon's goal achievement. The most active participants and teams with the highest score will get prizes including a special award from Sakhalin Energy chief executive officer.

All Winter Safety Day topics are focused on each one of us as a person, but also on the teamwork that helps us cope with any challenges along this most difficult track. By following the motto 'Victory Together' we continue to move forward with confidence. I sincerely wish that our safety marathon becomes a habit that will lead us to a common victory!

■ Roman Dashkov,
Chief Executive Officer

CURRENT EVENTS

11 September
Sakhalin Energy topped the rating of the all-Russian award "Labour Productivity: Russian Industry Leaders – 2020" organised by the business portal "Production Management".

15 September
The experience of Sakhalin Energy is presented in the UN Global Goals Yearbook, which was published in September 2020. The company spoke about a set of measures aimed at preserving terrestrial ecosystems

16 September
Sakhalin Energy started annual planned shutdown on the PA-B platform

18 September
Korsakov Central District Hospital received new medical equipment from Sakhalin Energy under the "Prevention and Treatment" project

21 September
Sakhalin Energy announced as Global Compact LEAD

23 September
Sakhalin Energy has been rated as Class A1 following the first-ever anti-corruption rating exercise completed by RUIE

Pit Stop on Sakhalin-2 Track

Business Continuity, no Matter What

The COVID-19 pandemic turned out to be the most serious test of recent years for almost all sectors of the Russian economy, including the oil and gas industry. It required much effort on the part of many organisations to overcome the unprecedented challenges and keep their businesses afloat. For Sakhalin Energy, the pandemic became the challenge of our time, but the company coped with it admirably, turning difficulties into new opportunities, and ensuring the company's sustainability into the future. Roman Dashkov, Sakhalin Energy Chief Executive Officer, talked to us about the 2020 Integrated Gas System Shutdown and what it entailed.

– Mr Dashkov, the company delivered the planned gas system shutdown at an extremely difficult time. What made you choose not to defer the planned scope?

– The events of the current year caused the company to change its plans considerably. The oil and gas business is very sensitive to external factors, and the COVID-19 pandemic declared at the beginning of the year affected it especially badly. With the fall in oil prices and the continuation of sanctions, Sakhalin Energy's main task was to quickly develop and implement a set of measures to preserve the stability of its business operations in the current environment and ensure that all of its production goals were met.

Continuous production is characterised by a number of features that affect the organisation of equipment maintenance and repairs. These processes are primarily aimed at achieving the most efficient use of time, in other words, carrying out the required scope of high-quality work related to equipment maintenance, repair, and diagnostics within a set period of time. On the other hand, reducing the duration of scheduled preventive maintenance – from the shutdown to the start-up of the processing facilities – without any detriment to quality or product quantity helps to reduce lost profits in the form of non-manufactured products during downtime.

Sakhalin Energy is a "continuous cycle" company; therefore, we carry out of scheduled shutdowns annually as part of the maintenance of the entire production chain. Due to the specific features of the Sakhalin-2 project – the relatively limited redundancy of the main process equipment and the focus on the export of hydrocarbons, we always make the most of this time to ensure reliable and continuous production throughout the year.

– What were the key contributors to the successful completion of the scope?

– To ensure the effective management of the company during the pandemic, as well as the development of measures to prevent the spread of the disease at the remote sites, and prompt decision making, we created the General Coordinating Committee (GCC), which developed and approved all key decisions that made it possible to preserve the continuity of the company's production processes.

The GCC focused its efforts on organising the safe rotation of Sakhalin Energy and contractor shift personnel at the company's remote facilities. This process was exceedingly complex as we had to keep our production facilities virus-free while working towards our set targets, including those related to the scope of work planned for the 2020 scheduled shutdown, the implementation of which required mobilising more than 1,500 people.

As part of this work, the company set up temporary accommodation facilities (TAFs) for the 14-day self-isolation of employees before entering the territory of the production facilities; we developed all necessary regulations and procedures (for example, the Procedure for Personnel Transportation and Observation; Decision Matrix for Suspected COVID-19 Cases; Algorithm and Procedure for Interaction During Medical Evacuation of Suspected COVID-19 Patients) and had them approved by the relevant supervisory authorities; we developed and implemented a procedure for contactless delivery and transfer of inventory items and their mandatory disinfection. In addition, Sakhalin Energy developed a procedure for interacting with the regional department of Rospotrebnadzor, customs and border services on confirmed coronavirus cases among crew members of vessels used by the company.

In the course of its work, the GCC analysed worst-case scenarios and, together with the regional authorities, developed courses of action that excluded the shutdown of the remote production facilities. Sakhalin Energy contractors were informed about all the decisions taken by the GCC deemed necessary for them to carry out their operations.

It goes without saying that the pandemic also drastically changed the daily work routine of office personnel. For health and safety reasons, most of the employees were transferred to remote work. The company also purchased additional disinfectants and equipment to disinfect its offices, production facilities, and vehicles.

All of the above measures ensured the successful completion of the summer maintenance, diagnostics and repair work at the production facilities of the integrated gas production chain. As a result, the scheduled shutdown was completed ahead of schedule, in just 29 days.

Carrying out comprehensive maintenance of any production facility is a challenging task due to many factors, so having highly-competent and efficient personnel is key to success. In the face of the pandemic, the company managed to ensure the safety of its employees and, consequently, stable and reliable production operations.

– Given the remoteness of the production facilities, organising the work schedule of 1,500 people for a whole month down to the minute seems a 'mission impossible'…

– We really went to great lengths to ensure that everything went smoothly. During the planned shutdown, work was carried out at the Lunskoye-A offshore gas production platform, the onshore processing facility (OPF), Booster Station No. 2 (BS No. 2), and the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant. Given that the platform and the OPF are located in the north of Sakhalin Island, BS No. 2 – in the middle of it, and the LNG plant – in the south, the task was extremely complicated.

Despite all the difficulties, the teams of these assets successfully completed all assigned tasks without any harm to employee health or to the environment, thereby ensuring the safe and reliable operation of the company's onshore production facilities. The excellent results were achieved thanks to the well-coordinated teamwork of all employees engaged in the work and thorough supervision over the most critical operations.

The resources were reallocated in a timely manner by adjusting the shift rotation schedules. Effective use of time in the TAFs by staff before leaving for the production facilities was another important success factor. We had developed special training plans in preparation for the shutdown and implemented them during the self-isolation of our permanent employees, as well as temporary workers mobilised for the shutdown.

During the work, our efforts were mainly focused on the scheduled preventive measures: inspections, checks, testing, visual examinations, diagnostics, and so on. A fairly large part of work concerned electrical equipment and the instrumentation and control system, which is designed to control production processes, detect deviations as early as possible, and promptly start an automatic shutdown in emergency situations.

It must be noted that this year – for the first time at the LNG plant – our specialists replaced the carbon-based mercury adsorbent in the natural gas purification and treatment system for the cryogenic liquefaction plant. They also upgraded the mixed refrigerant axial compressor, which will significantly increase its reliability and improve the uptime.

The COVID-19 pandemic made us look at things from a different perspective. For instance, this year the company used on-line remote technical support – for the first time ever – to perform maintenance of the General Electric gas turbine drives.

– Almost all the processes in the oil and gas industry have been digitised, with the pandemic accelerating the introduction of new formats and technologies. Have you experienced this first-hand?

– Today, digitalisation is transforming the activities of enterprises, significantly changing business processes, reducing costs, and accelerating decision making. Sakhalin Energy is no exception in this respect.

For the Sakhalin-2 project operator, digital transformation of production is becoming a key strategic development area, where a portfolio of innovative technologies is being formed empirically.

Long before the start of the planned shutdown, it became clear that key foreign vendors would not be able to directly participate in this process due to the restrictions imposed by the Government of the Russian Federation. For this reason, Sakhalin Energy launched real-time remote support systems – digital twin workstations. These systems allow production facility personnel to perform work in such a way that their colleagues in the office, equipment manufacturer representatives or technical support engineers can take part in the process remotely and give advice to facility staff or answer their questions in real time. Therefore, we had to make a quick decision to create a new infrastructure for the repair of critical equipment, which would enable the use all available methods of remote expert support.

At present, we are evaluating the feasibility and assessing the possibilities of using this technology at the company's other production facilities. This is a natural phase of the digitalisation process. Such equipment can be used with maximum benefit not only during scheduled shutdowns, but also during on-line inspections, as well as when working with pressure vessels and other mechanical equipment. This does not mean that we will completely forego engaging specialists and subject-matter experts. There are technically complex operations related to setting up and debugging equipment where the participation of certified specialists is absolutely crucial. Nevertheless, the development of digital strategies involves minimising the presence of vendor representatives wherever possible.

By using and refining digital platforms, perfecting artificial intelligence solutions, with qualitative analysis of massive databases in real time, we render invaluable assistance to the operation of high-tech enterprises and, as a result, help them efficiently manage cash flows.

– We have already realised that things will never be the same – both the pandemic and new trends in the global energy sector have changed the world. Are you prepared for the new reality?

– In Russia, the oil and gas industry has become one of the leading sectors that ensures the state's economic stability. Its development will always be associated with new opportunities and, at the same time, new risks, so this task must be regulated at the highest level. The development of LNG production, an increased use of renewable energy sources, social accountability of businesses, and environmental protection – all these factors strengthen the country's energy security. In turn, we are responsible for the safety and reliability of production, the stable operation of equipment, and the quality of the technological process. Therefore, it is especially important for Sakhalin Energy to ensure business continuity, no matter what happens in the world.

The company has learned its lessons from the current situation, so in the future we will be able to respond to any changes and uncertainties, taking into account the demands of the "new reality". Consolidating the efforts of the shareholders and the Russian party, we will strive to structure our internal and external resources so that no external factors will ever affect our plans.

■ Source: Gas Industry magazine

How Molikpaq Grew Stronger

In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.
Bill Cosby

A clear goal, proactive staff, expert assessment, as well as highly professional support from the company's specialists, and the contractor's desire to adapt to changes will help you cope with any challenges that come your way. The factors listed above largely contributed to the successful completion of the scheduled comprehensive shutdown on the Molikpaq platform.

The coronavirus epidemic complicated the organisation of repair work at the offshore facility. Thankfully, the difficulties brought out the best qualities of our specialists, united them and made our team stronger. We have proved that COVID-19 cannot prevent us from achieving our goal – to perform preventive maintenance of the Molikpaq platform safely and efficiently. Under the circumstances, this year's "problem set" contained many more complex problems and equations with three variables than usual.

First of all, despite the lockdown on the island, it was necessary to ensure the availability of an additional 230 specialists to work on the platform alongside the rotational shift staff. We managed to build communication between the subdivisions, which is essential for the implementation of scheduled process shutdowns, integrated planning and logistics, and also communication with government agencies. The Logistics Team, specially created for this purpose, organised the observation and transportation of personnel.

The lockdown made us revise the training programme. The IT Team organised training sessions using the Cisco Webex Smart Platform. Then we broke the preventive maintenance programme into parts and prepared lists of individual topics to be discussed each day. The staff liked the new format, which was evidenced by the increased number of observation and intervention cards, and suggestions for improvement.

The most difficult project of this year's scheduled turnaround, which was also the most difficult in my career, was the upgrade of the gas, smoke, and fire surveillance, detection and emergency response system, because all the work had to be carried out in a confined space on an offshore facility. Fortunately, we did a good job preparing for its implementation. Throughout the year, we, together with the asset team and technical experts, were evaluating the impact of the upgrade to the life support and auxiliary systems of the platform. To distribute the power supply to the production and residential modules of the platform, we prepared comprehensive certificates for equipment interlocking devices with the installation of temporary connectors, as well as step-by-step procedures for their installation. But that was only the tip of the iceberg: first of all, we had to carefully consider the arrangement of an alternative fire and gas detection system (the scheduled work could not be carried out at the facility without it). We have successfully solved this problem, too. Henry Ford said, "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals". Our goal was to carry out the planned repairs safely, efficiently, and according to schedule, so we confidently moved towards it.

297 jobs were completed during the scheduled shutdown. 24 of them were modifications which improved the reliability and stability of the Molikpaq platform. In total, more than 300 employees of Sakhalin Energy and contracting organisations took part in the technical operations.

We managed to create a prototype of a gas, smoke, and fire surveillance, detection, and emergency response system. All our staff was involved in fulfilling this task. We worked with the alternative system for seven days. All project participants united their efforts, because everyone realised how important the task was and felt personally responsible for its successful outcome. This resulted in the successful completion of the job: Molikpaq received the capability to upgrade its system and install new improved sensors.

Our team, together with technical experts, is constantly working on possible improvements, using innovative technologies and progressive global trends. This year is no exception. We have used – for the first time – reverse integrity gaskets manufactured by CAMOS (they ensure the integrity of flanged joints assemblies). This enabled us to cancel the nitrogen-gel testing (which is normally conducted under high pressure) and reduce labour costs.

During the shutdown, we continued work to upgrade the seawater intake system – the main cooling system for the production cycle on the platform. We also carried out 3D and geomatic surveys of the entire system in order to prepare the project design. Our colleagues from the Procurement and Logistics Subdivision helped us with the purchase of custom-made materials for the manufacture of tubular products. Despite the difficulties associated with COVID-19, our main contractor conducted a recertification of welders for welding difficult joints in hard-to-reach areas, simulating real-life conditions.

In addition, important repair work was carried out as part of the comprehensive inspection of shell-and-tube heat exchangers. As had been previously decided, this year our team improved the effectiveness and efficiency of these tasks. Baker Hughes supplied a high-pressure pump (HPP) capable of delivering 12,000 PSI! Soon we obtained the desired result: high-quality tube surface preparation was accomplished three times faster than with the old-type HPP. Of course, we encountered some unexpected difficulties: the scale was so hard in some of the tubes that the pump could not cope with it. Nevertheless, the team of engineers, with the support of chemists and corrosion specialists, managed dissolve the salt by chemicals without damaging the metal tubes.

To ensure the scheduled shutdown was conducted as efficiently as possible, managers were appointed for each specific site. During the year, they were analysing the risks of the planned complex comprehensive work. It was the third year in a row that we used this method of dividing the platform into work sites with managers responsible for them. In addition, together with SMNM-VECO, we prepared a five-day training programme for the "green hard hats" (new personnel) to prepare them for the upcoming turnaround.

Thanks to well-organised cooperation and focus on results, we achieved great success – all work was carried out in full compliance with the plans and applicable HSE requirements. Moreover, work on many of the systems, including the oil and gas export systems, was completed ahead of schedule. In total, it took 18 thousand man-hours to conduct the scheduled shutdown.

■ Sergey Sankov

assets

The Platform Builds up Strength

In 2020, Sakhalin Energy is implementing one of the company's priority projects – upgrading the drilling rig on the Molikpaq fixed offshore platform.

The project was initiated by the Technical Directorate Department's Front End Engineering Team in early 2015. In the course of its development, various implementation concepts were presented to the Committee of Executive Directors and shareholders – from minor modifications to a complete replacement of the rig. The upgrade will extend the life of the rig and improve the safety of offshore operations. Moreover, it will open up opportunities for drilling new wells in the most remote areas of the Piltun-Astokhskoye field.

