

this will, first of all, be echoed in the rifts and along their margins. It is precisely here that we recover oil and gas. But it is also precisely here, in the location that is most dangerous seismically, that we are producing imbalance, and developing and increasing it. Well, what will this lead to? First, the scarcely-heard-of technogenic (caused by human technical activity) earthquake. And then?

Before liquid and gas are removed, rocks are in equilibrium. We pump out oil and replace with it water, although not completely: it is technically difficult to force water into all the underground pores that have emptied and thus to restore the original pressure. With gas, the problem is even worse. It is simply taken out of the earth without any "compensation" at all. Indignant Nature goes out of equilibrium, and the number and extent of engineering breakdowns grow, especially on vulnerable permafrost.

Even localities which are more favoured geologically, have not escaped emergencies. Thus, Al'met'evsk in Tataria, has been "shaking", for several years now. The surface of Shebelinka in the Ukraine is subsiding. We have so far drawn no conclusion from these facts. Meanwhile, the catastrophic, complete destruction of the mineral resource field settlement of Gazli in Central Asia warns us of much. Here, technogenic earthquakes of intensity 3 to 4 were imposed on a large natural tremor of force 5 to 6, and then came an intensity 9 quake, a monster that swept away everything.

Does something similar not await us at Medvezh'ye and Nefteyugansk? The force of an underground shock is, after all, proportional to the