

Interfax. Rosneft strengthens gas-trading position on SPIMEX from 43% in April to above 50% in May

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MOSCOW. June 1 (Interfax) - Rosneft (MOEX: ROSN) has increased its presence in gas trading on the St. Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange (SPIMEX) from its position of largest supplier in April with a share of 43% to a share in excess of 50% of supplies in May.

Rosneft sold 463 million cubic meters of gas compared with 521 million cubic meters in April. Gazprom (MOEX: GAZP) reduced supply to 317 million cubic meters from 484 million cubic meters a month earlier. Novatek (MOEX: NVTK) also reduced sales to 67 million cubic meters after selling 126 million cubic meters in April, according to the exchange.

Only Belorusneft's subsidiary, JSC Yangpur Oil Company, continues to increase supplies month to month, having delivered already 67 million cubic meters to the exchange in May after supplying 65 million cubic meters in April.

The total volume of gas traded on SPIMEX in the quarantine month of May 2020 decreased to 915.45 million cubic meters, both compared with April 2020, at 1.203 billion cubic meters, as well as with May 2019, at 1.117 billion cubic meters.

Gas prices continued to decline. At the monthly trading session at the main balance point, at the Lokosovo gas compressor station, prices fell to the level of a year and a half ago at the end of 2018; namely, prior to gas prices being indexed in the summer of 2019 and until they rose at the end of 2019 as a result of VAT increasing from 18% to 20%.

The Gazprom Group, which includes regional companies, Gazprom Neft (MOEX: SIBN), ASIS Invest, and PJSC TGC-1 (MOEX: TGKA), cumulatively bought 614 million cubic meters of gas, or 67% of the total monthly turnover. The Gazprom Group has purchased more gas than Gazprom is selling for the second consecutive month.