After all work is completed, the potential drilling radius from the platform will increase to eight kilometres (currently five). This will make it possible to reach promising production areas that have been discovered between the Molikpaq and Piltun-Astokhskoye-B platforms. Complete replacement of the high pressure piping and associated low pressure piping will help to achieve the parameters required for extended reach drilling (ERD) wells.

The project also provides for the following work:

- Replacing the drilling mud pumps with three more efficient ones;
- Upgrading the system by transitioning from DC to AC power by installing a variable frequency drive system;
- Replacing the pipe-handler, including the guide module for safer handling and more efficient transfer of the pipes after receiving them on the drill floor;
- Installing a new high-rate mixer in the mud pits;
- Modifying the main switchboard of the drilling system so that it will meet additional electrical safety requirements;
- Replacing the Shale Shakers (vibrating mud screens), including the mud trough, with a diverter box, to distribute the returning cuttings more efficiently and balance the load across the shale shakers;
- Replacing the festoon cable system with a more efficient drag chain that removes the requirement for plugging and unplugging the electrical systems between the North and South Festoon distributions systems dependent on the required rig position.
- Replacing the diesel-driven single pump for drill cuttings re-injection with a two pumps driven electrically;
- Replacing the DC driven drawworks with an AC driven unit that relies on braking resistors rather than the electromagnetic brake;
- Replacing the driller's cabin from a system that was current in the 80's to a more modern system relevant to the current technology available on the market where the driller is accommodated in a chair, interfaces and controls the equipment via joystick and touch screens (expanding the capability for drilling data record keeping).

Additionally, the upgrade plan provides for a number of small-scale works to modernise and install additional low-power electrical control units. The project is being jointly implemented by the Technical and Production Directorates.

The first tasks were fulfilled during the preparatory period (in October 2019): the replacement of the pipe storage roof to increase the permissible load, and the installation of a temporary electrical distribution board to carry out power system upgrade operations.

Equipment for the project was supplied by various countries across the globe. In particular, equipment with a long production cycle was delivered from Norway, Poland, the Netherlands, the USA, Italy and the UK.

Construction and installation work on the platform began on 1 April 2020 in accordance with the approved schedule. To-date, the old drilling mud pumps, the top drive, Iron Roughneck and CRI pumps have been completely dismantled and removed, the removal of the drawworks is in progress. The commissioning of the advanced drilling complex is planned for November 2021.

■ Darren Campbell

digitalisation

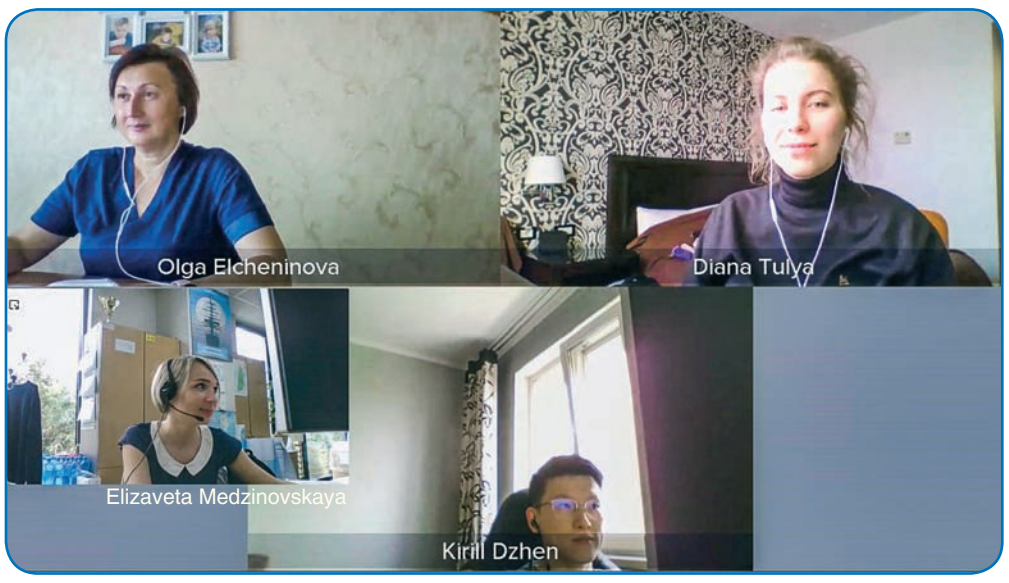
The Most Important Well

Everyone knows that the company's production wells and related infrastructure for the treatment, processing and transportation of oil and gas are important production assets. Few people know, however, how much the production wells depend on cuttings re-injection (CRI) wells.

Imagine if all process waste obtained during the operation of one platform, which is about 40–45 thousand cubic metres per year, would have to be constantly transported for disposal on land. This would require enormous efforts and financial costs. If there were a failure in logistics at some point, for instance, due to bad weather, then a pause in the waste disposal process would completely paralyse the operation of the platform, and well drilling would be stopped. CRI wells prevent such a pessimistic scenario.

The downside is that convenience comes at a price, and the operation of cuttings re-injection wells requires strict control and constant data monitoring: injection rates, pressure, injected fluids and their properties. In addition, regulatory authorities closely monitor various indicators during CRI well operation, such as environmental friendliness, labour safety, reservoir and well integrity. Timely response to any deviations prevents damage and, consequently, costly restoration work.

While monitoring the operation of a well, the company receives an enormous amount of data. The problem is that they are supplied in the form of tabular data files, which makes it difficult to process and analyse such data on an on-going basis.



In July 2020, when discussing the results of the meeting on the Astokhskoye area well stock revision (for more details, see the September issue of Vesti), the Lunskoye Development Team came up with an initiative to use digital technologies to monitor CRI wells. The Technical Directorate, the Production Directorate and the IT team united their efforts and within a few days had created a prototype and then a working version of the CRI Dashboard.

The system automatically collects data from a specially-created database, after which it updates itself, displaying relevant information on control charts. This approach has significantly reduced the labour hours of specialists who analyse the data obtained and prepare the necessary reports – from several hours to a few seconds.

The Astokh and the Piltun Development Teams have done the same work as their colleagues from the Lunskoye field. From now on, the speed at which mandatory reports are prepared, in particular for supervisory authorities, will be much higher. Moreover, this innovation will make it possible to integrate the work processes of the subdivisions.

"Today we often witness or participate in positive events related to the development of information technology and digitalisation. This project was also implemented with the use of state-of-the-art tools available in our company. Its success is easy to assess, because digitalisation gives instant results in terms of saving precious time. In turn, the time saved can be used for other important tasks. We have an opportunity to focus exclusively on data analysis and forecasting, which are necessary to maintain safe well operation," said Elizaveta Medzinovskaya, Senior Oil and Gas Production Technologist (Lunskoye field).

■ Egor Kasprov

Antidote For the Industry

The 24th Sakhalin Oil and Gas 2020 International Conference, joined by Sakhalin Energy, was concluded on Sakhalin. The annual industry forum was hosted by Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk from 29 September to 1 October 2020 and attracted the expert community and media both by its rich agenda and the opportunity to share experience on working in an unfavourable external environment.

At the booth of Sakhalin Energy

STORM READINESS

The fact that the Sakhalin Oil and Gas 2020 Conference would differ from previous years' events was clear even before it began. Nobody was hiding this. As noted by the Conference Director Irina Norris at the pre-event press briefing, from a narrow industry event Sakhalin Oil and Gas is transforming into a comprehensive discussion of energy in all its forms, into a place for negotiations and agreements on taking a global leap into the future.

The scientific component of the event has been strengthened with new discussions and participants – scientists from the Russian Academy of Sciences with its President Alexander Sergeyev. The Conference got a second name, the "Far Eastern Energy Forum".

All these changes were initiated by Sakhalin Governor Valery Limarenko. And the root cause for the changes was the "perfect storm" – a combination of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the collapse of oil prices and the OPEC+ agreement to reduce oil production, which this year was a major challenge not only for the industry, but also for many countries, including Russia.

'We faced a serious drop in the price of oil, and a COVID-19 pandemic. However, companies operating offshore projects have taken all measures to achieve hydrocarbon production targets and even exceed them by 5-8%. The joint efforts have enabled to avoid the production assets becoming hotbeds for COVID-19 infection. In addition, the operating companies have demonstrated high social responsibility towards people by providing them with necessary support, and we greatly appreciate it,' highlighted Valery Limarenko in his welcoming speech.

The member of Management Committee of Gazprom and Head of 307 Department, Sergey Menshikov welcomed the participants and visitors of the conference on behalf of Alexey Miller, the Chairman of the Management Committee of Gazprom. Mr Menshikov stated that Sakhalin oblast and Gazprom are connected with tight relationships starting from 2006, when a collaboration agreement determining the key mutually beneficial principles of work was signed.

"Joint plans of the regional government and PAO Gazprom are oriented for the further economic development of the Sakhalin Oblast and prosperity growth of its peoples" added Sergey Menshikov and expressed confidence that the conference itself will help find answers to the most critical tasks and challenges faced by the oil and gas industry.

IN FOR A PENNY, IN FOR A POUND

Those points were reflected in the conference agenda, and Sakhalin Energy representatives did have some things to say about. This included an answer to one of Russia's sacramental questions of 'what should we do?'. Against the backdrop of the difficulties that have hit the global economy and the oil and gas industry, this question is of topical issue.

'No one can forecast now what challenges are to come, but we can develop an open-ended portfolio of tools that will allow us to get out of the most challenging situation even under these conditions,' said Roman Dashkov, CEO of Sakhalin Energy.

According to Roman Dashkov, there should not be many such tools – the company has focused on four. These are production reliability, efficient and modern office space, continuous improvement of business processes that should match the existing business realities, and development of IT platforms. These key tools are a kind of 'all-in-one pill' – a somewhat of antidote that protects the company from negative external factors.

'In-office and remote work are the extremes that need to be avoided. We should regulate the employees' working hours more effectively, give them more freedom and flexibility, which can later become one of the drivers for attracting human resources to the company. When people are free in disposing their working time, they define the tasks for themselves to implement the strategy that was presented,' Roman Dashkov believes.

DIGITAL REALITY

The visitors and participants of the conference demonstrated great interest for Sakhalin Energy's experience in digital transformation of production in a pandemic. In particular, the company was one of the first in Russia to introduce Digital Twin workstations.

In 2020 Sakhalin Energy conducted a major Integrated Gas System Turnaround. Due to sanitary and epidemiological restrictions, foreign specialists were unable to come to the production facilities. For the Turnaround activities to be carried out, a decision was made to use digital technologies. This has proven to be successful – with the introduction of remote access, technical operations were completed ahead of schedule.

The remote support devices which are explosion-proof smart helmets and tablets, loaded with software, allow to execute technical activities in parallel with on-line connection of engineers and subject matter experts from worldwide locations. The company's exhibition stand provided participants and visitors of the conference with the opportunity of becoming a digital twin for specialists at Sakhalin Energy's production assets – offshore oil and gas platforms, onshore processing facility (OPF) and the LNG plant.

Such a connection was also made during a speech by Denis Lutsev, Onshore Asset Manager. The conference participants and visitors were able to observe a scheduled maintenance of gas turbine at the power station supplying electrical power to the OPF and the LUN-A platform.

ENERGETIC PARTICIPATION

As part of the conference, Sakhalin Energy representatives attended almost all sessions. Andrey Samatov, Head of Corporate Environmental Division, shared the company's environmental policy. Andrey Okhotkin, Commercial Director, shared his expert opinion on the prospects for the development of oil, gas and LNG markets after 'the greatest economic shock in modern history'. Natalia Gonchar, Head of Corporate Affairs Department, revealed the details of implementing corporate social programmes, which despite the pandemic were not shorten, but even increased.

Andrey Smirnov, Head of Business Development Section, among other experts, was speaking at the session on gas monetisation in the Russian Far East and development of regional LNG production projects. Alexander Tvorogov, Head of IT and IM Department, was speaking about the potential and challenges of digital transformation for offshore projects. Alexander Sheykin, HR Director, and Ruslan Oblekov, Russian Content Development Adviser for Technical Directorate, attended a panel discussion on local content, localisation and import substitution.

TOWARDS A DEVELOPMENT

The highpoint of the conference for Sakhalin Energy was the signing of several agreements. The company, Sakhalin State University and Gazprombank agreed about improving the educational process and the quality of education.

'Human development is a fundamental constant for the company. It is essential that educational programmes enable graduates to meet business requirements and easily integrate into the work processes. We are interested in this and support the initiatives of regional authorities towards improving the quality of secondary vocational and higher education in the Sakhalin Region,' Roman Dashkov said.

On the sidelines of the forum, Sakhalin Energy signed agreements of intent with Russian companies, Petrogastekh Shelf Service, for the provision of underwater inspection services, and NIPOM, for the modernisation of electrical power supply for block valves on onshore pipelines.

A special focus of the conference participants and visitors was on signing ceremony of the Agreement of Intent with the Sakhalin Industrial Park* residents. According to the CEO of Sakhalin Energy, working at this site will allow the business to optimise production processes, timing and costs of service and repair activities, and will increase the oilfield services localisation from 5% to 25%. In general, the residents of SIP, which are oil and gas companies, will get an additional safety margin. And there isn't much of it, as the "perfect storm" of 2020 has clearly shown.

■ By Pavel Ryabchikov

**See a special report about the signing ceremonies of agreements of intents with Sakhalin Industrial Park residents in the next issue of Vesti.*

The representatives of Sakhalin Energy, Sakhalin State University and Gazprombank are signing a tripartite agreement

doctor's office

It's Time to Be Well

As is known, there is no such thing as bad weather. The same can be said about the seasons – each has its unique charm. However, each season also brings its dangers. As usual, the newly arrived autumn/winter period has brought unwanted guests – seasonal viruses. Konstantin Kokorin, Head of the Corporate Health Section, talks about how to be prepared for possible encounters with viruses, what to do to reduce their effects, and about the specific features of this year's vaccination campaign and Sakhalin Energy's preparedness for possible outbreaks of acute respiratory viral infections (ARVI).

– Sigmund Freud once said: "There is nothing more expensive than a disease and its neglect." Do you think we need to take a special approach to vaccination this season?

– For many people who previously doubted the benefits of vaccination, the coronavirus pandemic was, to a certain extent, like a cold shower – it brought them to their senses and put everything in its place. People finally realised that, despite the miniature size of viruses, a careless attitude toward one's health may lead to adverse consequences.

However, even the small size of this life form is relative. For example, if we compare the total mass of all viruses and people on our planet, the former will exceed the latter by hundreds of times. Moreover, scientists believe that the number of viruses existing on Earth is larger than the number of stars in the studied Universe! So much about their being minute.

The reasonable conclusion is that this danger must be taken into account and treated with the utmost care. It is important to understand that there is a high probability of both flu and coronavirus circulating in the community this autumn/winter season, so the time-tested seasonal flu vaccine will at least reduce the risk of fatal complications if you get influenza.

– What strains of the influenza virus are we likely to face this autumn and winter?

– This season, strains of Type A and Type B influenza virus are expected throughout the Northern Hemisphere in general and in Russia in particular. Three of the virus strains are new – no vaccines have been used against them so far. This means that the population has no herd immunity and the consequences of catching them can be extremely adverse.

