ACAP PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS. 12-13 April 2007 Tromsø, Norway.

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Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)

ACAP

Arctic Contaminants Action Program to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic

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ACAP
PROGRESS REPORT
TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS

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Chairman

12-13 April 2007
Tromsø, Norway

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Work Plan for 2006-2008 approved by SAOs in Salekhard (26 October 2006):

ACAP will continue to implement projects approved by the Ministers to:

- Work with Russia to develop an Integrated Hazardous Waste Management strategy.
- Complete inventory development and safe storage of obsolete and prohibited pesticides in the remaining five Russian Arctic and sub-Arctic priority Regions.
- Develop and implement control technologies for reduction/elimination of dioxin/furan releases at a pulp and paper facility in the Russian Arctic.
- Complete a feasibility study and initiate a demonstration project for management of mercury-containing waste in Northwest Russia.
- Continue close cooperation with the partnership project in Russia for achieving measurable reductions of uses and releases of mercury at chlor-alkali facilities.
- Develop demonstration projects to address additional mercury-release sectors in Russia (products, coal-fired power plants, non-ferrous metal production).
- Issue the BFR Inventory Report, prioritize and begin implementation of Phase 2 recommended activities to reduce/eliminate BFR-containing wastes and releases.
- Complete the model project on safe handling and storage of local sources of contamination in Nenets Autonomous District and in Chukotka.
- Continue work with the Barents Euro-Arctic Council to address additional "hot spots" in the Arctic.
- Continue close coordination with NEFCO to finance and facilitate implementation of ACAP projects and mobilize the Project Support Instrument.
- Collaborate with SDWG and AMAP to develop the action plan for Human Health Risk Reduction in the Arctic, as a component of the evolving human health cluster.

ACAP PROGRESS SINCE OCTOBER 2006 SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS MEETING

ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE MANAGEMENT OF STOCKS OF OBSOLETE AND PROHIBITED PESTICIDES IN RUSSIA (CHAIR: FINLAND)

- Due to unusually warm weather, inventory, repackaging and storage efforts for obsolete and prohibited pesticides stockpiles continued through 2006, bringing the total amount of pesticides safely repackaged and stored in Altai Krai to 926 tons. This completes 23 out of 60 Altai Krai districts.
- Over 2506 tons of obsolete pesticides have been inventoried and placed into safe storage under this project.
- ACAP was informed of a hazardous waste landfill company which is developing a high temperature incineration facility in the Khanty Mansyisk Region. We plan

to contact this facility to be informed of the types of waste they plan to destroy and the licensing and permit procedures they are following.
- Phase I and II activities are being implemented according to schedule.

Note: Implementation of Phase III, destruction of obsolete pesticides, is dependent on availability of licensed destruction technologies in Russia, which are currently not available. These destruction technologies cannot treat mercury-containing pesticides. A strategy for the long-term management of these mercury-containing pesticides needs to be developed.
ACAP is considering an interim option to export some of these wastes to Finland (e.g. DDT from Karelia) for destruction.

In a parallel project implemented by Denmark, 219 tons of obsolete pesticides have been collected in the Vologda region. The Regional Administration reported that these pesticides have been transported to a disposal site in Kaluga, south of Moscow. In the Pskov Region 572 tons of obsolete pesticides have been collected and stored.

REDUCTION OF ATMOSPHERIC MERCURY RELEASES FROM ARCTIC STATES (CHAIR: DENMARK)

Mercury containing waste in NW Russia

A feasibility study is being developed in cooperation with Rostechnadzor to optimize the existing system for collection, storage, transport and treatment of the mercury containing waste, including luminescent lamps, thermometers and switches, in North West Russia. The feasibility study will be initiated in May 2007. The results will form the basis for a demonstration project to close gaps in the current management of mercury-containing wastes and will be replicable for use in other Regions of Russia.

ACAP Mercury partnership to reduce mercury consumption and releases at Russian chlor-alkali production facilities

- Project was highlighted in the Report on mercury partnerships at the UNEP Governing Council Meeting in Nairobi (February 2007).
- Since October 2006, the project has achieved an additional 180kg reduction at Volgograd "Caustic" chlor-alkali production facility
- Next steps in this project include:
    - Conduct technical exchange program with state-of-the-art chlor-alkali facilities in Europe. This technical exchange visit is planned with participation of Kirovo-Chepetsky Chemical Combine and Sterlitamac "Caustic", the two remaining Russian chlor-alkali facilities which use mercury cell technology.
    - Under this partnership, Volgograd "Caustic" is planning to develop a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system. This system will be using special sorbent resin, identified in the technical exchange of February

2006 and provided under this project. This wastewater treatment system will allow additional reductions of mercury discharges by up to 300 kg per year.

