

within this danger zone. During the warming period, the permafrost level will drop in different natural settings, including peat bogs.

Experts have calculated that, for example, the soil temperature at Urengoi at a depth of 10 meters will rise by half a degree, which will cause a general thawing of sandy soils, especially in the southern part of the deposit. There is, of course a chance that the forecast model will not materialize. But to disregard this information would, quite simply, be criminal.

During the last thirty years, scientists in Tyumen' have accumulated an incredible amount of geological data. These were formerly used for evaluating the situation and making operational decisions, but they were later completely "forgotten". Today, the time has come to return to this data, to integrate and interpret it on a unified basis, to process it and to create a data bank.

The Americans were able to create such an experimental bank for the Alaskan North Slope from ten large massifs. They covered about 100,000 points on the Slope, using more than 1,000 boreholes. The whole data bank, along with models of exploration and recovery technology, is constantly being developed, enlarged and renewed (mostly from data telemetrically received directly from boreholes). This enables authorities to effectively plan methods and future research for the purpose of developing both traditional and non-traditional raw hydrocarbon resources.