The new strains of the influenza virus will begin to circulate in winter, which means that people must be vaccinated this autumn so that there is enough time for their bodies' defence mechanisms to kick in.

– What vaccines does the company offer to its employees?

– We have a quadrivalent flu vaccine, containing four strains of the influenza virus, including the three new ones that I mentioned earlier.

– Are they Russian-made or foreign drugs?

– There are both Russian (Ultrix Quadri, Sovigripp) and foreign (French) Vaxigripp vaccines. All the vaccines have been certified, tested and approved by the medical community. There is no fundamental difference between them.

– Can several vaccinations be combined? For example, can a person get simultaneously vaccinated against influenza and COVID-19, a vaccine for which has already been developed?

– The first thing we need to understand is that even if a person has acquired a certain immunity to influenza strains, this does not at all guarantee protection against the novel coronavirus infection. The second important thing is that according to preliminary data, infections can overlap each other, that is, a person can fall ill with both flu and COVID-19 at the same time.

Simultaneous exposure to two dangerous viruses is very likely to result in the worst health outcomes. Since the vaccine against the novel coronavirus is only being launched into production, the most logical and correct action in this situation is to get vaccinated against the flu.

Answering your question whether vaccines can be combined, I can assure you that they can. Company employees have the opportunity to get vaccinated against flu and pneumococcal infection at state healthcare institutions near their places of residence. But remember to consult with your attending or local doctor first.

Additionally, I would like to stress: don't expect a pneumonia shot to protect you against COVID-19. Vaccination is a specific tool that helps the body to give a targeted rebuff to a pathogen against which an immune response has been formed in advance. COVID-19 is a virus with a unique structure. A pneumococcal vaccine is a collection of antigens for bacteria with a different structure. A person's system vaccinated against COVID-19 will simply overlook pneumococcus and vice versa. That is, vaccination against pneumococcus will not provide protection against coronavirus, but will be effective only when encountering pneumococcus.

– The company continues to work in a high-alert regime. Are there any additional measures to protect employees from ARVI?

– The company annually approves and implements a preventive and anti-epidemic action plan during the flu season. We purchase medicines, disinfectants and face masks, carry out vaccinations, conduct informational and other activities for employees.

Additionally, the company's General Coordinating Committee (GCC) has developed an action plan to be carried out during the pandemic, including measures to promptly identify employees with even the slightest symptoms of ARVI, influenza and coronavirus, to carry out differential diagnostics and prescribe adequate treatment or immediate evacuation to specialised medical institutions in the region.

Thanks to all these measures, Sakhalin Energy has managed to ensure timely and high-quality health care to its employees and maintain continuity of the production process at its facilities.

– We are living in unprecedented conditions in which healthcare issues are of utmost priority. However, old habits die hard: slight ARVI symptoms do not stop people from coming to work. What risks does this entail and what steps is the company taking to avoid such incidents?

– In my opinion, going to work with ARVI symptoms testifies not so much to habit, but to indifference to the health of colleagues and their family members.

Let me remind you that the company conducts mandatory temperature checks at the entrance to the office premises, so a person with a body temperature exceeding the norm will not be admitted to the building.

– What about the following case: an employee is not running a high temperature, but has a stuffy or runny nose?

– Even the slightest congested or runny nose can be one of the initial symptoms of a viral infection, which, moreover, can proceed in a latent form. Therefore, if you notice any signs of a cold, you had better stay at home and work remotely. In my opinion, this is a matter of self-discipline and respect for others.

And of course, we must not forget that an employee who comes to the office or production facility with ARVI symptoms is actually ignoring numerous recommendations of the GCC. All relevant information is available on the COVID-19 page of the company's internal website. Irresponsibility in this matter can have serious implications.

– In addition to vaccination, are there any other ways to protect oneself against influenza and other acute respiratory viral infections?

– Our immune system is the main protection against viruses. Accordingly, everything that strengthens the immune system is beneficial to us. Daily morning calisthenics followed by a contrast shower, a good night's sleep, a balanced diet and a positive approach to life will help your system to fight off infection!

assets

Health is the Priority

In September, there was a remarkable event in the OPFC temporary rotational construction camp – a new clinic was built there and opened its doors to visitors.

"In fact, there were two events at the same time: the opening of the clinic signified the completion of the rotational camp construction," said Svetlana Kazak, Category 1 Engineer of the Sakhalin Energy Construction Subdivision.

She said that the clinic had been built on the basis of design documentation developed by the Sakhalingrazhdanproekt Institute. The construction work was carried out by Petrofac, a contracting organisation, from February to September 2020. Medical services in the new facility are provided by another time-tested partner of the company – International SOS.

The new building boasts spacious rooms and corridors. The medical station staff used to see patients in small rooms which, to make matters worse, were located in two separate buildings. It was very uncomfortable, both for drivers, who had to undergo pre-trip examinations, and for service personnel, who cannot start their daily work without a mandatory check-up.

Now, the clinic staff have separate rooms and a specially equipped storage space for medicines – these are but a few of the advantages of the new building. The medical facility has two separate entrances – one for people who are ill, and one for those who are well. All patients with diagnosed illnesses are accommodated in an isolated ward, which significantly reduces the risk of accidental infection. These measures are exceedingly important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"And, of course, I cannot but mention the equipment. It is brand-new, up-to-date and reliable. The equipment was purchased by Sakhalin Energy, so we are perfectly sure that it is of high quality. In short, the clinic has whatever is required to provide effective medical care to our employees in a comfortable environment. This is exactly what we were striving for. We are happy to have accomplished this task," summed up Svetlana Kazak.

■ The page is prepared by Pavel Ryabchikov

Compatibility Test

"As we evaluate opportunities to use Russian-made instruments, it is important to take into account whether they are compatible with equipment already installed at Sakhalin Energy assets", says Vadim Legenkin, Head of Control and Automation Division. This is one of the many highlights of our interview with him.

– Mr Legenkin, what is your view on Russian Content development prospects in the Instrumentation category under the Sakhalin-2 project?

– We select our instrumentation devices based primarily on proven operational reliability, because the accuracy of instrument readings drives the safety of our production assets. Since the Sakhalin-2 project was designed and built with international standards in mind, most of our existing instrumentation devices were manufactured outside of Russia.

These devices last between 15 and 25 years, so we are currently approaching the point at which a lot of them will need to be replaced across all of Sakhalin Energy's assets. This replacement will take place gradually, over the next few years, as part of our scheduled maintenance or periodic upgrade and modification projects. I believe this presents an excellent opportunity for us to take advantage of the capabilities of Russian equipment manufacturers.

Russian manufacturers will be greatly helped by our Instrumentation Standards Harmonisation Project once the results are in. Currently, we are reviewing and running a side-by-side comparison of Russian and international standards and regulations. Our next step will be developing a set of new, harmonised technical requirements and specifications.

However, as we evaluate opportunities to use Russian-made instruments, it is important to take into account whether they are compatible with equipment already installed at Sakhalin Energy assets.

In my view, large international companies, such as Emerson, Honeywell and others, who have localised their manufacturing in Russia, have the best chance of meeting our requirements. I can give you one example of such partnership, the gas and flame detector localisation project delivered by Det-Tronics (DEC) with SpetsPozhEngineering (SPE), their Russian counterpart.

– Could you please give us more details about this project?

– SPE has been in business for over 20 year and is DEC's authorised representative and partner in Russia. SPE does final assembly of gas and flame detectors using foreign-manufactured components. In addition, it has localised the manufacturing of gas detector housings in Russia. These devices are part of gas and fire detection systems and play an important role in ensuring operational safety. Gas detectors are used to determine the flammable gas concentration in ambient air, while flame detectors can spot combustion occurrences.

Gas analyser from SPI

In November 2018, our Russian Content team met with SPE. We carefully studied their sample devices and confirmed that their digital and analogue interfaces, including firmware, are fully compatible with foreign-manufactured models. As a result, we decided to launch a pilot operation project at Booster Station 2. In March 2020, obsolete flame and gas detectors at the pump building were replaced with SPE devices. Over the past six months, there have been no issues whatsoever with these sensors. Not only have they proven to be reliable, but they also perform better than their predecessors. SPE detectors are 20% less expensive than the original devices and are fully certified as compliant with Russian metrology regulations.

– Please tell us about your future plans regarding SPE equipment.

– Det-Tronics devices account for approximately 6% of our instrumentation fleet. That's hundreds of units installed across all Sakhalin-2 production assets. As the original Det-Tronics gas and flame detectors fail over time, we intend to replace them with SPE devices. To do this, we will need to authorise modifications through our Management of Change process and amend SAP records to reflect the use of Russian-made materials in lieu of foreign-manufactured ones.

– Does the company intend to run similar pilot projects to test other Russian equipment?

– Sakhalin Energy and NPP KuibyshevTelecom-Metrologiya (KTM) agreed to test-drive KTM's ultrasonic flare gas flow meters at the OPF this year. Due to the differences in applicable standards and the need to secure additional approvals with regard to flange adapter design and dust-ignition-proof housing, we had to shift the start of the pilot project to Q4 2020. It is expected to be completed in the first half of 2021. If this project is successful, we intend to replace Fluenta flare gas flow meters with Russian-manufactured devices.

In conclusion, let me emphasise that it is through our integrated approach, which includes the use of localised materials, operational testing of Russian-made equipment and taking advantage of standards harmonisation, that we are now better positioned to drive Russian Content in dollar terms in the Instrumentation category.

СПЕЦПОЖИНЖИНИРИНГ
системы пожарной безопасности

Since March 2020, field testing of Russian-made equipment has been carried out at Booster Station No.2 (BS 2) as part of a localisation project for flame detectors and gas analysers. Andrey Zhurba, General Director of Spetspozhengineering (SPI) shared his impressions about working with our company and outlined further plans.

– Andrey, SPI started to manufacture localized Det-Tronics (DEC) products even before the import substitution course was set in the country. How did it start?

– Our company has been an official representative of Det-Tronics in Russia since it was established, specifically since 1997. The first step was the certification of Det-Tronics flame detectors and gas analysers by VNIIPO MChS of Russia and the RF State Committee for Standardisation, Metrology and Certification. In 2001, we began designing fire detection systems, gas content control and fire protection systems for Russian fuel and energy sector assets, based both on Det-Tronics and our own equipment. At present, we conduct head-start and start-up work, participate in exploratory tests, start-up, commissioning and maintenance of gas and fire detection systems, as well as train local specialists to work with equipment supplied by our company.

In 2003, we received a licence from Det-Tronics to manufacture of U-series flame detectors. In 2006, after the quality of our work was highly commended, SPI became a licence holder to manufacture X-series flame detectors (the most modern series), and in 2009 we received a licence to manufacture Pirecl hydrocarbon gas infrared point detectors. The company produces X-series flame detectors and Pirecl hydrocarbon gas infrared point detectors at its own production site. As you see, SPI began tackling the issue of import substitution long before the official trend.

– Are you planning to localize other models from the Det-Tronics product line?

– We intend to release products suitable in more aggressive (higher humidity and raise humidity and salinity) offshore conditions. Currently, the company is being certified by Russian Maritime Register of Shipping. After the relevant certificates are obtained, our products can be used on vessels, offshore platforms and onshore facilities. In addition to that, we are working on localizing manufacture of the LS2000 hydrocarbon gas infrared point detector. I believe that all technical and legal matters will be resolved in the upcoming months, so we can start the manufacturing process.

Flame detector SPARK

– What can you say about your experience with Sakhalin Energy?

– In the course of six months our company has moved from a total stranger to a trusted partner. This was greatly to the credit of the Russian Content Development Department of Sakhalin Energy. It would have taken so much longer without their support. Pilot testing of our equipment is nearing completion and, as far as I know, Sakhalin Energy is pleased with the results. I am sure that we have fruitful cooperation ahead of us.

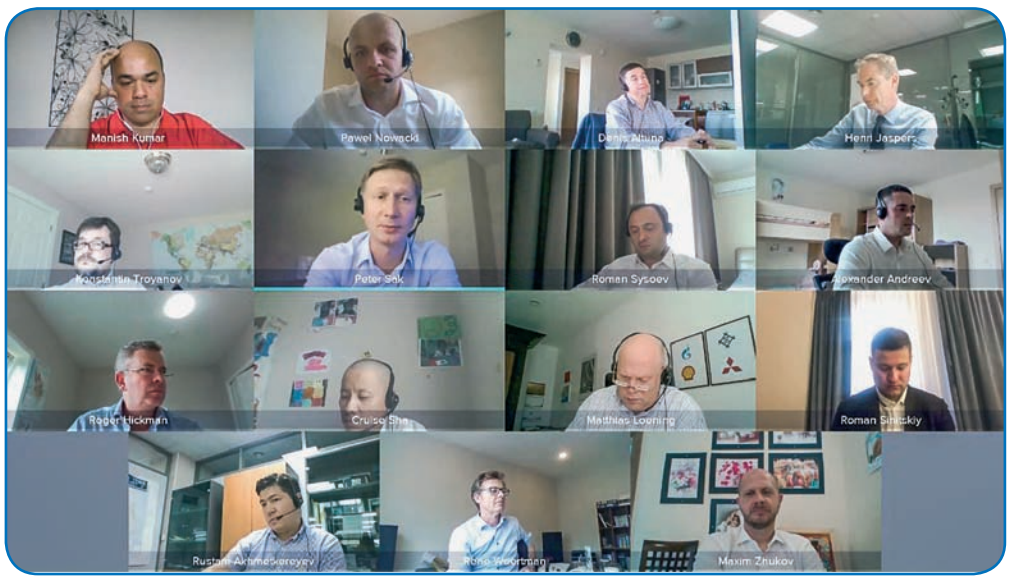
■ The page is prepared by Virginiya Lakomova

continuous improvement

CED Award

Sakhalin Energy's Committee of Executive Directors (CED) awarded its employees for their achievements in continuous improvement for Q2 2020. The award ceremony took place in a virtual format.

Among the 10 nominees for the award, the winner became the CI initiative realised by the team from Technical and Finance directorates: Rene Woertman, Peter Sak, Rustam Akhmetkereyev, Maya Solovyova, Denis Altuna, Rashid Bagautdinov, Marina Bashkatova, Sergey Bizyaev, Shweta Kumar, Denis Rashevsky, Olga Muratova, Pawel Nowacki, Oksana Grimova, Alexander Andreev, Daria Fedotova, Yulia Kolomnikova, Mikhail Sazhin, Cruise Sha, Roman Sysoev, Maxim Zhukov, Chris Holmes, Glenn Smith, Manish Kumar, Douglas Sloan, Bill Connon, Fedor Prokopiev, Ivan Los, Alexey Dudochkin, Nick Long, Rustam Nuriev, Irina Lashina.



The award ceremony in a virtual format

In response to the rapidly declining oil prices and changing supply market, the team has implemented cost improvement initiatives for all TD Wells contracts. Robust 2020 discussions were focused on two determining business factors – reducing supply chain costs in line with de-escalating market prices and maintaining flexibility to accommodate potential operational changes.

Contractors were invited to co-create alternative options in order to optimally reduce the cost of the supplied goods and services. As a result, costs were summarised by categories and suppliers, allowing to prioritise the efforts in the respective areas.