Partnership on mercury reduction at vinyl-chloride production facilities.

Reflecting the recommendations of the 24th Session of the UNEP Governing Council, ACAP is planning a Workshop to address mercury reduction at PVC production facilities with participation of PVC manufacturers from Russia, China and Slovakia. PVC production in these countries is a major source of mercury consumption and release.

Other possible demonstration projects for reduction of mercury releases include:

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of sorbents in reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants using electrostatic precipitators;
- Cleaner production & energy efficiency measures at a combined heat and power plant;
- Measures to reduce releases from non-ferrous smelters (e.g. zinc smelters);
- Recycling of mercury-containing products.

REDUCTION OF DIOXIN/FURAN RELEASES INTO THE ENVIRONMENT (CHAIR: SWEDEN)

Phase II of this project is scheduled for completion in October 2007.

- Phase II includes the following tasks in the three priority Regions, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Komi:
- Identification of the factors affecting formation of dioxins/furans;
- Feasibility study of Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practices for reduction of emissions;
- Analysis of waste streams before and after implementation of reduction strategies at a selected facility;
- Cleaner Production Training at two selected facilities.

Cleaner Production training, to reduce dioxins and furans emissions at Kotlas Pulp and Paper Combine in Arkhangelsk Region, has been completed.

PHASE-OUT OF PCBS IN RUSSIA (CHAIRS: RUSSIA, UNITED SATES, NEFCO)

The draft of the updated PCB inventory in the Russian Federation for 2005-2006 will be completed by Rostechnadzor in 2007. Rostechnadzor suggested that the PCB Project Steering Group evaluate the feasibility to place a PCB treatment and destruction technology at one of four toxic and hazardous waste sites currently operating in Russia. This activity could contribute to the development and validation of the Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy.

Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy

Russia proposed development of an Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy designed to serve as a basis for application to the Phase 3 demonstration of PCB and obsolete pesticides treatment and destruction. This strategy will be developed for a selected Region in Russia, where a demonstration project can be implemented to serve as a model for other Regions.

The Project will include the following components:

- ACAP, in coordination with Rostechnadzor, will establish a new Project Steering Group (PSG) including experts from Russia, other Arctic and observer countries as well as representatives of international organizations, indigenous communities and financial institutions.
- A Regional Waste Management Strategy will be developed consistent with Stockholm Convention and Russian requirements for safe chemical substances handling.
- The selected region should be located in Arctic or sub-Arctic Russia.

Rostechnadzor will prepare a Business Plan for this project by 1 May 2007 and send it to the ACAP Steering Committee for approval.

BROMINATED FLAME RETARDANTS (CHAIR: NORWAY)

Comments received during the public review of Phase I are being incorporated into the report on "Inventory of Sources and Identification of BFR Alternatives and Management Strategies", which is scheduled for release by June 2007.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work have been developed and are under discussion. It was agreed to continue to exchange information, but further work is dependent on risk assessment information, project costs, availability of experts, and international actions to list BFRs as priority pollutants under the Stockholm and LRTAP Conventions.

It was agreed that the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat would work with the BFR Project Steering Group to develop a Fact Sheet for use by Indigenous Peoples.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMUNITY ACTION INITIATIVE

Gwich'in Council International of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments successfully removed and disposed of five obsolete transformers containing PCB liquids from the Fort Yukon villages of Venetie and Beaver.

In Spring 2007, ACAP will partner with the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, the Chukotka Red Cross and the indigenous communities of Loreno and Lavrentia in the

Chukotka Autonomous District to begin training for identification, analysis and removal of drums and storage tanks containing persistent toxic substances.

"Hot Spots" in the Arctic

ACAP plans to continue its working relationship with the Barents-Euro Arctic Council/Working Group on Environment by partnering on projects addressing "Hot Spots" in the Arctic. This is consistent with ACAP projects addressing mercury contamination in Northwest Russia, PCB- contamination and hazardous wastes at Franz Josef Land, and reduction of dioxins/furans emissions at pulp and paper mills in the Arkhangelsk Region.

Project Support Instrument (PSI)

NEFCO plans to meet with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance in April/May 2007 to further discuss additional detailed proposals, prepared using the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) format, for possible Russian financing under the PSI. The projects/programmes address cleaner production and energy efficiency for combined heat and power plants, removal of contamination at Franz Josef Land and reduction of emissions and releases, including mercury, at non-ferrous smelters including zinc smelters.

ACAP is reviewing its Operating Guidelines to reflect its new name and status as a Working Group.

ACAP will be coordinating closely with AMAP, as AMAP evaluates the linkages between climate change and contaminant transport.

ACAP would like to coordinate its input into Russia's Arctic Day, 25 May 2007 at the Russian Duma, with any planned Arctic Council input and presentation.