Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) Working Group Report to SAOs, October 2016 in Portland

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ACAP

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ACAP Working Group Report to SAOs, October 2016 in Portland
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Introduction
ACAP held its second meeting in 2016 in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, August 31 – September 2. 17 participants attended representing six AC countries (Canada and Iceland were absent), one Permanent Participant (AIA), and one observer organization (NEFCO as PSI Fund Manager).

The meeting focused on follow-up activities from the last ACAP meeting in Washington D.C and began to look forward to the 2017 Ministerial meeting in Fairbanks. Expert Groups (EG) have continued to develop and implement projects and progress has been made in priority areas of the ACAP work plan 2015-2017. The relevant sections of the Amarok (the AC Tracker) were updated after the meeting.

On September 2, the ACAP delegation visited the hazardous waste facility Serebristy. Delegates were able to see landfill storage facilities for obsolete pesticides, PCBs, and other hazardous substances. Serebristy is a pilot site for the only environmentally sound destruction technology unit in Russia for non-military hazardous waste. Using super critical water oxidation (SCWO), the technology is able to safely destroy hazardous chemicals such as PCBs and obsolete pesticides. The delegation was also able to see a technology used to extract and neutralize mercury from used fluorescent lamps.

ACAP Strategic Plan
ACAP approved a new strategic plan titled “ACAP Strategy to Address Contamination of the Arctic Environment and its People” and is seeking SAO approval at the upcoming SAO meeting in Portland, Maine.

Summary of progress on ACAP projects

Expert Group on POPs and Mercury
The project as noted in the 2015-2017 ACAP work plan is on track. It was agreed that the final report “Summary of Technical Information Exchange Meeting on Mercury Abatement in the Metallurgical Industry Workshop” held in Yekaterinburg would be submitted by the EG Chair to ACAP for approval, with the appropriate disclaimer, and once approved be posted on the EG POPs and Mercury webpage. The EG Chair will submit the “Feasibility Study and Action Plan on the Vorkutinskiy Cement Plant” for ACAP intersessional approval by October 15, 2016. In efforts to improve communication and outreach, ACAP welcomed the development of four fact sheets from the EG POPs and Mercury for submission to ACAP for approval.

Expert Group on Hazardous Waste

Demonstration of Management and Destruction of 250 tonnes of PCBs in Transformers (Phase III): Finland and Russia have been confirmed as lead countries for this project and contact points will be identified as soon as possible and communicated to the EG HW Chair and the PSI Fund Manager. This will help to facilitate completion the Terms of Reference for the PSI funded feasibility study.

Demonstration of environmentally sound destruction of obsolete pesticides (Phase III): ACAP has approved the project “Use of SCWO for environmentally sound destruction of obsolete pesticides”. A consultant is preparing a preliminary technical assessment of the SCWO facility and will
submit this to the Project Supervising Committee of the PSI upon completion. The PSI Fund Manager is also preparing a Terms of Reference for the development of a test program for the SCWO.

ACAP invited the PSI Fund Manager to improve coordination and communication on the SCWO and PCB projects through the PSI Project Supervising Committees as soon as possible to facilitate necessary exchange of information and practical advice for implementation of the projects. It was agreed to further discuss, at the next ACAP meeting, continued improvement of dialogue between ACAP and the PSI Fund Manager on specific ACAP projects.

**Indigenous Peoples Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP EG)**

*Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project:*

Following the decision in Washington, project leads sent a memo to NEFCO that outlined outreach options and connection with potential partners in the Russian Federation. In March 2016, the PSI Committee approved a final investment decision (FID) to finance a study that will cover the demonstration part of the project. The scope of work developed by AIA and NEFCO includes a desk study, air monitoring and proof of the concept for the demonstration project. These results will provide useful information for a subsequent FID for the next stages of the project. The project is considered to be on track.

*Circumpolar Local Environment Observer Network (CLEO):*

Phase I, expansion of the LEO in North America is progressing at a rapid pace. Two new LEO chapters will be launched in Canada in 2016/2017. Phase II, expansion of the network to the Fennoscandinavian region, is on track. In June 2016 a workshop was held in Inari, Finland to discuss the first steps toward a Framework for Expansion for LEO. The draft is currently being reviewed and will be presented to ACAP for approval to submit to SAOs and Ministers for the 2017 Ministerial meeting.

**Short Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) Expert Group:**

Under the umbrella project *Arctic Black Carbon: Reduction of Black Carbon from Diesel Sources* a number of updates were reported to ACAP:

1) A Russian National emission inventory of diesel black carbon has been completed.
2) Implementation of the Battelle/EEF Russia pilot project *Wind-diesel Project at Tundra Collective in the Murmansk Region* has been completed.
3) The report *Circumpolar Best Practices: Policy and Financing Options for Black Carbon Emission Reductions* has been circulated to SAOs for intersessional approval and will be put forward as a deliverable for the 2017 Ministerial.

The *Valday Cluster Upgrade for Black Carbon Reduction in the Republic of Karelia, Russian Federation* project, which focusses on a range of alternatives for providing energy to off-grid settlements in this region, is under implementation.

ACAP approved the project *Mitigation of Methane Emission - Skytyvkar Dyrnos Landfill Project Russian Federation,* in March 2016.

ACAP approved the project *Black Carbon and Methane Emissions in the Russian Arctic – Mapping and Mitigation* in February 2016. This project includes a mitigation component that aims to identify black carbon and methane emission reduction opportunities from flaring.

ACAP noted four projects that are under development for first consideration at the EG level: *System for Black Carbon Emission Impact Management from Sources in the Russian Arctic, Arctic-Barents Region Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Mitigation Project, Mitigation of Black Carbon from*
Agriburning, and a project on Mitigation of HFC: Inventory work. These projects may come forward to ACAP for consideration either intersessionally or at the next working group meeting.

ACAP approved four fact sheets for outreach and communication purposes:
- Circumpolar Best Practices to Reduce Diesel Black Carbon
- Murmansk Diesel Black Carbon Inventories
- Murmansk Bus Company Diesel Black Carbon Reductions
- Opportunity for Clean Energy Investments in the Arctic

**Collaboration with other working groups/other organizations**

It was agreed that the EG SLCP Chair, co-Chair, or designate should attend the EG BCM meetings for ACAP. It was agreed that relevant ACAP documents be submitted as background documents to the EG BCM.

Potential new projects, not yet approved by ACAP, were discussed and may include the need for cooperation and information sharing with SDWG.

**Working Group administration and next meeting(s)**

The next ACAP meeting is scheduled for January 25-27, 2016 in either Tromsø or northern Sweden.