You can learn more about these initiatives and many others on CI Wiki web site.

■ By Rustam Akhmetkereyev, Alina Sin

CED also would like to thank other strong nominations for the impactful initiatives:

- LNG Heel Management Optimisation
- Web-based SAP Material Master Proposal Form (MMPF) development
- Mobile Access Control Complex for Buses implementation
- New methods to eliminate integrity issues on MPQ wells
- Usage of Russian Geosteering Contractor for PA-133 well placement and for future wells
- Reduction of manpower resources for reporting by using of SQL script in GLMS DB
- Preparation for global IMO SOx limit
- MIE Process – Clear Open Reservation on completed work
- PSU parameter monitoring of turbine protection system

technologies

Win Difficulties by Intelligence and Hazards by Experience

Every person who starts new business evaluates his or her skills following own experience. Underestimation can lead to missed opportunities, overestimation often leads to dire consequences. If there is no experience at all – you have to study the experience of others or take the first steps, relying on luck and natural ingenuity.

The professional experience in «Sakhalin Energy» is a valuable asset and safe work execution experience is even more valuable. LFI is one of the documents that helps to work safe and study experience of others.

What is LFI? Learning from Incidents – is an experience captured after incidents. LFI documents this experience and helps to learn from old mistakes and to prevent new ones. The value of the information in LFI and the need to systematize it led to creation of the LFI knowledge library. The aim of the project was to create the centralized repository for LFIs with easy search and access to specific information about incidents. In this regard the classical for modern IT systems search by categories and values was implemented.

The new 'LFI Search Tool' has also been adjusted for search by the Company assets and location in a way people got used to see it in ePTW. This functionality provides a vehicle for further integration of LFIs with Permit to Work and improving learning from incidents as part of Extra Hazardous Works Management process. The Permit Requestor as well as any person having a role in ePTW can now simply 'screen' his/ her task for any relevant incident occurred in the past at planning step of the job when preparing a Permit.

Alexey Batenok,
Senior operations HSE Engineer

The main driver behind the project was to improve the ability to learn from incidents (LFI) by having better access to HSE LFI Safety Alerts. The existing 'LFI Search Tool' currently allows access to company LFI's, but its functionality, and the ability to search by specific hazardous activity, was extremely limited. The new 'LFI Search Tool' has been a joint venture between IT, Process Safety, Industrial Safety and TDW to incorporate many additional search features, incorporating the requirements of those different groups involved. Industrial Safety Dept is extremely pleased with the final product, as it will allow all company staff and contractors, having access to Sakhalin Energy webpages, the ability to review previous incidents (e.g. confined space entry or working at height) as a tool to help plan similar work activities by reviewing the lessons learned and possibly identifying additional hazards, or implementing additional controls, that otherwise may not have been identified.

Neil Corbett,
Head of Incident Investigation Subdivision

For maximum compliance with business requirements at each stage of work, the Department of Information Technology and Information Management coordinated project solutions with experts from Industrial Safety, Process Safety, TD Safety.

As a result, the project achieved not only stated goals as centralized repository and search system, but also it improved company's LFI classification and regulation process. Moreover, the LFI knowledge library contains not only Sakhalin Energy LFIs but also LFIs from shareholders, contractors and external companies. This significantly expanded the visual angle on process and personal safety events.

The link to the system is available on the Incident Investigation Subdivision intranet page from 1 October 2020.

■ Stanislav Lyubimov

Competitors: Pipeline Gas and LNG

Long-distance pipelines and LNG transportation can be united into one system for delivering natural gas to consumers.

RIVAL PARTNERS

The competitiveness of natural gas is determined by many factors, but its availability as a resource is the foremost. Natural gas prices, as well as pricing mechanisms differ from region to region, and the fuel delivery method plays an important role in pricing. Transportation of gas through pipelines and liquefied natural gas (LNG) by tankers are the most popular delivery methods today. Pipeline gas is the most common in the world market. The LNG market is not far behind due to its active development. Back in 2018, LNG accounted for about 40% of global gas exports, according to Shell. Its share is expected to grow steadily in the future. Given the above, the transportation of liquefied natural gas and pumping natural gas through pipelines are competing methods. However, the global (including Russian) experience of gas production shows that gas pipelines and LNG transportation are rather partners than competitors. You just need to understand which method is more economically profitable in certain regions and what they both have in common (taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of each).

FOUR TIMES AROUND THE EARTH

A long-distance gas pipeline is a complex system of structures and facilities designed to transport gas from the areas where it is produced or processed to the areas of its consumption. The first gas pipelines were built in China at the beginning of the first century. They were made of bamboo. Cast iron pipes were first used to transport natural gas in Europe at the end of the 18th century. In the 1970s, an independent transport industry was formed in the USSR – a Unified Gas Supply System. The development of the pipeline network outpaced the growth of gas production. In 1986, pipeline transportation accounted for one third of the country's total cargo turnover and more than two thirds of the entire fuel cargo turnover of the Soviet Union. Today, Gazprom has the world's largest gas transmission system – its length in Russia is 171,200 kilometres. If all its long-distance gas pipelines were stretched end-to-end, they would encircle the Earth four times.

Modern long-distance gas pipelines have a diameter of 720 to 1,420 millimetres, and effectively withstand high operating pressures (up to 55–75 kgf/cm2) of the transported medium. In terms of efficiency, the maximum diameter is 1,420 mm.

Having to overcome the force of friction with the pipe wall and between the layers as it moves through the pipeline, natural gas gradually loses its velocity. To solve this problem, booster stations (BS) have to be built at certain intervals along the pipeline, where gas is compressed to a pressure of 75 atmospheres. To ensure the transit of gas through the pipeline, it is also necessary to add fuel gas to it.

Gas pipeline transportation has a considerable number of advantages:

- Transmission of gas over long distances;
- High delivery rate and adjustable throughput;
- Continuous operation all year round (except for short shutdowns for repairs or in the case of accidents);
- Minimum losses along the route;
- Effective operation in various climatic zones (due to the selection of pipes with appropriate characteristics);
- Easy monitoring and control of all processes.

Thanks to its advantages, this gas transportation method is used around the globe. Geography has also contributed to its worldwide use: more often than not, new oil and gas fields are located at a considerable distance from the areas where raw materials are processed and hydrocarbons are consumed.

However, pipeline transportation also has a few disadvantages. These include the high cost of the initial investment in constructing the network, the difficulty of laying the route in some areas, and the environmental hazard (especially in the case of subsea pipelines).

LIGHTWEIGHT

Liquefied natural gas occupies 600 times less volume than gaseous natural gas at atmospheric pressure. This liquid is twice as light as water. In order to convert natural gas from a gaseous to a liquid state, it must be cooled down to –160°C. And, of course, it must first be cleaned of impurities. Natural gas is mainly made up of methane; its content in pipeline natural gas is 97–99%.

Natural gas is a mixture of gases formed in the bowels of the Earth during the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter – the catagenetic transformation of organic matter in sedimentary rocks.

- *Gas is an energy resource: 1 billion m3 of gas = 10.46 TWhr of electricity.*
- *Natural gas in reservoir conditions (conditions of occurrence in the earth interior) can be:*
- *In a gaseous state – in the form of separate accumulations (gas deposits) or in the form of a gas cap in oil and gas fields;*
- *Dissolved in oil or water.*

The benefits of gas liquefaction are numerous, in particular:

- Smaller start-up capital of the project as compared to pipelines. To launch a gas pipeline project, it is necessary to complete the construction of the line, which takes up to 75% of all capital investment. As for LNG production capacities, they can be put into operation gradually, and deliveries can begin after 50% investment;
- Project efficiency is higher due to the reduced political risks (independence from transit countries);
- Supply logistics can be promptly changed in case of unfavourable market conditions;
- Liquefied gas can be transported to any place in the world;
- Reduced gas consumption for technical needs. In pipeline projects, gas consumption for technical needs is 12–14%, while in the case of tanker transportation, it is one and a half times less (taking into account the work of the LNG plant);
- C3–C5 fractions can be included in the composition of LNG. This allows delivering a propane-butane fraction from natural gas fields together with LNG (which is impossible in the case of high-pressure gas pipelines) and extracting ethane, propane, butanes and pentanes from LNG during regasification at minimal cost;
- Shorter construction period – three years. This allows building capacity in stages as the demand for LNG increases. The terminal, storage and other auxiliary facilities having been built at the initial stage, the unit costs for LNG production decrease with the construction of additional process lines;
- LNG process lines, which are based, in particular, on the DMR process flow scheme, reduce the specific capital costs for LNG production and gas consumption in regions with cold climates by up to 30% compared to projects in equatorial regions.

The main disadvantages of LNG include high capital costs for the construction of gas carriers, market restrictions related to the availability of regasification terminals, and the dependence of supplies on natural and climatic conditions. In addition, tankers usually return empty to the producer's location. Moreover, the process of natural gas liquefaction itself consumes 15–30% of the total energy, depending on technologies used and gas volumes processed.

DICTATORIAL LOGISTICS

The following graph compiled by Sovcomflot gives a general idea of how the cost of gas transportation changes with increasing distances under various scenarios.

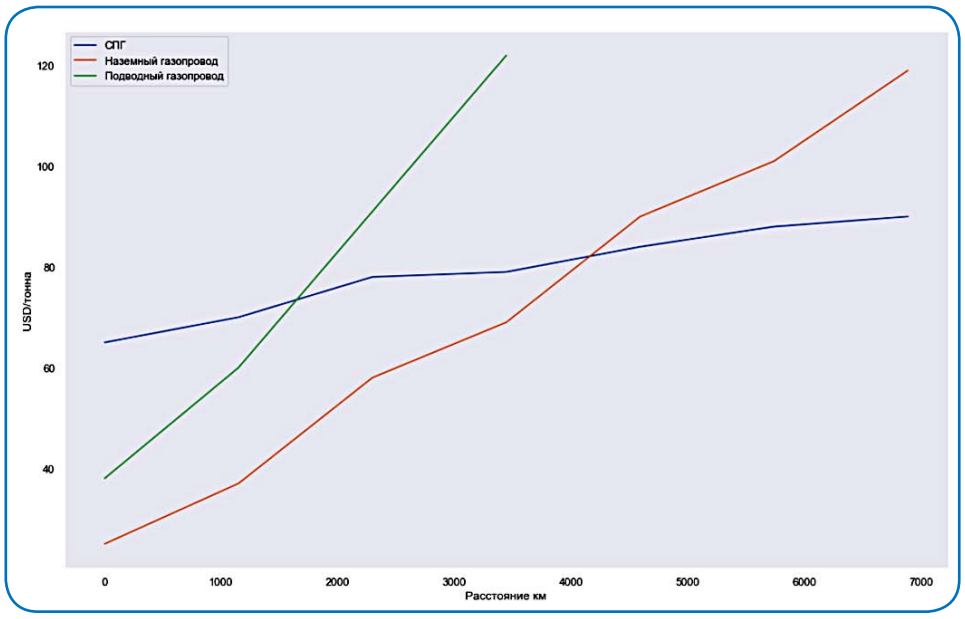
When assessing the effectiveness of the two gas transportation methods, one can notice a trend: the economy of gas transportation by sea increases under certain conditions in comparison with pipeline transportation. In particular, modern LNG carriers can compete with pipelines with an increase in the transportation distance (on 2.5–3 thousand kilometre routes), the payload capacity of methane tankers and their loading factor.

But we must not forget that gas carriers deliver gas from port to port only, while consumers often live far from the coast, not to mention that gas deposits can be located far from the shoreline, too. This requires the following transport chain: gas field – long-distance pipeline – LNG tankers – long-distance and local pipelines – consumer. In this case, there is no competition: each element of the chain is essential and must be optimised based on the capabilities of the adjacent link.

It should also be taken into account that an LNG tanker can receive liquid gas only at a special terminal and can offload it only at a terminal where the resulting LNG can be regasified. This limits the possibilities of LNG transportation and makes it wholly different from the transportation of oil.

USEFUL TRADE-OFFS

The Sakhalin gas transmission system is an example of a comprehensive solution that combines the advantages of each of the two transportation methods. Gas fields are located offshore in the northern part of the island. The geotechnical conditions for the construction of a liquefied natural gas plant are quite difficult there, and the location is not convenient for an LNG terminal. Taking these factors into consideration, the company laid the main gas pipeline from the north of the island to Aniva Bay in the south, and built the natural gas liquefaction plant and the LNG terminal on its shore. Incidentally, an LNG tanker coming from Japan to the south of Sakhalin has to cover more than 1,000 kilometres less than the distance it would have to travel should the LNG facilities be located in the north.



Caption: Increase in transportation costs with increasing transportation distance, source: Sovcomflot

There is a similar system in Europe: countries such as Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and Greece have an advanced LNG receiving infrastructure. At the same time, Spain has long-distance gas pipelines connecting it with France. Although 60% of the gas consumed is delivered to Spain in the form of LNG, the country also uses pipelines from Algeria, an important gas supplier.

In Russia, an appropriate example is the Power of Siberia gas pipeline project. According to the plan, natural gas will be delivered from the fields north of Lake Baikal to the Amur Region, where it will be exported to China. Further, the gas pipeline will merge with the Sakhalin-Primorye main line. An LNG plant can be built in Vladivostok so that liquefied gas will be exported to consumers in Japan and, possibly, to other APR countries. This is an excellent example of consumer diversification, which is as important for suppliers as supplier diversification is important for consumers.

Every year the relevance of liquefied natural gas is increasing, not only abroad, but also in Russia. LNG plants are being built and increasing their productivity. In the Leningrad Region, for instance, there are four mini-plants already where LNG is loaded on gas carriers and shipped to consumers.

