

Karachaganak Sanitary Protection Zone Reinstated to Five Kilometers

On October 24, 2007, Crude Accountability's partner, Green Salvation, received an official letter from the Kazakhstan Ministry of Health stating that the Sanitary Protection Zone (SPZ) around the Karachaganak Oil and Gas Condensate Field was recognized to be five kilometers, as had been officially stipulated in a 2003 decree.

Since 2004, we have understood that the SPZ was three kilometers; in fact, this has been used as an argument as to why Berezovka, the village closest to the Karachaganak Field, was ineligible for relocation even though its residents suffer from health impacts related to the field's emissions.

Crude Accountability, Green Salvation and, most importantly, the villagers of Berezovka, have asked for clarification about the status of the village and the meaning of the newly enlarged SPZ. Could it be that Berezovka's quest for justice could be nearing its end and that the Government of Kazakhstan will agree to relocate the village?

The Ministry's letter to Green Salvation follows:

Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Committee for State Sanitary-Epidemiological Oversight

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Ecological Society "Green Salvation"

To #111 from 24/09/2007

The Committee for State Sanitary-Epidemiological Oversight of the Republic of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Public Health, provides the following information in regard to the Sanitary Protection Zone of the Karachaganak Oil and Gas Condensate Field (further Field).

At the present time, the ruling by the Senior State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On the Sanitary Protection Zone of the Karachaganak Oil and Gas Condensate Field” (Ruling #5, 1 April 2006) continues to be in force, which confirms the decision from 25 December 2003, and in accordance with the conclusions of 4 February 2002, the Field’s Sanitary Protection Zone is set at 5000 meters.

The sanitary epidemiological conclusion from 14 February 2007 “The Planned Construction of a Fourth Line of Stabilization and Cleaning of Petroleum Waste at the Karachaganak Petroleum Facility of the Karachaganak Field” (#18) by the Kazakh branch of AOZT “Karachaganak Petroleum Operating, B.V.” proposed to set the Field’s Sanitary Protection Zone at the full projected capacity.

Representative, Senior State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Kazakhstan
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Translation by Crude Accountability