

Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Response (EPPR) Progress report to Senior Arctic Officials

For the SAO meeting number 3 in Haparanda, November 14-15, 2012

1 Introduction. Response to Arctic Council priorities and potential new projects under consideration

EPPR is focused on two projects in particular with the aim to deliver both to the 2013 Ministerial meeting. In response to the request from SAOs in March, 2012, EPPR is supporting the Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response Task Force by developing Operational Guidelines that will be appended to Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response. EPPR was tasked to focus on notification and coordination/cooperation of response operations as first priorities.

The second project EPPR is heavily focused on is the “Recommended Practices Prevention Pollution Project” (RP3) that addresses the Nuuk Declaration mandate to EPPR regarding work in prevention.

2 Summary of progress on EPPR projects

2.1 Recommended Practices Prevention Pollution Project (RP3) Update

EPPR conducted a second RP3 workshop in June 11-12 in Keflavik, Iceland. EPPR successfully brought together experts to discuss the draft RP3 report, develop new information, and chart a path forward. The workshop enjoyed broad participation from all Arctic Council member states and included representatives from different authorities, industry and observers. The workshop was held in cooperation with PAME and sessions included PAME’s Health, Safety and Environment project participants.

The RP3 report was revised based on results from the workshop and circulated for further comments. The 3rd draft report was submitted to the Arctic Council for review in September 2012, and EPPR discussed the final draft report in their October meeting. The RP3 report will be revised based on the feedback from the AC review and EPPR comments. The draft report will be presented for the SAOs in Haparanda meeting.

EPPR proposes to issue two products under the RP3 project: the thorough technical report which has been circulated and a shorter high level overview document of perhaps 10-12 pages containing recommendations for the Ministerial meeting. EPPR has established a small drafting group which will prepare the short report for the 2013 Ministerial. The short report will include recommendations and possible observations to the Ministers.

2.2 Development of Operational Guidelines in support of the Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

In March 2012, the SAOs requested EPPR to develop operational guidelines for the Agreement, addressing coordination and cooperation in response operations and notification as a priority.

EPPR discussed the 1st draft Operational Guidelines in the EPPR meeting held on October 5-6. Best practices from other international bi- and multilateral agreements have been an important input to the draft text. The 2nd draft, which was the result of EPPR's discussions, was submitted to the Task Force for consideration in their meeting in Reykjavik October 9.-11. Based on discussions in the TF meeting, it was decided to develop the complete Operational Guidelines. The chapters will be prepared by different countries and compiled by Canada by December 15. A three-day workshop will be held, most likely in Canada, in early January where the guidelines will be discussed, completed and submitted to the Task Force for approval.

The following ongoing EPPR projects are progressing;

Arctic Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue Network (AAMverNet)
Arctic Rescue
Development of Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects
Radiation Projects
IMO Arctic Region Chapter: In-Situ Burn of Oil Spills on Water and Broken and Solid Ice Conditions
Occupational safety and health of Arctic oil spill response workers
Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide

3 Deliverables for the 2013 Ministerial

EPPR plans to deliver to the 2013 Ministerial meeting the following documents: Operational Guidelines in support of the Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response; a technical report on Recommended Practices in the Prevention of Marine Oil Pollution (RP3); a short report on prevention containing recommendations to the Ministers; and a final report from the Arctic 2012 radiological emergency exercise. EPPR welcomes comments and information regarding procedures for finalization and delivery of the reports from the SAOs.

4 Working Group administration and next meeting

Mr. Ole Kristian Bjerkemo (Norway) is chair and Ms. Ann Heinrich (USA) is vice- chair of the working group. Ms. Synnøve Lunde (Norway) is the executive secretary.

The next EPPR (EPPR I 2013) meeting will be in Finland in June 2013. A date is not yet set.

5 Collaboration with other working groups / other organizations

EPPR is cooperating with PAME on the RP3 and HSE projects. EPPR also attended the PAME meeting in Halifax and EPPR contributes to follow up activities related to the AMSA report. EPPR is involved in the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA) project. Both AMAP and CAFF attended the EPPR annual meeting in Iceland. An AMAP Expert group visited the EPPR semiannual meeting.