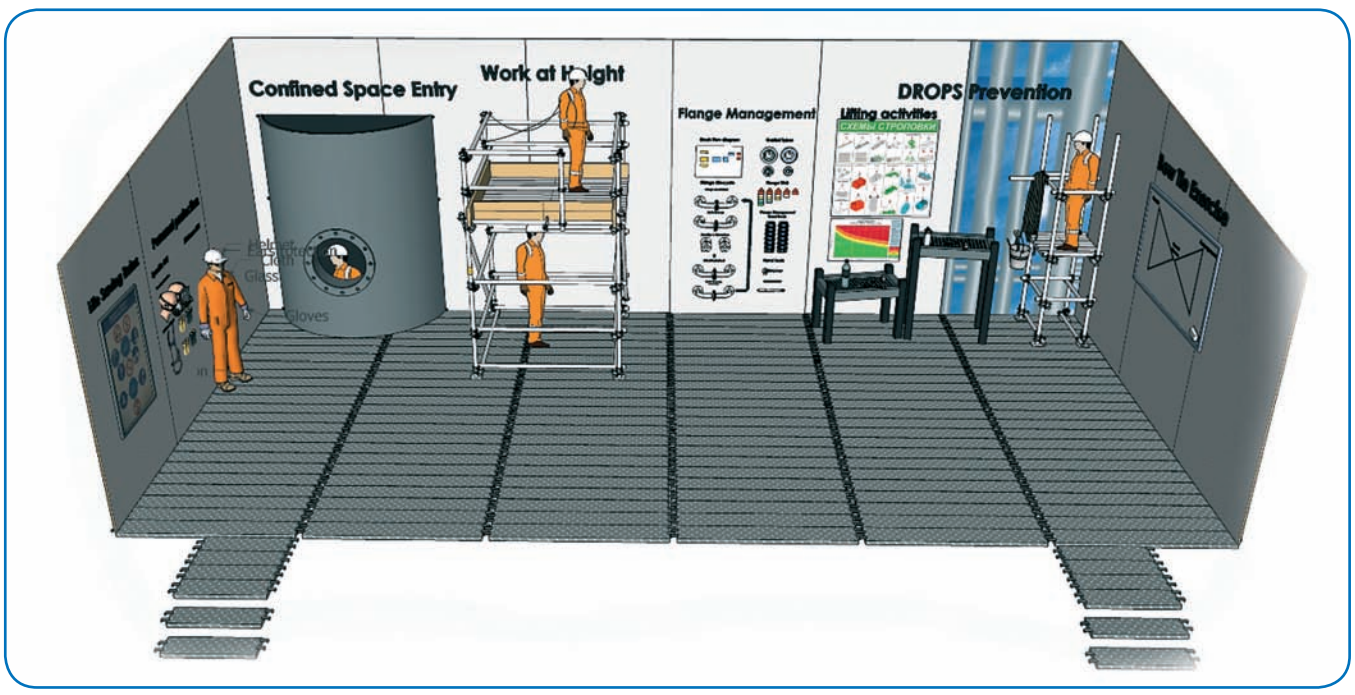
By the way, calculations have shown that LNG pipeline transport can also become economically efficient over short distances (25–30 km), despite the costs associated with the design and construction of such gas pipelines. Currently, the European Union is looking for new gas supply routes. In the meantime, Russia is going to build more LNG plants in the Leningrad Region, as well as on the Yamal Peninsula, which will complement the existing gas pipelines or those under construction. The sale of liquefied gas will allow the country to enter new markets in Europe and beyond.

Thus, the harmonisation of natural gas delivery will lead to lower prices for consumers and, accordingly, to an increase in the popularity of this fuel.

■ By Alexander Kiselev, based on materials from tek360.rbc.ru, www.science-education.ru, lngas.ru

Learn by Example

The LNG plant has launched a pilot project, which was already mentioned in the previous issues of the Vesti newsletter. The project, which is aimed at a qualitatively new presentation of material during safety briefings, continues to be developed.



3D model of the Visual Onboarding concept

In the age of digital technologies and social networks, the human brain perceives information differently than before. We write queries in search engines in the form of keywords rather than phrases, we convey the essence of an utterance through "memes", and we prefer short news feeds, infographics, and photo content to long newspaper articles and books. Analytical thinking has given way to visual thinking.

Having analysed the experience of the world's leading oil and gas companies, Prigorodnoye production complex employees came up with the idea of creating a training platform that will use the interactive visual method of information presentation. The project was named Visual Onboarding.

It took less than six months for the idea to come to fruition. The training centre was built using the asset's own resources available on site: scaffolding, roofing materials, stands. The project involved representatives of many disciplines, including contractor organisations.

Working at Height Stand

The Working at Height stand enables trainees to familiarise themselves with assembly scaffolding, fall protection equipment, and markings. They can climb the scaffolding and assess the situation.

"It's much better than sitting in a classroom for an hour and a half and watching a presentation. Here you can see and touch everything, try using it, and ask any questions about things you are interested in; in other words, you can practise the actions required in all possible situations."

Ivan Ivanov, specialist at CAPE

Visual Onboarding Training Centre

Life-Saving Rules Stand

The new training centre presents exhibitions simulating the most probable situations that the LNG plant specialists may encounter in daily work. Visitors to the centre begin their interactive tour with a review of the company's Life-Saving Rules and their most frequent violations.

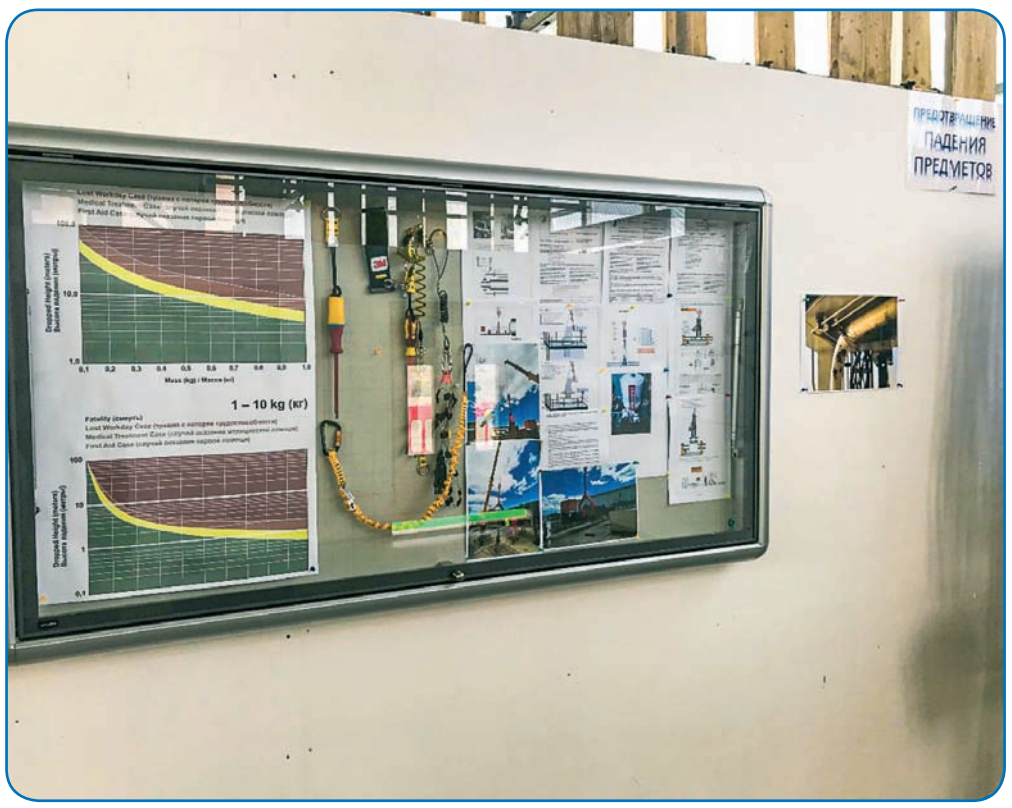
Working in a Confined Space Stand

The stand dedicated to work in a confined space deserves special attention. It vividly shows the hazards of working inside a tank, in an airless environment, and highlights relevant controls and protection measures. Trainees can even try to pull an "injured person" through a hatch-manhole and see for themselves that it is almost impossible to do alone. Victim rescue is a task that can only be successfully fulfilled by specially trained teams.

Personal Protective Equipment Stand

The next stand displays examples of various personal protective equipment (PPE) used at the Prigorodnoye production complex. It may seem that PPE has long become the norm at all production sites. In fact, however, few people know that the asset personnel use 14 kinds of gloves, each having its own special characteristics and area of application.

Dropped Objects Prevention (DROPS) Stand



Dropped Objects Prevention (DROPS) Stand

The DROPS is the most interactive stand of all. It exhibits items found at the production site during inspections, intervention rounds, and walkabouts. The stand provides detailed information about controls used during the preparation of the workplace in order to prevent objects from falling. It is important to note that the use of special safety harnesses prevents hand tools used in work from dropping. Several examples of such devices are displayed on the stand.

Dropped Objects Prevention (DROPS) Stand

Observation and intervention practice is the hallmark of a strong occupational safety culture at the company's facilities. In one of the exhibition areas, trainees can try their hand at using this training by identifying hazards and detecting violations.

Alexander Dostovalov is conducting a Visual Onboarding session for the personnel of Technologies and Catalysts, a contracting organisation

Alexander Dostovalov is conducting a Visual Onboarding session for the personnel of Technologies and Catalysts, a contracting organisation

The final exhibition area of the centre demonstrates the Bow-Tie model. Visitors to the centre are given the task to identify risks of incident occurrence, to set up barriers to prevent an adverse outcome, and to take measures to reduce negative effects in the future.

To-date, all contractor employees who have arrived at the LNG plant for the scheduled shutdown and more than 260 employees of the Prigorodnoye production complex have visited and completed training in the centre. The project has received many positive reviews. Training programme participants willingly express their opinions of the exhibition areas and suggest topics for other stands which they would like to see in the centre. In turn, the organisers of the Prigorodnoye Training Centre do not rest on their laurels, but continue to improve the project.

In the nearest future, they intend to equip an Electrical Safety section where the company's employees and contractors will have on-site training sessions.

The possibilities of using digital and augmented reality technologies are currently under consideration. The LNG plant specialists and the training centre staff are jointly studying options for purchasing all necessary equipment and software. The introduction of digital technologies will make it possible to train programme participants to carry out maintenance of large-sized rotating equipment in simulated conditions and to perform high-risk work with immersion in a virtual environment.

There is still much work to be done: the centre will also be used for training personnel for the major shutdown scheduled for 2021. The introduction of this approach will be another step towards achieving Goal Zero at the Prigorodnoye production complex.

■ Andrey Sharipov, Marina Ivanchikova

75th Anniversary of the Great Victory

Memories are like pattering, incessant rain, Memories are like never-ending icy snowflakes

History has given us, Sakhalin and Kuril residents, the right to celebrate Victory Day twice. During the Great Patriotic War, Belarusians, Turkmens, Ukrainians, Tajiks, Georgians, and other peoples fought shoulder to shoulder. Indigenous minorities in the north of the Sakhalin Region, such as the Nivkh, the Uilta, the Evenks and the Nanai, also sent their soldiers to war. Their losses were doubly tragic. Nevertheless, military commissars were bombarded with hundreds of applications from volunteers who wanted to go to the front lines. Those who remained in the rear had a difficult path ahead as well. 17-year-olds Leonid Zhamyanov and Oksana Innokentyeva tell stories about their great-grandfathers.

YOU CAN'T EVEN CRY

"I'm Evenk and I know for sure that if Hitler had won the Second World War, he would have slaughtered my people like dogs... He considered anybody other than the Aryans to be inferior people. Surely, my compatriots would have been exterminated.

I want to tell you about my ancestors who participated in the Great Patriotic War. My great-granduncle, Nikolay Solovyov, was born in 1915. Before the war, he worked on a collective farm. Being a noble reindeer herder and hunter, he joined the Komsomol and was drafted into the ranks of the Red Army. He served on the border between China and Mongolia on the Far Eastern Front for over six years, defending the eastern frontiers of the Soviet Union from the Japanese army. Nikolay Solovyov was awarded For Battle Merit and For the Victory over Japan medals.

Leonid Zhamyanov with his research tutor Elena Bibikova, the Uilta elder, at the Second Youth Conference, November 2019

"Award a For Battle Merit medal to Nikolay Solovyov, a rifleman of the 6th Rifle Company, 2nd Rifle Battalion, 1060th Rifle Regiment of the Red Army for his actions during the conquest of an officer's outpost: he was the first to breach it and personally destroyed two enemy soldiers." (Extract from the Award Order).

Zhamyan Bazarov

My great-grandfather was a very sociable person (he loved to talk, wrote songs in the Evenki language, performed at concerts), but he never told war stories. I know this from my mother, my aunt, and my grandma. If people pestered him with questions, he either cried or withdrew into himself. Memories of those days made him silent. After the Victory, he worked as a foreman and was awarded for dedicated work.

His brother, Nikolay Solovyev, fought against the Japanese militarists. Being an excellent taiga hunter, he served in the Soviet intelligence service in the south of Sakhalin (there are reports that he was a sniper). Just before the end of the war, he was captured and kept in a prison in Toyohara (now Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk). He was freed by Soviet troops. At the end of the 1930s, his son Georgy entered the Herzen Leningrad State Pedagogical Institute. From there he was drafted into the army. Nothing more is known about him. Unfortunately, his fate is typical. Representatives of small-numbered peoples often roamed from place to place. Letters and notices could not reach their addressees. Their families could not even mourn the fallen heroes... Anyway, our people are not in the habit of mourning. It is considered taboo or a sin.

My great-grandmother, Varvara Solovyeva, the mother of my beloved grandmother Ada, roamed the north, west and east coast of Sakhalin, with her herd of twenty reindeer. She always had some children with her: her daughters, her brothers' sons, and orphans. She took care of children from repressed families, children whose fathers fought and mothers worked "on the second front", in the rear. She welcomed everyone into her big family. Being a taiga woman, a wonderful hunter and fisher, my great-grandmother provided meat, fish, berries, herbs, climbing skins, and other animal skins to the army. Women dressed them and made warm mittens for snipers, soft boots, suede pouches, and even upper garments. Soldiers wrote from the front: "Mama Varya! Your deerskin overcoat keeps us from freezing."

Oksana Innokentyeva

Members of the Reindeer Herder Collective Farm from the village of Val sold fish, meat, berries, and skins in order to buy a tank. And they succeeded: a tank named Val Reindeer Collective Farm on Sakhalin was delivered to the front line.

"Award a For Battle Merit medal to Senior Sergeant Zhamyan Bazarov, the Company Squad Commander, for the exemplary manner in which he fulfilled the superior order to make a 700-kilometre march, passing the waterless area and the Greater Khingan Range, and for his personal courage and keeping his subordinates inspired through his example." Extract from the Award Order.

My great-grandfather, Zhamyan Bazarov, a Buryat by ethnicity, was drafted into the Red Army in 1941. He served in infantry units of the Far Eastern Front. He was awarded For Battle Merit and For the Victory over Japan medals.

You can learn about this feat from the book and film of the same name Through the Gobi and Khingan. After the war, in 1946, Zhamyan returned to his home in Darkhituy.

During the war, his wife, my great-grandmother Darima worked on collective farm fields and looked after cows and sheep. She said that every person had experienced sorrow and hardship during the war. Their belief in victory, their hope that their family members and friends would return home helped them to survive. My grandmother lived till 92 years old and worked until her last day.

I am proud of my relatives. Many thanks and eternal memory to them!

UNSENT LETTER

"My dear great-grandma! I know little about you, but I love you very much. I would like to snuggle up to you, feel your tender embrace, bury my head in your warm shoulder. I would like to share my emotions with you, talk about my achievements, so that you would help me with your experience and guide me on the right path. I want you to be here and say: "Not everything will be perfect, but you can do it! Everyone had hard times, you know how difficult it was to survive that war, but we did it! You will win too! I believe in you!"

We didn't get to know each other, but I've always admired you. All I know is that you were very beautiful, kind, and intelligent. You spoke five languages: Uilta, Evenki, Russian, Japanese, and some Ainu. In peacetime, you lived in Val and were engaged in reindeer husbandry, gathering, and fishing. You wanted to join the Komsomol and get married...

But the war came to Sakhalin. In those years, many of our compatriots joined the fight against the Japanese militarists.

Your language skills helped you: during the liberation of South Sakhalin, you were a translator for the Japanese government. Working for the enemy, you remained true to your homeland and became a scout. They reported that you were proficient in Japanese and accurately passed information to the Soviet government.

