

## **GLOBAL ESTIMATION OF METHANE CONTENT IN SUBMARINE GAS HYDRATES**

SOLOVIEV V.A. Research Institute for Geology and Mineral Resources of the Ocean, St.Petersburg, Russia

The evidence to date suggest that natural gas hydrates, and submarine hydrates in particular, mostly occur in local accumulations. The data from ten studied accumulations (mud volcanoes: Buzdag in the Caspian Sea, Haakon Mosby in the Norwegian Sea, Milano in the Mediterranean Sea; gas seepage in the Sea of Okhotsk; VAMPs anomaly in the Bering Sea; the Blake Outer Ridge on the USA Atlantic Margin; DSDP-ODP Sites: 658 in the Peru Trench, 570 and 1041 in the Middle American Trench, 889 offshore Vancouver Island) show that specific amount of gas per unit area in the hydrate accumulations averages  $6.5E8$  cub.m/sq.km. The data provide the basis for next conclusion: the available global estimates of methane content in submarine gas hydrates ( $1E15$  to  $7.6E18$  cub.m) are not authentic and regarded as too high. An average specific amount of gas derived from such global estimates ranges up to  $2-4E9$  cub.m/sq.km and appears nearly an order of magnitude above the specific amount of gas in local accumulations which is contradictory to low of distribution of natural gas reserves density. Our assessment testifies that total submarine gas hydrate prone area is about  $3.6E7$  sq.km, a specific content of methane in hydrates within the entire gas hydrate prone area is unlikely more than  $5E6$  cub.m/sq.km, and the global methane content in submarine gas hydrates is estimated at  $2E14$  cub.m. Although this value is the lowest among available global estimates, it is comparable with global geological resources of conventional natural gas and exceeds twice resources of gas in the Ocean.