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## ACAP Progress Report to SAOs – Hveragerdi, November 2019

### Introduction

To reduce its carbon footprint, the Arctic Contaminants Action Program Working Group (ACAP WG) agreed, when possible, to have one face-to-face meeting a year and other meetings by teleconference. ACAP held its first online meeting of 2019 on February 4, 2019 to review progress on the projects from the 2017-2019 work plan and discuss ideas for potential new projects for the 2019-2021 workplan. In addition, ACAP had a HOD telephone conference meeting on 14 June 2019 to discuss specific projects (Fire Fighting Foams, Black Carbon and Health, and the Mercury project) and agree on procedures to speed up progress.

On 11-12 September 2019, ACAP held a face-to-face meeting in Tromsø, Norway, which was preceded by two workshops: 1) *ACAP Workshop with Experts from FRAM Center and Invited Guests* to discuss possible cooperation on topics relevant to the ACAP Mandate and generate ideas for new ACAP projects; and 2) *CLEO Workshop*. Both workshops were attended by about 30 participants and were successful. The ACAP meeting was attended by representatives of seven Arctic States (Iceland wasn't present), two Permanent Participants (AIA and Saami Council), and two Observer organizations (AWRH and NEFCO as PSI Fund Manager). RAIPON and AMAP participated in some parts of the meeting remotely. The ACAP WG meeting focused on updates on projects from the Expert Groups (EGs) and on early identification of potential deliverables for the 2021 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting. Expert Groups (EG) have continued to develop and implement projects, and progress has been made in priority areas of the ACAP work plan. The relevant sections of the Amarak were updated after the meeting.

### Summary of progress on ACAP projects

#### Expert Group on POPs and Mercury

Representatives from the Russian Federation provided a presentation on Status of Implementation of the Russian National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention. The EG took into consideration the NIP when developing projects for the current ACAP work plan. E.g., the project *Inventory of Unintentional Emission Sources of POPs and Mercury* has been upgraded to reflect findings of the GEF project and Russian NIP on Stockholm Convention. A new project *Risk Evaluation, Risk Reduction and Risk Action Plans for Mercury in the Arctic (ARCRISK)* has been approved by ACAP and is waiting for PSI funding approval.

Two projects are waiting for further information before implementation can start: 1) *Control Technologies*, which depends on the progress of the inventory of unintentional emission sources of POPs and mercury, and is stalled; and 2) BAT-Project: *Promotion of decreased pollution into the Arctic Region by introduction of the best available techniques (BAT)*, next steps of which include receiving an official response of support from the Russian Federation re: lifting of the study reservation. Information has been provided by the Russian side, that it is of interest, but still under consideration. The pilot project

*Development of Mercury Containing Waste Management Systems in the Arctic Regions of the Russian Federation* is currently on hold.

### Expert Group on Hazardous Waste

The EG has three projects under implementation that are expected to provide deliverables for the 2021 Ministerial Meeting in Reykjavik: 1) *Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs in the Russian Federation*; 2) *Rapid Environmental Assessment*; and 3) *Demonstration of Environmentally Sound Destruction of Obsolete Pesticides (Phase III)*. An information exchange workshop on hazardous waste destruction technologies will take place once the results of testing SCWO technology for destruction of pesticides in the Russian Federation are completed.

As a follow-up to the AMAP report on Chemicals of Emerging Arctic Concern, on August 5, 2019, ACAP approved, by silence procedure, the project *Phase-out and Environmentally Sound Management of Fire-fighting Foams Containing PFOS and PFOA in the Arctic Region*. It was agreed to use this project as a test case for using the Small Allocation Window.

The Russian Federation has lifted study reservations on the project *Reduction of Negative Impact on the Environment by Rehabilitation of Accumulated Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) with the Best Available Technologies – Dudinka Landfill*. The EG has sought funding from PSI for hiring a consultant to develop a revised project proposal.

### Indigenous People Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP EG)

AIA revised their proposal for PSI funding for the next phase of the *Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project*. The proposal was approved by ACAP on 9 August 2019 through silence procedure and submitted to NEFCO for PSI funding. The PSI Committee returned the proposal for further development and will make a decision on it through silence procedure intersessionally, after additional questions have been answered. This project phase will continue to work with AIA partners in Alaska and Russia to focus on black carbon air quality and public health concerns in the Alaska Native and Russian Indigenous communities. During this phase, project partners will implement monitoring, public health characterization and community awareness measures in close cooperation with five Arctic villages - two in Alaska and three in the Russian Federation.

*Circumpolar Local Environment Observer Network (CLEO)* project is currently in Phase 2, which is aimed at bringing LEO to Arctic communities outside of North America. The project leads continue to promote CLEO in the Arctic region by establishing a hub in Kautokeino, Norway, and expanding youth engagement through academic and cultural institutions. CLEO project partners hosted a workshop on September 10, 2019, on the margins of the ACAP Working Group meeting. During the workshop, partners updated on recent activities, including internships and educational exchanges supported by the CAFF Working Group; technology upgrades to the LEO mobile application; climate and CLEO training in Saami schools; and introduction of a concept for CLEO kiosks in communities across the Arctic.