On 12 January 1949, Colonel Eliseev, the Head of the Sakhalin Oblast Division of the Ministry of State Security, received a request: "In 1942, Comrade Portnoy, the Head of the Sakhalin Oblast Division of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD), deposited with the Sakhalin Oblast Committee of the All-Union Communist Party Bolsheviks (AUCP(b)) the following party and Komsomol membership cards, the holders of which, by order of the NKVD, were deployed to the Japanese-controlled part of Sakhalin: Grigory Makarov, born in 1916, candidate for membership in the AUCP(b); Grigory Pavlov, born in 1916, candidate for membership in the AUCP(b); Pyotr Andreev, born in 1916, member of the Komsomol since 1935 (deceased); Konstantin Sadan, born in 1923, member of the Komsomol since 1938; Tygo; Grigory Mikheev. All of them lived in the villages of Val and Chayvo. I ask you to provide information about their fates."
From the archive of the Sakhalin Oblast Committee of the AUCP(b)

**This is the only evidence of the fact that these people participated in the liberation of the south of Sakhalin and the Kuriles from the Japanese invaders. Other documents were lost...*

I heard many good things about you. You were often praised for your courage, resilience and empathy. Your pride, nobility and sense of patriotism amazed and inspired your comrades, while your persistence and dedication frightened your enemies. I, your great-granddaughter, know that the Japanese discovered you and put you in jail. They tortured you but got nothing out of you. Soviet troops freed you from captivity, but then you were accused of spying for Japan and sent to a labour camp. You endured all the hardships. Returning to your homeland after rehabilitation, you did not lose your faith in life. You were still ready for love and happiness. Your children – my grandfather and his five brothers and sisters – are proof of this!

Anna Innokentyeva (in the centre)

People who knew you said: "Anna was an amazing woman! So selfless and caring. She always achieved her goals! She was often sad, but it was understandable. Not everyone could survive what she survived."

I'm proud of you. Many years have passed since that terrible war, but I will always admire you for your resilience, confidence, and love of life. I will always learn from you. Unfortunately, you are not around, but I still feel your love. I will never disgrace you, because you devoted the best years of your life to future generations, including me, so that we would be happy. I will pass on the memory of you to my children and grandchildren!"

■ Prepared by Elena Gurshal

Send us your stories about the war veterans at ea@sakhalinenergy.ru

facts and figures

One More Victory

On 3 September Russia celebrated the End of the World War II – a kind of the second Victory Day in the war declared by Soviet Union to Japan on 8 August 1945. The key operations took place on the Russian Far East, the most dispute area.

On the night of 9 August, the Manchurian Offensive Operation began.

On August 10, at 10 p.m., Marshal Aleksander Vasilevsky, the Commander-in-Chief of Soviet Forces in the Far East, gave the order to begin preparations for the liberation of South Sakhalin.

The Japanese high command blocked the Poronay line with a powerful fortified area. The defensive line, 12 kilometres along the front and about 30 kilometres in depth, was built north of the town of Koton (Pobedino). The Koton (or Kharamitog) fortified area was well prepared in engineering terms and had 17 reinforced concrete pillboxes, over 130 artillery and machine-gun bunkers, and a large number of well-equipped artillery and mortar positions. In the event of an air raid or massive artillery fire, the garrison could take refuge in 150 reinforced concrete shelters. South Sakhalin was defended by the 88th Infantry Division, totalling 19 thousand servicemen, including about 10 thousand reservists. The main forces of the Japanese division were concentrated on the border. The garrison of the Koton fortified area alone numbered about 5,400 soldiers and officers.

In addition to the Koton garrison, Japanese troops were located in the ports of southern Sakhalin. A well-developed network of railways and motor roads, as well as 13 airfields, allowed the Japanese high command to quickly redeploy their forces on the island and from other theatres of operation.

By the end of August 1945, forces of the 56th Rifle Corps, under the command of General Anatoly Dyakonov, opposed the Japanese troops in the north of Sakhalin. The Northern Pacific Flotilla operated at sea. It consisted of nine submarines, a Zarnitsa patrol ship, five minesweepers, 24 torpedo boats, and several detachments of patrol boats. The air group in the Sakhalin region was represented by the 255th Mixed Aviation Division (about 100 aircraft).

On 11 August, at 9:35 a.m., Soviet aircraft bombed Esutoru, Toro and Koton. At 10 a.m., Dyakonov's troops launched an offensive. The South Sakhalin offensive operation had begun.

The units of the 79th Rifle Division advanced on the main line, along the marshy valley of the Poronay River. Thanks to their blistering attack, the Soviet army took the advanced positions of the Japanese troops and seized strongholds on Mount Lysaya and Mount Golaya with little or no opposition.

The Japanese tried to build a resistance at the Khandasa stronghold, which covered a road to the main positions of the Koton fortified area. By conducting a turning movement and night assault, the Soviet army seized the Khandasa stronghold.

By August 1945, the Japanese forces in the Kuril Islands totalled over 80 thousand people. Up to 23 thousand of them were deployed in the immediate vicinity of Soviet Kamchatka, on Paramushir and on Shumshu, the northernmost island of the Kuril Islands. The landing of Soviet troops on this small piece of land was the last operation of the Second World War.

On 12 August, by the end of the day, the 165th Rifle Regiment had reached the fortified area. To the right of the main forces of the corps, along the Tatar Strait, border guards and a special company of machine gunners were advancing towards Ambetsu.

The 179th Regiment operated to the east. Its task was to pass the marshy floodplain of the Poronay River and gain the rear of the Koton garrison. The unit had to operate in extremely difficult conditions. There were no roads in this area. Soldiers waded waist deep in water in the lowlands. Naturally, heavy weaponry was out of the question. The troops had neither tanks nor artillery. There were only mortars which they had to carry themselves. The Japanese command did not expect an attack from the Soviet troops on this line, because they considered it impenetrable for heavy weaponry. The battalion of Captain Leonid Smirnykh, an advanced unit of the 179th Regiment, destroyed the Japanese garrison in Muyka in one swift stroke. Then, advancing south, the battalion entered a fierce battle and destroyed a large defensive point which protected a railway bridge. During the short but bloody battle, Smirnykh's fighters destroyed 18 enemy bunkers. By the evening of 12 August, the battalion's scouts had reached the outskirts of Koton.

On 13 August, mobile units of the corps (214th Tank Brigade) passed the forward line of the Japanese fortified area and reached its main zone. The tankers tried to break through the enemy's defences on the move, but they faced heavy fire and had to stop the assault.

On August 14, the 165th Rifle Regiment continued to consolidate on the objective and tried to break through the Japanese defences with periodic attacks. On this day, Alexander Matrosov's feat was repeated by Senior Sergeant Anton Buyukly, who used his body to shield the embrasure of a Japanese bunker. He was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for this feat.

The 179th Rifle Regiment (without the 2nd Battalion) repelled two enemy counter-attacks, and took control of the Koton railway station and the southern slopes of Mount Harmitoria. The battalion of Captain Leonid Smirnykh played a significant, if not decisive, role in the battles for Koton. His unit was the first to reach the city and immediately engaged in battle with the Japanese. The enemy quickly quelled the panic caused by the attack of the Soviet soldiers from an unexpected direction and launched a psychological attack against them with banners unfurled. By order of the captain, when the enemy got within 50 metres, they opened fire. All of the attacking force was destroyed.

On 16 August, Captain Smirnykh was killed by a Japanese sniper. He was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Concurrent with local battles, active preparations for the assault were under way. Divisional artillery and the artillery regiment of the High Command Reserve were moved up to the penetration area. Also, the 2nd Rifle Brigade joined the corps.

In the morning, artillery and aviation preparations for the future assault began. Despite all efforts, these remote attacks did not cause serious damage to Japanese positions. Thus, all the burden of breaking the enemy defences fell on the 79th Rifle Division, which attached the general line towards the Harami-Toge pass in order to split the enemy's grouping.

On 17 August, units of the 179th regiment, reinforced with artillery, began an offensive against Koton from the south. Soon, the town was taken. Lieutenant Colonel Kudryavtsev's units started an offensive towards the main forces of the 56th Rifle Corps. In the evening of the same day, north of Koton, Kudryavtsev's troops met with soldiers of the 165th Rifles Regiment. The Kharamitog fortified area was broken through. Its garrison was divided into two parts.

On 18 August, at 12 noon, Colonel Kobayashi, who commanded the 125th Infantry Regiment, sent envoys to negotiate surrender. The fighting in the Koton fortified area ceased.

On 19 August, by the end of the day, the remnants of the enemy had garrison surrendered. However, as was the case in other sectors of the Soviet-Japanese front, not everyone complied with the surrender order. Part of the Japanese troops began to withdraw to the south. The 165th and 179th Rifle Regiments marched along the Koton – Kami – Shikuka route. The second battalion of the 179th regiment was sent to the Muyka stronghold, where the Japanese garrison had not laid down their arms. The second battalion of the 165th regiment went to the village of Kushunnai.

On 25 August, the city of Toyohara was taken. More than 18 thousand Japanese soldiers and officers had surrendered. The southern part of Sakhalin, torn away from Russia as a result of the Russian-Japanese war of 1904-1905, was returned to the USSR.

On 2 September, the Japan's "Act of Unconditional Surrender" was signed.

On 3 September, Soviet newspapers published an appeal by Joseph Stalin, which stated the end of the war with Japan. This day was declared by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, as a day of national celebration – the holiday of Victory over Japan.

Prepared by Elena Gurshal

Send us your stories about the war veterans at ea@sakhalinenergy.ru

The Great Victory

Sakhalin Energy supported commemorative events in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk devoted to the 75th Anniversary of the Great Victory.

On the eve of the Victory in the Pacific Day, prizes were given to the winners of the White Dove Festival of Military History hosted by the Victory Museum and Memorial Complex.

This year, pre-schoolers from nine districts of Sakhalin, a total of 80 children, made their contributions to the festival. In their videos, the kindergarteners recited poetry and sang songs about the Great Patriotic War. The young talents received scores from professional judges, and everyone else could vote online for their favourite work.

"Patriotic events are always emotional, especially those involving children. This competition is not an exception – we were delighted with all the videos. It is important for the little guys to share their feelings about this complicated matter through creativity and imagination, but one of the works even moved us to tears, so we want to award a special prize to its authors," explains Anna Lygina, Senior Specialist for Social Performance, Sakhalin Energy – the festival title sponsor.

The winner of the competition was the performance group from Raduga Daycare, Troitsky village – the pre-schoolers staged a short play called Scarlet Sunsets. "We wanted to talk with our children about war through their participation in a musical. We didn't have to record many takes – the kids, all 22 of them, did the acting with all their heart, and this is their victory which they will definitely remember for life, as they will remember the one they had commemorated in their performance," says Tatiana Shpankova, Raduga Daycare's teacher.

Historical reconstruction of the city atmosphere on the Victory Day in May 1945 and heartfelt melodies of the military brass band were the heart and soul of another festival event that gathered a host of people by the Regional Art Museum. The famous military songs were accompanied by waltz and tango performed by the guests of the event Meeting Place: Dance Floor.

"It's so remarkable that everyone can take part in today's event, from the WWII veterans to young boys and girls who came here with their families to get a feel of that sunny day of the victorious May and honor its heroes," comments Svetlana Degtyareva, a resident of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

The improvised themed venue offered something for everyone – the exhibition of books Hot August '45, a tour over the Second World War exhibition, workshops for younger guests who could try on military uniforms and disassemble and assemble an AK-47.

"Before that, I saw the famous rifle only on TV, I could only dream of ever laying my hands on it. And then this surprise on the way from school. It was really fascinating to try doing it on my very own. I think it will come in handy when I serve in the army," Boris Dolsky, a sixth-grader shares his experience.

A screening of Mosfilm's One Second for a Feat was the final chord in the intense programme – the viewers got a chance to watch the film in the open air.

Meeting Place: Dance Floor was the key event of the Victory Spring, a year-long joint project of Sakhalin Energy and the Sakhalin Regional Art Museum dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

■ By Marina Semitko

Send us your stories about the war veterans at ea@sakhalinenergy.ru

#vacation2020, Or a Journey from Moscow to Karelia

A man is made happy by three things: love, interesting work and the opportunity to travel"
Ivan Bunin

Rightly so. During the lockdown, it seemed we had almost everything necessary to feel happy. We received plenty of love and attention from our loved ones. We had interesting work and could engage in it without even leaving home. At last, we had the long-awaited opportunity to take a break from the rat race, to read or study something which we had never been able to find time for before.

Still...

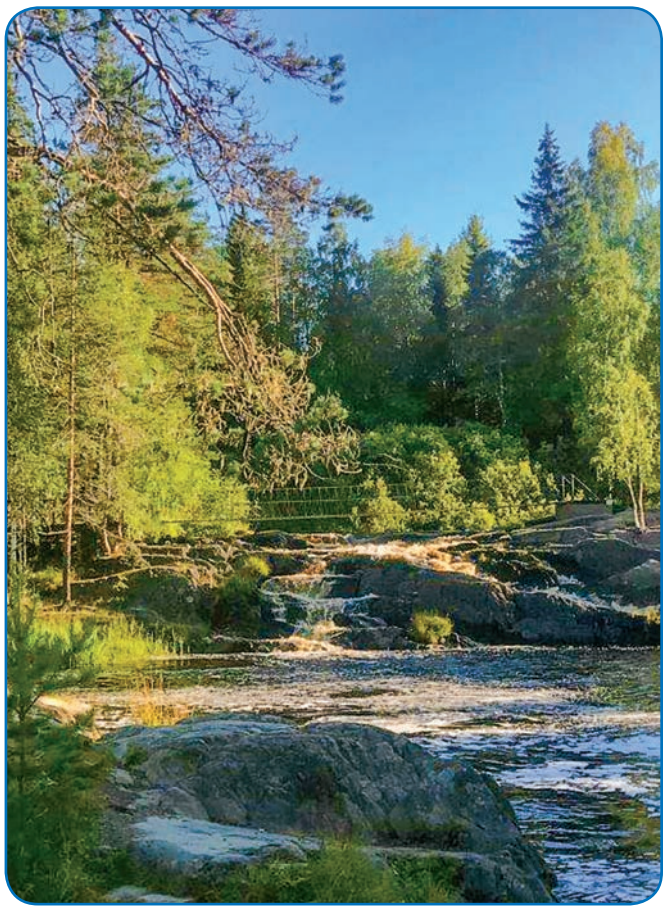
A month passed, then another, and all of a sudden, we started to realise that something important was missing from our life, keeping us from being completely happy. Then it slowly dawned on us: what we lacked were positive emotions– the joy and excitement that we normally got from travelling. I started to fantasise about places I would go to when the lockdown was finally lifted. The reality, however, was cruel: the borders were closed, and severe restrictions were still in place in many regions.

The idea to visit Karelia was not new – it had been germinating in my subconscious mind for a long time already: we had once discussed the possibility of our whole family travelling by

The En Route Imperial Palace, City of Tver

car across Russia. But somehow after all disputes about holiday destinations, we had usually ended up going to the sea. When the question arose about where to go on holiday last summer, our team unanimously chose Karelia.

