

Question: "Dr. Trofimuk, when you spoke about alternative forms of energy and their relation to traditional forms, you repeatedly urged us to economize. Does this mean that the day is near when our oil and gas supplies will dry up despite the promise held by Eastern Siberia and the seemingly inexhaustible resources in Western Siberia?"

Answer: "I want to reassure you: the untouched hydrocarbon reserves on the territory of the Soviet Union are equal to all the reserves discovered and extracted to the present day.

What is more, over 50% of the oil remains in fields which have been or are currently being exploited. There are a variety of reasons for this, including the low level of oil extraction technology. Oil and gas deposits along the ocean shelves and slopes have hardly been touched. These deposits also exceed the total oil and gas resources extracted, discovered, and forecast throughout the country. We have not yet used deposits of high-viscosity oil and hard bitumens. At present they are calculated at billions of tons. The most important thing is that Soviet scientists have discovered a new energy source - gas-hydrates. These are carbons associated with water. In certain conditions, water molecules attach themselves to gas and the compound falls onto the sea shelf. Gas-hydrates are also found in permafrost zones. According to calculations, these resources are twice as great as the free gas resources on all the earth's dry land. Our calculations have been confirmed by American and Canadian scholars."

Question: "Is this a new sensation?"