

3. Roles and Responsibilities of MEPNR Officials Outside the World Bank Project

This subsection describes several senior officials at the MEPNR who are not now directly involved in the **World Bank Project**, but who were recommended to PHL as useful contacts for the Embassy and for Western companies seeking advice and guidance concerning project approvals. The reader is reminded that the importance of these officials is often due not to their authority under statute, but rather to their knowledge of the functions of state and local environment committees, and to their relationships with colleagues in the MEPNR, in other ministries, and at the state and local levels.

- Contact: Gennady Chegasov
- Position: Director of State Expert Council on Ecology and Natural Resources, under First Deputy Environment Minister Arsky (see chart following page 31)
- Remarks: Mr. Chegasov and his Expert Council are responsible for reviewing the environmental impacts of oil and gas projects, including pipelines, terminals and offshore projects. As an indication of his importance, he was one of the first officials visited by Hector Jacques, President and CEO of the Jacques Whitford Group, a Canadian environmental consulting and engineering company which will participate in oil and gas projects in Russia. During a meeting with PHL, Mr. Chegasov noted that he and his officials review project plans submitted to local authorities. The project proponent then designs and presents project