

FUTURE PETROLEUM RESOURCES OF THE GREATER CASPIAN IN A NEW WORLD ASSESSMENT CONTEXT

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The U.S. Geological Survey has completed a new petroleum assessment of the undiscovered oil and gas resources of the world. Total Petroleum Systems (TPS) and their subdivisions into Assessment Units (AU) were identified and assessed in the past year. In the Greater Caspian region, four basins encompassing six TPS and 18 AU were assessed. In the North Caspian Basin, the Paleozoic North Caspian TPS (6 AU) were assessed. In the Middle Caspian Basin, three TPS namely the Terek-Caspian (3 AU), South Mangyshlak (1 AU) and Stavropol-Prikumsk TPS (3 AU) were analyzed. In the South Caspian Basin, the Oligocene-Miocene Maykop/Diatom TPS (5 AU) were assessed. In the North Ustyurt Basin, 3 TPS, namely the Buzachi Arch and Surrounding Areas Composite (1 AU), the North Ustyurt Jurassic (1 AU) and the North Ustyurt Paleozoic (1 AU) were assessed. Undiscovered resource estimates from nearby provinces including the Volga-Ural Region (2 TPS; 5 AU), the Azov-Kuban Basin (1 TPS, 3 AU) and Amu-Darya Basin (1 TPS, 4 AU) will be discussed. These assessment results will be placed in a world assessment context. The assessment reflects recent developments such as discovery of the large gas condensate Shah Deniz field in the South Caspian. The results of drilling of significant prospects in the South Caspian such as the Lenkoran Deniz (Total), Kurdasi (Agip), Inam (BP-Amoco) and Tagiev (Chevron) and a very large carbonate buildup offshore the Tengiz field, the Kashagan prospect, in the North Caspian will also provide critical resource information.