

New Challenges for "Northern Delivery": a Case Study of the Far North District of Irkutsk Region, Russia

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Northern delivery is a set of annual state measures to provide the territories of the Far North and the Arctic with essential goods, primarily food and fuel products. The emergence of the concept of "northern delivery", which is currently planned to be legally enshrined in the Russian legislative framework, is due to a number of reasons. The main reasons are: a) remoteness; b) limited base of own production goods, including agricultural; c) inaccessibility, usual transport communication in such regions is provided only by air, or in summer by water and in winter by cars on snow or ice roads. Northern delivery, depending on the natural and climatic conditions, is carried out for some territories in the warm season, for others in the cold season. Currently climate change consequences, which are most pronounced in high latitudes, the terms of northern delivery change and are often reduced, especially in the cold season, which forces to accelerate the delivery process in order to ensure food security of remote areas. Along with natural factors, institutional factors and interactions between all members of the supply chain play an important role. The purpose of the paper is to identify and systematize by nature of origin the main problems (natural, administrative, economic, etc.) of northern delivery that the residents of the study area have faced in recent years. The study is carried out on the example of the Katangsky district, the only district of the Irkutsk region (Eastern Siberia) that belongs to the Far North.