ACAP provided approval to IPCAP to approach the PSI Fund Manager for scoping funds under the Small Allocation Window for the project *Scaling up Solid Waste/Marine Debris Management*. This project builds

upon the accomplishments of the 2016 Chukotka/Alaska solid waste training in Nome, Alaska; 2018 AIA Solid Waste Desk Study through SDWG; and the 2018 Saami Solid Waste inventory. The project will continue to collaborate with stakeholders and working groups, including SDWG, to share expertise and leverage resources in scaling up solid waste management activities to support remote Arctic communities.

*Kola Waste Project* was initiated by the Saami Council, represented by the Saami Association of the Murmansk Region (OOSMO). It was approved by ACAP in April 2018 and financed by Sweden and Norway. Based on the results of the project activities carried out in 2018, Saami Association of the Murmansk Region (OOSMO) started a clean-up of the Saami territory in cooperation with local and regional authorities achieving good results. It was planned to eliminate one unauthorized waste site in Revda and one waste site in Krasnoshchelye. The waste site in Revda was cleaned up in summer and early autumn. Due to the absence of roads during the warm season, hauling of waste from Krasnoshchelye is possible only in winter. Work has been done to collect and prepare waste, especially hazardous waste, for transportation and further handling. Project activities also included meetings with municipal administration and awareness-raising events for local residents. ACAP was content with the progress achieved over the last 2 summers and agreed to organize a workshop, with participation of Saami organizations and local and regional authorities, to present the results of the project in the first half of 2020, and ensure that it is anchored and provides results also in a long-term perspective.

### Expert Group on Short Lived Climate Pollutants

The project *Mitigation of black carbon and methane emissions from APG flaring in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation* was approved by ACAP in February 2017. The first part of the project was financed by Arctic Council financing instrument (PSI) and completed during the first part of 2019, with results on the potential impacts of APG flaring, analysis of feasibilities, and review of best available technologies and practices presented in a report. To build on the successful efforts around APG flaring, Norway has proposed a workshop, in collaboration with Carbon Limits, in April 2020 in Moscow with broad participation from relevant stakeholders engaged in black carbon and methane issues in the Arctic. ACAP WG agreed to follow-up on the idea together with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the RF and keep ACAP WG informed. EGBCM has been invited together with representatives from other international institutions. The aim of the workshop is to take stock of knowledge on the scale and characteristics of emissions from the oil and gas sector, present and discuss current and possible mitigation actions and strategies from the petroleum sector, which is the biggest emitter of black carbon in Arctic Russia.

ACAP reaffirmed its approval, given in February 2017, of the project *Phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances and Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases at Fish and Seafood Processing Enterprises of the Murmansk Oblast*. The survey conducted as part of Phase 1 discovered large-scale use of ODS and F-gases in the Murmansk oblast. Phase 2 proposal was submitted by the Russian Federation to NEFCO and was subsequently shared with SLCP EG for comments. The proposal requests 4 million Euro from the PSI for the implementation of Phase 2, which would enable phase out of approximately 18.65 ODP tons of ODS and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 308 000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. within 5 years through diminishing consumption of ODS and F-gases and adopting new energy efficient technologies and substances. The PSI Committee will make a decision on this project through a silence procedure.

The Russian Federation has lifted study reservations on the *Pilot Project for Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and Black Carbon Emissions on the Rivers of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation (“Green Shipping”)*. Approved by ACAP in April 2017, the project has three goals: 1) to avoid and decrease air pollution of CO<sub>2</sub>, PM, SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>, and where relevant substitute ozone depleting substances and HFC in ships; 2) to raise awareness levels; and 3) to minimize transportation costs related to logistics. The scope of the work to be undertaken needs to be refined. The SLCP EG will follow-up on the project.

*Black Carbon Case Studies Platform:* The ACAP website hosts the interactive platform. Case Studies from the U.S. with assistance from the U.S. EPA’s Alaska office and Norway have been completed. Canada recently submitted several case studies that have been added to the platform. The U.S., as project lead, continues to encourage any additional partners in this project who would like to contribute informational, in-kind, or financial resources.

## Identification of Deliverables for the 2021 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting

The following projects have indicated potential deliverables for the Icelandic Chairmanship Ministerial Meeting, May 19-20, 2021 in Reykjavik:

- Mitigation of Black Carbon and Methane Emissions from APG Flaring in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation
- Circumpolar Local Environmental Network (CLEO)
- Kola Waste Project
- Demonstration of Management and Destruction of 250 tons of PCB in Transformers and Capacitors (Phase III)
- Demonstration of Environmentally Sound Destruction of Obsolete Pesticides (Phase III)
- Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA)

## Collaboration with other working groups/other organization

The ACAP Chair attended the AC-AEC joint meeting (9 October 2019) and the EGBCM meeting (10 October 2019).

AMAP’s Deputy Executive Secretary, Simon Wilson, participated in the ACAP meeting remotely (10 September 2019).

## Upcoming ACAP Working Group Meetings

The ACAP HoDs will meet for a three-hour teleconference on December 10, 2019.

The next ACAP meeting will be held via teleconference on February 11 and February 12, 2020.

The ACAP Workshop on Black Carbon and Methane will be held on April 28-29, 2020.

The next physical meeting of the ACAP Working Group will be on September 22-23, 2020 (tentatively).