We began to plan the route and determine what sights we could see along the way. Soon we set off. Our first destination was the ancient city of Tver. The En Route Imperial Palace, with a huge collection of works of art, was undoubtedly the most interesting place to visit there. We also loved the view from the Volga embankment. In addition to the traditional tour



of the city, we visited the unusual Goat Museum. Nowhere before had I seen so many goats per square metre! This private museum is not included in any official catalogues, but it is increasingly popular among tourists. A rather small room houses a surprisingly large collection: badges, figurines, flags, little

Boulder bridge

statues – all with images of or in the shape of this funny animal. Should you find yourself in Tver, be sure to drop in at the Goat Museum. It will be a one-of-a-kind experience.

Further along the route we put up in Torzhok, a lovely town with many interesting sights, despite its small size. The first place we visited there was the museum at the gold embroidery factory. Quite unexpectedly, we were taken on a tour of the factory, where we saw ancient works of art created by Torzhok craftswomen commissioned by Russian monarchs – from the Ruriks to the Romanovs, the last royal dynasty of Russia. We also admired modern embroidery on Russian coats of arms, flags and other symbols, on the robes of Archbishops and uniforms of senior military officers.

We are re-opening the travel section of the newsletter and inviting company employees to tell us about their travels in Russia. Because of the pandemic this year, many of us faced a difficult (or maybe easy?) choice – where to go in our country to get away from it all and admire some places of interest. Please send your stories about your holidays in Russia by e-mail to ea@sakhalinenergy.ru, share your photos and impressions, and we will be happy to publish them on the pages of the Vesti newsletter.

You have probably seen *Night Watch*. Do you remember the beginning of the film, where the dark and light forces converged on a boulder bridge? This remarkable site is located in the Vasilevo architectural and ethnographic open-air museum near Torzhok. Timur Bekmambetov had good reasons to choose that location for the film. Not only did we admire the picturesque landscapes, but we also felt a special energy there.

Valdai. When we arrived at Valdai, the weather was wonderful, so we had a splendid opportunity to go boating (by the way, it was the RF Navy Day) and enjoy a resplendent sunrise. The main tourist attraction of Valdai is the Iversky Monastery, which is included in the treasury of Russian Orthodox culture.

The Rurik settlement

After Valdai, we headed for Veliky Novgorod. Every time we visit such majestic places, we are overwhelmed with emotions, feeling a connection to the history of Russia. It was here that the Russian state began its more than thousand-year journey. It was here where the Ruriks landed from their ships and founded a town that eventually grew into a political and commercial centre. It was here where the famous trade route "from the Varangians to the Greeks" once passed. To experience these feelings, you need to explore the Novgorod Kremlin, visit its museums, climb the bell tower, and see Yaroslav's courtyard. The best way to do this is to take a tour with a guide who will remind adults about the glorious moments of our history and spark children's interest in it. Leaving the city, we decided to have a good look at the Rurik settlement. This is more than just the place where Great Russia began – it is a place of power, where one wants to exclaim: "The smell of Russia! Here is the Russian spirit!.."

Finally, we moved on towards Karelia, planning to pass St. Petersburg on our way. As you probably know, the most interesting things always happen when you do not make any definite plans. The sat nav showed that we were passing Shlisselburg and the famous Oreshek fortress. How could we forgo an opportunity to visit them?! So we took a small water taxi from the ferry landing and reached the island in just 10 minutes. Right before our eyes was the legendary fortress, which, at different times, had been a gloomy and inhospitable home to

The Saint Sophia Cathedral, Novgorod

many a famous prisoner – from the Man in the Iron Mask to political prisoners of the tsarist regime.

Further, our way lay straight to Sortavala – an old cosy town located on the banks of Lake Ladoga not far from the Russia–Finland border 270 kilometres west of St. Petersburg. That was where we began to get acquainted with Karelia. The territory of Sortavala is known for Finno-Ugric settlements, which were located there in the old times. The first settlers in this region were the Saami, the oldest people of Northern Europe, who emerged in Scandinavia about 10 thousand years ago. Karelia is a wildlife sanctuary with numerous forests and lakes. Its area is approximately equal to that of Greece or Bulgaria.

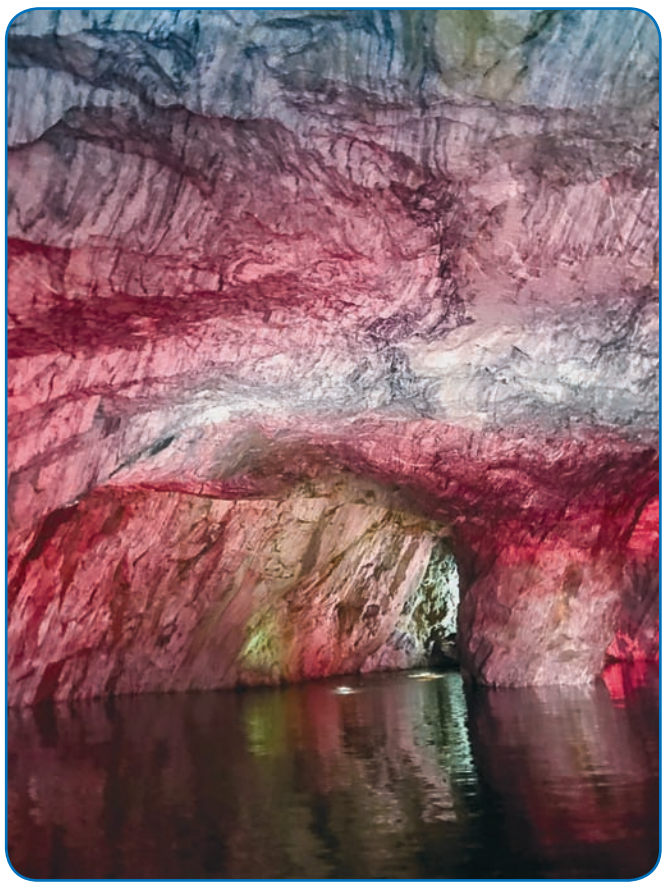
What sites are worth seeing in the vicinity of Sortavala? Of course, Ruskeala Mountain Park. This is a fantastic park complex, where the spectacular nature of the north is complemented by a landscape that has been developed through years human activity. From the 17th to the beginning of the 20th century, there were quarries in this area, where local people mined marble, both for the majestic palaces of St. Petersburg and for their own household needs. The three quarries were connected by underground mine galleries. As soon as the extraction of marble was stopped, water was no longer pumped out of the quarries. This led to the formation of beautiful lakes with marble shores. To admire the breath-taking beauty of marble, you

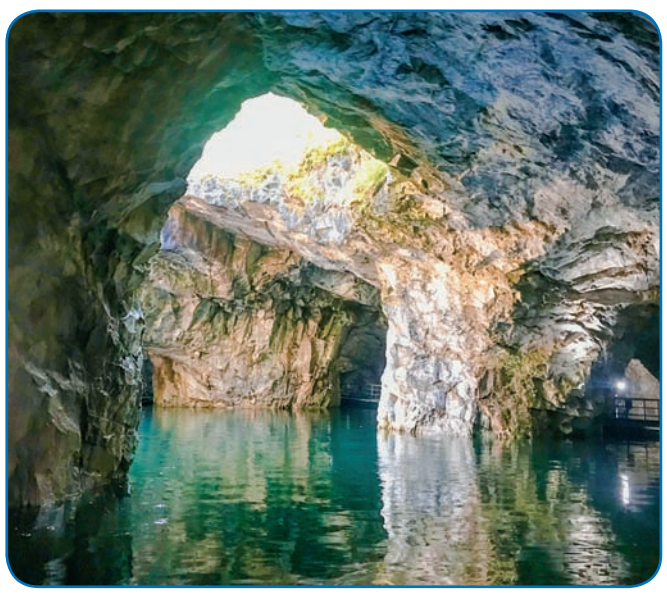
Oreshek fortress

should go on an underground tour. The crystal-clear lakes, the colour and musical accompaniment will make an unforgettable impression on you. You will not be able to take your eyes off the unique sight. It is absolutely amazing!

Equally amazing are the Ruskeala Waterfalls on the Tohmajoki River, located very close to the park. This area is associated with another, unforgettable film – The Dawns Here Are Quiet, the main part of which was shot here, at the Ruskeala Waterfalls.

Ruskeala Waterfalls





Ruskeala Mountain Park

The shore of Lake Yanisyarvi is where Zoogrinpark, the largest zoo in the north-western region of Russia, is situated. Its main feature is that the animals are kept here in conditions which are as close as possible to those of their natural habitat. The zoo boasts representatives of almost all existing species of the artiodactyl order. At the entrance gate visitors can buy carrots as a treat for the residents of the zoo. We bought three packs and later wished we had bought more. It was such great fun to observe the cute goats, bisons and yaks doing their best to get their favourite delicacy!

Not far from Sortavala, there is another attraction – Valaam Island. It is a must-visit place for tourists. Valaam is an absolutely magical area with magnificent nature. The island is home to Valaam Monastery, one of the most revered monasteries in Russia. Its spiritual life is inextricably linked with history. When our motorboat approached the island and the tops of the Spaso-Preobrazhensky monastery emerged in the distance, the view took our breath away. Although the number of tourists is impressive (despite the current restrictions), the atmosphere of the island is imbued with extraordinary peace and quiet. Our life is so full of hustle and bustle that it is difficult to find harmony and peace of mind. Valaam has it in spades!

Valaam

After the short stay in Valaam, we went further and further north – to Petrozavodsk, the capital of Karelia. By the way, this city is the same age as St. Petersburg. Petrozavodsk was built with the direct participation of Peter the Great. It is located just a stone's throw from the island of Kizhi. Visiting Kizhi had been my long-time dream. Happily, it came true. Sometimes I can't even believe that I was there! When I was a child, I saw

Kizhi

monuments of wooden architecture mainly in pictures. It is totally different when you see them with your own eyes: the sight of the temples of unsurpassed beauty a few metres before you fills your heart with delight. At present, the Kizhi Pogost is the only ensemble preserved in the territory of Russia, which

the Zoo of Karelia

Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral, Valaam

includes two multi-domed wooden churches. The Church of the Transfiguration of Our Saviour, crowned with a complex system of twenty-two large scaly domes arranged in four tiers, immediately captures your attention. Next to it is the Intercession Church. The third building of the ensemble is a bell tower. Fortunately for us, it was opened at the time, so we were allowed to climb it. Looking out from the top of the tower, we had the feeling that the domes were floating in the air... But is it possible to describe it all in words?! You must visit Kizhi, so carefully restored and preserved, and explore it for yourselves.

In the remaining few days of our journey, we travelled the area near Petrozavodsk and visited every beautiful nook created by nature itself: the Kivach and Grivas Waterfalls and, of course, Mount Sampo with a stunning view from its top. I must say that the atmosphere on Mount Sampo is very special. It seems that the blacksmith Seppo Ilmarinen will appear here any moment and start forging a magic sampo for Old Woman Loukhi, the mistress of Pohjola, a distant harsh Saami country, as payment for her daughter's hand. In fact, the unique nature of Karelia, with its waterfalls, boulders and majestic trees, makes you feel as if you were in a fairy-tale and reminds you of the legends of the Finno-Ugric peoples.

This journey was one of the most memorable in my life. I would have never thought that there were such incredibly beautiful places in our country. I have heard a song with the following line: "You will see Karelia in your dreams for a long time..." Indeed, once you have seen the natural beauty of Karelia, you will never forget it.

I would like to finish the story about our holiday with the words of Hans Christian Andersen: "To travel is to live." And life is truly enjoyable!

■ Olga Moreva

Spaso-Preobrazhensky monastery

society

Sakhalin – an Island of Traditions

The jubilee XV International Exhibition "Treasures of the North. Russian Masters and Painters 2020" took place in the Sokolniki Exhibition and Convention Centre, Moscow. It represented 26 regions of the Russian Federation. The Sakhalin delegation was able to take part in the exhibition thanks to the support of the Sakhalin Oblast Government, the Sakhalin Oblast Ministry of Culture and Archives (Sakhalin Regional Folk Arts and Crafts Centre) and Sakhalin Energy.

During the celebration of its 30th anniversary, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East (RAIPON) awarded Roman Dashkov, Sakhalin Energy Chief Executive Officer, with a Medal For the Loyalty to the North.

"For the Loyalty to the North is a public award that honours a person's active stance. We greatly appreciate the commitment of the Sakhalin Energy CEO to the cooperation between businesses and Sakhalin indigenous minorities. Your company demonstrates a rare example of a constructive approach that is based on best international practices and standards. Without a doubt, its long-term implementation calls for managerial decisions at the highest administrative level," noted Grigory Ledkov, RAIPON President.

The prestigious award was also presented to Yulia Zavyalova, Lead Specialist of Sakhalin Energy Social Performance Subdivision, who had been coordinating company projects aimed at supporting social and economic development of SIMs for the last 15 years.

The opening ceremony was attended by representatives of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, federal and regional government bodies, scientific and educational institutions, business organisations, public institutions and the media, which is a convincing proof that this exhibition unites society, government and business.

The Sakhalin delegation includes well-known island craftspersons – Veronika Osipova, Albina Mygun, Lyudmila Paskit, Vadim Levkun, Olga Sadinova, Valeria Osipova. They are going to hold workshops to share their experience of making souvenirs from fish skin and birch bark, traditional embroidery, woodcarving, etc. and teach anyone willing the secrets of their craft.

One of the events held as part of the Treasures of the North. Craftsmen and Artists of Russia 2020 International Exhibition-Fair in Moscow was the presentation of The Wise Seal, a book by Vladimir Sangi, which had been published with the support of Sakhalin Energy. The publication of the book had been dedicated to the 85th birthday of the writer. This project was special in that it was the first edition of the author's literary fairy tale in the Nivkh language.

The Treasures of the North Exhibition hosted the Mother Earth. Indigenous Peoples. Fish Festival arranged by Slow Food in Russia, a non-profit organisation. "Fish is a source of inspiration for many artists, such as Veronika Osipova, a member of the Union of Artists of Russia. On the other hand, traditional recipes and unique dishes with fish can be rightfully considered part of the northerners' philosophy," said Yulia Zavyalova, Lead Specialist of Sakhalin Energy Social Performance Subdivision.

A presentation of the first catalogue – the Ark of Taste, published with the support of Sakhalin Energy, took place. According to Yuri Stolpovsky, President of Slow Food in Russia and Deputy Director for Science of the N. I. Vavilov Institute of General Genetics, this unique publication consolidates the multinational culinary heritage of our country that is currently facing extinction.

Sakhalin Oblast won the top prize in the "The Best Regional Display" category. Exposition "Sakhalin – the Island of Traditions" was presented as ke-raf - Nivkh summer dwelling. When designing the booth, special attention was paid to the careful attitude of indigenous ethnic groups to the cultural heritage handed down by their ancestors, which is expressed in the original ornaments, traditional clothes and household items.

Bear Stories

(the end. Read the beginning in August and September issues)

STORY THREE

Ivan Zdorikov, Environmental Specialist of the HSE Group:

"In July-August 2009, I went to the Shantar Islands – it was a memorable hike during which I had the largest number of encounters with bears. I saw them every day, and often several individuals at a time. There was a lot of fish that year, and the bears did not show any aggression towards our group, though the curiosity inherent in these animals was periodically leading to face-to-face encounters.

