



Dr. Oleg A. Anisimov,
State Hydrological Institute,
St. Petersburg, Russia

Dear Dr. Anisimov,

November 3, 2010

On behalf of the entire Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) team, I would like to express our enthusiastic support for your proposed *“Trends and Hazards in Arctic Warming (THAW): Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions from Arctic permafrost regions”* project.

I am particularly enthusiastic about your focus on understanding vulnerability of Arctic permafrost regions to climate change. This work is directly in line with the nature of the CALM observational program and will greatly complement our ongoing long-term active-layer and near-surface permafrost measurements in the circumpolar Arctic.

Several of your proposed field sites are located in proximity to existing CALM sites. This will allow us to avoid redundancies in instrumentation and data collection and to share logistical and intellectual resources (including data). In our opinion, great potential exists in developing joint field program between CALM and the proposed THAW project. Implementation of simultaneous field observations on climate, landscape, active-layer, and permafrost parameters will allow more detailed analysis of the processes involved in climate-permafrost interactions and more accurate assessment of spatial and temporal changes in broad range of permafrost landscapes.

As part of the collaboration between our projects we would appreciate your advice and assistance in developing a modeling component of the CALM project. The combination of models and geocryologic data will greatly aid our attempts to achieve representativeness of permafrost observational networks by identifying essential spatial and temporal gaps in data. It will also provide valuable information on complex interactions between climate, landscape factors and the ground thermal regime and set a stage for scaling observations and for comprehensive assessment of environmental conditions of the Arctic.

Through our established observational program which consists of more than 180 sites distributed in Circumpolar Arctic we can provide you with climate, environmental, and permafrost-related data and, if necessary, help with installation and maintenance of instrumentation. Over the last two decades the CALM projects has established good working relationships with a diverse group of Russian research and educational institutions involved in field permafrost investigations. You might find these connections extremely useful for implementing observational component of the THAW project.

I wish you good luck with your proposal and hope for productive collaborations between CALM and your current and future projects.

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