



# The Power Struggle for Control of Russia's Arctic

**OE Watch Commentary:** A Russian state corporation is a non-commercial, non-profit organization, established by Russian federal law and directly owned by the state. Rosatom was established in 2007 as Russia's leading energy production and development organization. Rosatom took over the assets and powers of the Federal Atomic Energy Agency. With over 350 enterprises, Rosatom is Russia's largest electrical energy generation company and is deeply involved in scientific research, the development and construction of domestic and foreign nuclear power generation plants, Russian nuclear weapons, nonnuclear energy development, nuclear medicine, and even super computer production and software design. Key to the accompanying excerpted article, it also owns the world's only nuclear-powered icebreaker fleet. The Ministry of Transport has lost control of Arctic shipping in a power struggle and now Rosatom will control the shipping routes, budget monies and ability to input or draft proposals on state policy for the Arctic including development and infrastructure. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

*“The company that employs more than 250,000 people and engages in a multitude of activities related to nuclear power development and production is now formally Russia's management authority for the Northern Sea Route.”*

**Source:** Atle Staalesen, “It's a law - Russian Arctic shipping to be regulated by Rosatom,” *The Barents Observer*, 2 January 2019. <https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/arctic/2019/01/its-law-russian-arctic-shipping-be-regulated-rosatom>

*Rosatom has officially been granted the leading role in the development of the vast Russian Arctic. The company that employs more than 250,000 people and engages in a multitude of activities related to nuclear power development and production is now formally Russia's management authority for the Northern Sea Route.*

*The law was adopted by the State Duma on the 11th December and signed by Vladimir Putin on the 28th. The new legislation comes as Russian Arctic shipping is rapidly increasing. In 2018, about 18 million tons of cargo was transported on the sea route-an increase of almost 70 percent from 2017. And more is to come. According to Vladimir Putin's so-called May Decrees on top national priorities, shipping on the Northern Sea Route will reach 80 million tons by year 2024.*

*Rosatom's new powers in the Arctic include development and operational responsibilities for shipping, as well as infrastructure and sea ports along the northern Russian coast. The responsibilities of the Northern Sea Route Administration, which ... operated under the Ministry of Transport, will be transferred to Rosatom.*

*Putin ..., in early 2017, made it clear that a coordinating government agency for the Northern Sea Route was needed. A battle between Rosatom and the Ministry of Transport followed. In December 2017, it became clear that the nuclear power company had won that fight.*



Vladimir Putin With Director General of State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom Alexei Likhachev.

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