

**Progress Report 2009-2011:** The Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPPR) addresses various aspects of prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies in the Arctic. Members of the Working Group exchange information on best practices and conduct projects to include development of guidance and risk assessment methodologies, response exercises, and training. The goal of the EPPR Working Group is to contribute to the protection of the Arctic environment from the threat or impact that may result from an accidental release of pollutants or radionuclides. In addition, the Working Group considers issues related to response to the consequences of natural disasters.

EPPR works with Arctic Council Working Groups and other organizations to ensure that the emergencies are appropriately addressed in Council products and work. EPPR also maintains liaison with the oil industry and other relevant organizations with the aim of enhancing oil spill prevention and preparedness in the Arctic.

In 2010 EPPR revised its Strategic Plan of Action to clearly express the vision, guiding principles, and objectives of the EPPR Working Group. From 2009 through 2011 EPPR conducted the following projects:

#### **Behavior of Oil and other Hazardous Substances in Arctic Waters (BoHaSA)**

- The report synthesizes knowledge and expertise on the behavior of oil and other hazardous substances in Arctic waters and promotes the development and use of technologies and working methods that improve the capability to respond to accidents involving such substances. The report will be presented at the 2011 Ministerial meeting.
- Recommendations may be of interest to the other work groups.
- EPPR will distribute the BoHaSa report at the International Oil Spill Conference in Portland, Oregon, May 23-25, 2011.

#### **Arctic Rescue**

- A seminar was held in August 2009 in Anadyr, Russia entitled “Emergency prevention and the coordination of emergency responses in Arctic conditions including consequences for the environment.” The conference examined a wide range of emergency scenarios and recommendations for improving preparedness and response systems.
- EPPR Arctic Rescue activities, led by the Russian Federation, identified a gap in circumpolar SAR which has been addressed by the SAR Task Force.

#### **Development of Safety Systems in Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural Projects**

- The exercise “Barents Rescue 2009,” hosted by the Russian Federation, was conducted from September 8-10, 2009 in the Murmansk region of Russia.
- Objectives of the exercise were to: assess the functional use of existing cooperative agreements; improve information exchange; and develop practical experiences about coordinating rescue services in the Barents region.

#### **Conduct of Radiation Emergency Exercises**

- Exercise “Arctic-2010” was conducted on July 28-29, 2010 at the FSUE “Nerpa” Shipyard in the Murmansk Region in northwest Russia. The purpose of the exercise was to assess

consequences and response capabilities to a radiation emergency in the northwest region of Russia.

### **Co-operation on oil spill and HNS response in the Arctic**

- A correspondence group within EPPR has developed a prioritized master project list for EPPR by evaluating recommendations from the Opening the Arctic Seas: Envisioning Disasters and Framing Solutions workshop. This list will be the basis for project planning discussions at the June 2011 EPPR meeting.
- EPPR is revising the 2000 Analysis of Agreements and Arrangements and Risk Matrix documents.

### **Managing the cold conditions – A systematic approach**

- “Responding to Cold Emergencies - EU’s Cold Conditions Module”- seminar was held at the Crisis Management Centre (CMC) Finland in November 2010

### **Guidelines and Strategies for Oily Waste Management in the Arctic Regions**

- The Guidelines project, led by Canada, was completed in 2009.
- The Oily Waste Calculator, a companion software application to aid planners and decision makers, has been developed to support the guidelines. This software is available from EPPR.

### **Preventing Radiological incidents and emergencies: Source Control Project**

- EPPR’s Source Control work improves safety operations at facilities handling radioactive or other hazardous materials through the introduction and incorporation of risk assessment and hazard mitigation operational strategies.
- EPPR’s risk assessment methodology was applied to transport of radioactive sources at the Scientific and Research Institute of Atomic Reactors in the Russian Federation (NIIAR) to assess risks and pinpoint preventative measures to reduce risks. The process yielded recommendations to improve safety of transportation of radioactive sources at the NIIAR facility.
- A final report on the NIIAR assessment is completed and a brochure on the Source Control Project, spanning 10 years, has also been produced.

### **EPPR sponsored specific technical projects to improve capabilities to analyze and respond to radiation related incidents or accidents. These included:**

- Delivery of updated radiation survey and personal monitoring equipment to the Emergency Response Team at the Zvezdochka facility to meet response requirements identified in EPPR’s exercise “Arctic 2008”
- Technical Crisis Center support to EMERCOM’s Crisis Situation Management Center including training and enhancing the ability to leverage the radiological scientific and technical expertise within the Nuclear Safety Institute (IBRAE) in the event of a radiological incident or emergency.
- Development of two software programs to model airborne radiological dispersion and contamination from an accident, providing critical information to decision makers. This system has been provided to fourteen radiation-hazardous facilities operated by Rosatom.
- Development of a computer-based training tool, the Radiation Survey Simulation System, to provide a training experience with realistic scenarios, site specific data, and a suite of response actions for emergency response personnel at facilities where radiation hazards are

present. The Radiation Survey Simulation System has been provided to 6 facilities in the Russian Federation.

- Community Radiation Information
  - EPPR produced the Glossary for Nuclear Enterprise Information Services in Russian to assist public information specialists in communicating about radiation and accidents to the public and media
  - Glossary (in draft) was used to prepare press releases during the exercise at the “Nerpa” Shipyard in July, 2010
  - Glossary is available on EPPR’s web site

**List of Deliverables to the 7th Ministerial Meeting (list of documents for SAOs/Ministers consideration):**

- Behavior of Oil and other Hazardous Substances in Arctic Waters (BoHaSa report)
- Source Control (Prevention Project) Phase Four Report
- A Ten-Year Summary of Source Control Prevention Projects
- Report on the radiological emergency response exercise conducted at “Nerpa” Shipyard facility in the Russian Federation

**Overview of main priority activities in the period 2011-2013:**

- Develop guidelines to facilitate efficient provision, acceptance, and implementation of International assistance in an emergency response
- Consider the BoHaSa report recommendations for future projects and activities within EPPR
- Arctic Rescue
- Safety Systems in Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural Projects
- Exercises and training in radiological emergency management
- Technical projects to improve capabilities to analyze and respond to radiation related incidents or accidents
- Pilot project “Arctic Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue Network”
- Pilot project “Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide”
- Revise and update the “Analysis of the Adequacy and Effectiveness of Existing Arrangements and Agreements” (2000) and Arctic countries’ risk assessment matrices
- Revise the “Arctic Guide for Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response”

**Working Group Administration:** Projects undertaken in EPPR are generally accomplished by each country funding its own effort. Certain projects have been funded substantially by one country, for instance Norway’s generous funding of the BoHaSa project. Financing of projects is projected and planned in the project framework developed in the proposal phase and agreed when the project is approved by EPPR. EPPR has no standing budget and the United States is currently funding the EPPR Secretariat.

Since 2009, EPPR meets twice a year. Meetings held during the Danish Chairmanship were: November 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark; June 2010, Vorkuta, Russia; and November 2010 in Arlington, Virginia. The next EPPR meeting is scheduled for June 15 – 16, 2011 in Whitehorse, Canada.