

Seimotectonical Condition and Assessment of Hazards and Risks of BTC and Shahdeniz Pipelines

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The BTC and Shahdeniz pipelines enable to transport natural gas and oil from terminals near Baku to Turkey via Georgian territory.

The region of the Caspian Sea is rich in oil and natural gas. However, it is difficult to supply market with these products. For Azerbaijan the obtaining process of the raw materials from the Caspian Sea depends on market identification. There is great demand on gas and oil on the markets of Turkey and Mediterranean countries and these countries have quite strong economy to meet long-term payment obligations.

The conception of transporting natural gas and oil via Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to the Mediterranean region is determined as the most acceptable from the commercial and ecological viewpoint and is in full compliance with the course of the Caucasian countries that own these pipelines. Generally, transporting hydrocarbon by means of pipelines is considered as the safest and effective method for economic and ecologic reasons. Besides, the pipeline routes through Georgia and Turkey from the commercial viewpoint is very competitive.

The version of the project collapse was eliminated due to financial, ecological and social reasons as the positive effects of the project are more substantial than any probable negative events. Although, the natural and social environments may be affected by construction and exploitation of the pipelines, the project will be followed by positive effects, among which is financial profit for Georgia due to natural gas transit.

Due to the above mentioned and notwithstanding that the route of the pipelines is sufficiently studied the permanent monitoring, assessment of hazards and risks of the natural environment (geology, geomorphology, seismotectonic) of the Transcaucasian energy corridor is quite actual.