

expected that the technical assistance component of the World Bank Project, which is discussed in more detail below, will help remedy this situation.

In summarizing the uncertain effect of environmental assessments during implementation of projects, President Yeltsin's senior advisor on ecological issues, Alexander Yablokov, noted that local authorities often complete the technical work on assessments, but that this work is often of poor quality. By the time federal officials have had an opportunity to review and evaluate a locally-completed assessment, local authorities may have proceeded unilaterally with the project. Mr. Yablokov felt it would, therefore, be of little use to train federal officials in environmental assessment techniques, and that regional and local officials should instead receive such training.