



ACAP Working Group Report to SAO Meeting in Whitehorse

Summary on Main Activities

September, 2013

Since the last SAO meeting in March 2013, Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) has had one meeting in Iceland 11-12 September, 2013.

The ACAP project steering group on Short Lived Climate Forcer Contaminants (SLCFC) has continued implementing two projects focusing on Black Carbon: Norway-Finland led Black Carbon Reduction from Residential Wood Combustion and US-led Diesel Black Carbon Reduction in the Russian Arctic. A residential wood combustion workshop was held in Oslo in June 2013. The first draft report with recommendations on black carbon emissions reduction options for residential wood combustion is expected in winter 2013. In addition, a circumpolar Workshop on Best Practices for Black Carbon Mitigation from Diesel Sources in the Arctic is planned for December 10-11 in Moscow, Russia. ACAP has approved a new project for implementation in September 2013: Arctic Black Carbon Case Studies Platform, which will be led by US. There are three other projects under development with a variety of emissions sources considered. The PSG coordinates with other Arctic Council groups working on black carbon – including AMAP Expert Group and AC SLCF Task Force.

The ACAP project steering group on Mercury continued its efforts to formalize its activities and advance project areas. The group held several teleconferences and electronic information exchanges finalising proposals for two of their five activities: on reduction of mercury releases from non-ferrous metals smelters in the Russian Federation (Co-leads: the United States, Russia and NEFCO) and Mercury Emissions Reduction Technology Workshop (Co-leads: The United States and Russia). The proposals were approved by ACAP WG in September, 2013. The projects are expected to seek PSI funding. In addition, the group will move expeditiously to discuss a mercury waste proposal.

The Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation has nominated a co-chair to project steering group Indigenous Peoples Contaminant Action Project (IPCAP), enhancing the activities to draft project proposal(s) for a baseline study on contaminants in indigenous communities. Due to unclear situation with RAIPON, AIA is currently the acting PP co-chair.

The PSG on dioxin and furan releases has followed the development at Vorkutinskiy cement Plant (own installation of dust filters etc.) and prepared for additional support to these activities, aimed at reducing the emissions of dioxins and furans. A visit to Komi was made in July 2013 and a feasibility study incl. sampling, analysis and drafting of an action plan is being prepared through NEFCO (see activity 4.1. below). The Action Plan to be prepared incl. the installation of a cooling tower for exhaust gases, is presumed to be subject to inter alia PSI funding and is supposed to be submitted early 2014.

The ACAP PSG on Obsolete Pesticides has finalized the report on Phases I and II. ACAP WG approved the report and requests SAO approval at the Whitehorse meeting. The report summary contains recommendations which are made by the Working Group based on the report findings. The group has started cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on improving pesticides management in Northern Russia, as a part of FAO activities in former Soviet Union countries.

In July 2013 ACAP and FAO experts visited a newly built high temperature incineration facility in Krasnoyarsk to see whether it could be used for pesticides destruction. Technically the facility could be used for destruction after certain investments, however, the legal basis of its operation will be further investigated. A separate ACAP/FAO report of the findings has been prepared. Russian Federation has also informed that within a few months a new non-incineration technology will become available in Russia for pesticides and PCBs.

There have been no notable activities in projects on integrated hazardous waste management strategy for Northern Russian Federation (IHWMS) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

The WG has finalized and submitted response to the PSI Fund manager's request on status of ACAP projects. The living document contains information on all (i) completed ACAP projects, (ii) projects that are currently under implementation as well as (iii) projects currently being developed for ACAP approval. The tables also elaborate which ACAP projects can be considered as "Arctic Council projects", hence eligible for PSI funding. To raise awareness on ACAP achievements, the list of completed projects will be placed on the ACAP website including links to the reports.

The WG has continued to elaborate organizing the secretariat duties with between ACAP and Arctic Council Secretariats. The ACAP website is now hosted under the Arctic Council server and updated by ACS on WG request. ACS will also assist in preparations for the next WG meeting, to be held in Tromsø February, 2014.

NEFCO, as the PSI Fund Manager (FM), has informed ACAP that work is underway with the Russian Focal Point (MNRE) and the designated REA (VTB Bank) to finalize the necessary servicing agreements delineating the roles and functions of the MNRE, REA and the FM on the operations of the PSI in the Russian Federation. A bi-annual PSI Report is submitted by the FM to the SAO meeting separately, as required by the Arctic Council's PSI Guidelines.

WG will have its next meeting in Tromsø, Norway, 4-5 February 2014.