It goes without saying that living in an area full of bears motivates one to strictly follow all the rules of living in the wilderness. We stored our foodstuffs in sealed packages; we washed up and put away the dishes immediately after meals; as for food waste (there was not much of it, generally), we either took it out of the camp territory or burnt it in a fire.

Nevertheless, bears roamed near the campsite almost every night. We would turn on a powerful electric torch and "admire" the reflection of the light in their eyes. It is easy to distinguish a bear's eyes from those of a fox – the distance between the eyes of bears is considerably larger. Several times we had to frighten off some insolent individuals who tried to come close to us. For this, we used firecrackers. After the lights were off, the bears would enter the camp, rummage in our things and scatter them around. They weren't even afraid of the bonfires we laid around the perimeter.

By the way, we had a stock of food for the return trip, which we left in plastic containers suspended on a tree at the intermediate point of the route. It's a pity that we no longer have the photo of what was left of those containers after a bear had got to them. Therefore, if someone suggests such an idea during a hike, keep in mind that this method will not work in areas inhabited by bears – the beasts will certainly get to the food.

Whenever we left the territory of the camp, we went in groups. At night we stayed in the camp, having stocked up firewood in the daytime.

The bears were always nearby. I remember one morning when I was on duty in the "kitchen" and got up earlier than everyone else. I went down to the river to get water into a pan (the camp was on a riverbank). Across the river, I saw a small bear fishing. I did the washing up and went back to the camp. Later it suddenly struck me that we had got so accustomed to our four-legged neighbours that we took them for granted. From the point of view of Health, Safety and Environment (HSE), this is called "risk normalisation". Forming such a habit usually leads to trouble, as one should always be on the alert.

During the hike, there was another incident when I got really scared. We approached the shore in the boat, planning to land at the site of our next overnight stay – a sandy hill. I picked up the anchor, jumped out of the boat, climbed the hill, and stopped in my tracks: there was a sleeping bear on its top. A bear caught by surprise is exceptionally dangerous, even if he is not hungry. Surely everyone understands that defence in the form of an attack is its natural reaction to disturbance. I stood still for a moment or so, then dropped the anchor and began to retreat slowly, without turning my back to the beast. A second later, the bear raised his head, caught my smell and dashed from the spot in the opposite direction. Happily, everything ended well.

My second visit to a "bear place", which I want to tell you about, was on Sakhalin. It happened in the Poronaysky Reserve, located on the Terpeniya Peninsula. It was the same year (2016, if I am not mistaken) when a bear attacked an employee of the reserve. The man survived but had suffered serious injuries: a partially skinned head, an open head injury, broken ribs, and multiple wounds. Despite his deplorable state, the victim of the bear attack managed to start an ATV on his own and drive for help to the first fishing camp located at a distance of about 11 kilometres. This incident reminds of the plot of 'The Revenant', a famous Hollywood film starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

But let us go back to the hike I started telling you about. I was not alone; I was a part of a group. Up till a certain moment, our hike went on without an incident, so we relaxed. But this peaceful atmosphere was shattered to pieces by a visit of a rather large bear to our camp on the seashore. It was dark already, but the shore was well illuminated by the full moon. We were having dinner in a tent, when we suddenly saw the approaching animal. It was too late to do anything in that situation. To our great relief, the bear did not display any aggression; he probably merely wanted to demonstrate his presence in the area, that's all. The beast stopped, sniffed the air and left the site as slowly as he had arrived. So we were lucky."

EXPERT OPINION

Timofey Zvezdov

"Ivan acted correctly in all respects. The bear has an excellent sense of smell, which leads the predator to food. Moreover, there are many facts proving that the animal can approach an open flame, a burning bonfire. Staying in the forest for a long time, people tend to normalise the risk. This is something that predators take advantage of. In the second case, the bear apparently came to the camp to make a statement about his status; having demonstrated his presence, he left.

I must stress that, in some cases, improper actions of people can trigger the transformation of a bear's curiosity or its warning behaviour into direct aggression. In such cases, it is necessary to use bear deterrents. They must be at hand and ready for use. As practice shows, an encounter with a bear who appeared from the windward side (that is, when the bear cannot smell you), is most likely to have occurred by accident and to end peacefully. Otherwise, get ready to protect yourself."

■ By Pavel Ryabchikov

No Tolerance for Rubbish

Is it possible to use a quadcopter in the fight for clean beaches and parks, to turn a walk with your son into a volunteer campaign, to use the experience of Sweden and Singapore and make it common practice in Russia? We discussed these topics with Dmitry Ree, Chief Specialist of the Continuous Improvement Team.

– When you ask about Sakhalin, the most frequent answer you get is that it is an island with amazing nature and kind-hearted people. The problem is, however, that these people do not always display a responsible attitude towards nature. Does this bother you?

– Of course. In our family, we all love spending time together at the seaside, in the woods and parks. Sadly, the joy we experience on these occasions is often clouded by the heaps of rubbish left behind by holiday-makers. How can they admire the sea while being surrounded by dirty used plastic bags and empty bottles? How can these two opposing things possibly be combined?

– But is there a way to persuade them not to throw rubbish about? We often hear that volunteers have cleaned up vacation spots, but everything is back to 'normal' just a few days later. Do you have a solution?

– There is a saying that the voice of one man is the voice of no one. I strongly disagree with this: if we want to change the world for the better, we need to win our little battles, and do it constantly. Whenever we go for a walk with our son, we collect discarded plastic bags and bottles. Maxim is only four years old, but he himself says: "Daddy, let's clean this up." It may not be a drastic solution to the problem, but this way we try to make a difference.

– There are the Mulle forest schools in Sweden which have been operating for 40 years already. Children begin attending these forest schools when they are eighteen months old. This is where they are taught to love, understand, and protect nature. As a result, today Sweden is considered to be one of the world's most environmentally friendly countries and a leader in waste management.

– Moses led his people across the desert for 40 years before they came to the promised land. The numerous educational programmes, the principles of respect for the environment, taught to children since they are toddlers, have borne good fruit in Sweden. I am sorry to say that when I go out into the courtyard of our apartment building, I see kids who do not seem to understand that throwing litter on the ground is bad.

– This does not sound optimistic. Do you have another card up your sleeve?

– I have been thinking that it would be a good idea if a quadcopter flew over the common vacation spots and photographed all violations. After all, there have been cases in the Sakhalin Oblast when a drone was used in the fight against unauthorised dumps. To tell you the truth, I do not know how successful these were, but I believe that this would help to solve the rubbish problem: people would think twice before throwing rubbish in unauthorised places if they knew that they might be watched and would pay a fine for the violation. Let us consider Singapore. It is one of the cleanest cities on the planet, which is due to heavy fines for littering. And, of course, due to hundreds of surveillance cameras located throughout the city. For example, a fine for a discarded piece of paper is about US$ 500–700 there. This is called 'no tolerance for rubbish'.

– It's crime and punishment, just like in the well-known novel by Dostoevsky. Plus awareness raising.

– Developing a culture of waste management takes a lot of time. We will drown in rubbish if we wait until we raise an environmentally conscious generation. For now, all we can do is apply the principle of zero tolerance. The good thing is that people in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (in Dalneye and some of the residential districts) have started to separate household waste. This is an important step towards improvement, but we must all think about how each of us can do our part – as a parent, as a city dweller, as a citizen of Sakhalin.

ECO Wiki platform at the internal web-site: sww-wiki.sakhalinenergy.ru/display/EC/

– How do you personally do your part as a Sakhalin Energy employee?

– I participate in environmental campaigns held by the company whenever I can.

– Are you ready to use your personal time for this purpose?

– It may sound rather high flown, but I see it as my duty. In the Continuous Improvement Subdivision, we have adopted the Zero Waste Programme as one of our development areas, and we are making every effort to implement it. Together with Rosa Galimzyanova, we collected information on this topic and posted it on the website. Other colleagues of ours were involved developing measures to reduce the use of disposable tableware in the company's canteens and cafeterias. We have made good progress in this regard: we have introduced biodegradable bags, stopped using disposable cutlery, and actively promoted replacing disposable water bottles with reusable ones.

There was a curious incident with one of my managers, who used to throw empty mineral water bottles into litter bins. One day his teenage daughter saw him do it and reprimanded him for it. He never did it again.

– What do your colleagues think of your work in this area?

– If you think they call me eco-crazy, you are wrong. At our company, environmental protection is one of the fundamental principles, so our employees support all relevant initiatives. The problem is that it is difficult to carry out environmental activities as efficiently as we would like to due to the large amount of work and the busy schedule. We realise that we must communicate and exchange useful information with one another more actively. Thankfully, we have the ECO Wiki platform, where we can use the streaming channel for communication. I am sure that we need to use this opportunity as much as possible. It will help us to unite people who care about the world they live in.

■ Interview by Elena Gurshal

award

Best PR Projects

Sakhalin Energy Became a Winner of the KonTEKst Competition of PR Projects, Held with the Support of the Russian Ministry of Energy. The award ceremony was attended by representatives of the RF State Duma, Ministry of Energy, Union of Oil and Gas Producers and leading oil and gas companies.

"Every year Sakhalin Energy demonstrates projects that are best examples of good communication and, above all, social responsibility of business in the region of operation", said Irina Esipova, General Director of the Centre for Communication Development in the Fuel and Energy Industry, Chairman of the Organising Committee.

Project "Let the Youth #to the Far East!" won among initiatives aimed at development of staff capacity in the region. To attract talented youth, the company continues long-standing collaboration with the leading RF oil and gas universities and colleges. At the same time, Sakhalin Energy implements a strategy which implies a maximum number of vacancies to be filled by Sakhalin graduates. For this purpose, Sakhalin Energy has a number of programmes to train, support and facilitate employment of young people from the island, including grants for high school graduates, internships, traineeship, and graduates' development.

Communication campaign realised on the occasion of 25th anniversary of Sakhalin-2 project was recognised as the best PR-project. Among of activities that Sakhalin Energy prepared for the residents of Sakhalin region to mark this anniversary were Russian main theatrical event, the Golden Mask Festival and Fairy Tales in Russian Art exhibition, with paintings from the State Russian Museum.

Two other company's projects – The Experience of Digital Development and Development of the Linguistic Heritage of Sakhalin Indigenous Minorities were awarded second class diplomas.

■ By Marina Semitko

REFERENCE:

The KonTEKst competition has been regularly held with the support of the RF Ministry of Energy since 2009. The contest objective is promoting development of communication in fuel and energy sector and successful implementation of Russia's Energy Strategy. More than 300 energy companies participated in the history of the contest, representing the whole spectrum of fuel and energy sector industries including electric power, nuclear power, oil and gas sector, coal industry and power engineering. The contest panel includes acknowledged communication leaders of fuel and energy sector, best independent experts in communication as well as representatives of professional associations.

This year, leading companies of fuel and energy sector submitted more than 100 contest applications. About 50 of them were shortlisted. The main criteria for assessing the effectiveness of initiatives continue to be strategic orientation and importance of the implemented projects for the country and industry, creative realisation approach and efficiency.

culture

Chekhov's Legacy is Being Studied on Sakhalin

International scientific conference "Anton Chekhov's Sakhalin Island in XXI century" was held in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk today. This year's conference brought together more than 60 participants studying life and creative heritage of the great Russian writer. Among them there are leading specialists in Chekhov's art from Russia, Japan, Argentina, Brazil and United States.

This year, the conference was dedicated to several anniversaries: 160th anniversary of the birth of Anton Chekhov, 130th anniversary of writer's trip to the island and 125th anniversary of the book "Sakhalin Island". Contemporary two-volume book "Anton Chekhov's Sakhalin Island. Facsimile Reproduction and Digitally Restored Manuscript" became a logical complement to the most famous book of the author. It is a joint project of the Russian State Library and Tobolsk Revival Charity Fund, implemented with the support of Sakhalin Energy. The company presented three sets of the unique publication to the Sakhalin Association of Museums at a plenary meeting.

According to the founder of the public charitable foundation "Tobolsk Revival" Arkady Elfimov, research work on the publication was carried out for about ten years. In order to read the lines crossed out by Chekhov, the experts needed not only "Chekhov's knowledge", but also modern photo-based forensic technologies. "The strict title of the book contains non-standard solutions and the tremendous work of a large team of specialists who took part in the restoration of the manuscript. Talent of the creators of the new book allowed them to figure out writer's concept which is of a great scientific value. As the result, we have a version of the manuscript, authentic to author's concept and enriching the knowledge of Chekhov's creative heritage", noted Elfimov.

"Cultural initiatives support has a special place among Sakhalin Energy's social projects. And doubly it is pleasant for us, that not only the published materials contribute to the popularization of the classical Russian literature but will also form the basis of new studies by the Russian and foreign Chekhov's enthusiasts.", said Marina Ee, Head of Social Performance Subdivision of Sakhalin Energy.

sport

Looking Up Sport

A game in which the thought pulsates and works in a mode of constant time pressure. A game that makes you forget for a while about an uncomfortable, imperfect world behind a site, divided by a grid" – this definition of volleyball is assigned to the famous volleyball player and coach Vyacheslav Platonov. And it is shared by the participants and fans of the volleyball tournament at the LNG plant.

In August, we held the Week of Cinema (a detailed account of this event was published in the September issue of Vesti). Quite recently, we organised a volleyball tournament between three teams: Yunona (Sakhalin Energy and SMNM-VECO joint team), Iron Cape (the team of CAPE, a contracting company) and Operators (the team of the Sakhalin Energy Operations Subdivision).

The first match took place on 9 September. Yunona and Iron Cape played a best of three match. The final stage of the tournament was held on 10 September. Operators played alternately with Yunona and Iron Cape.

The competitions were held in strict accordance with official rules: with the line-up and mutual greeting of the teams, the drawing of lots and strict refereeing by Mansur Madaliev. All Prigorodnoye production complex employees who were on rotation shift were invited to the tournament to support their colleagues. How they rooted for their teams! In a heated struggle, Yunona won the tournament. The team consisted of Anton Bogdanov (who was also the coach), Viktor Korchagin, Anton Baranov, Vitaly Pachin, Igor Yakovets, Artem Lebedev, Marina Ivanchikova, and Mikhail Volodin (captain). The winners were awarded the For Victory in the Sports Tournament at the Prigorodnoye Asset challenge cup. The second and third places were taken by Iron Cape and Operators respectively. The players of the teams received runner-up prizes. The tournament turned out to be an exciting sports event. It made an unforgettable impression on both the players and the spectators. The amateur sportsmen are already planning to hold a mini-football competition.

This year our country, just like the whole world, is going through a difficult time. Our colleagues from the LNG plant have yet again shown how much depends on each of us and our attitude. Instead of sinking into collective depression, we all can create opportunities to cheer each other up and strengthen team spirit. No wonder people say that a friendly atmosphere in the team is the key to success.

■ By Yulia Vatutina

Sakhalin Energy Investment Company Ltd.
Dzerzhinskogo str., 35, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 693020, Russia
Tel. + 7 (4242) 66 2000
E-mail: ea@sakhalinenergy.ru
Web-site: www.sakhalinenergy.com

Moscow Representative Office:
Novinskiy, 31, Moscow, Russia, 123242
Tel. +7 (495) 956 1750

Desing by OAO Sakhalin Oblast Printing Office