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Progress Report

ACAP Working Group Report to SAOs, Fairbanks 2016 in Fairbanks

February, 2016

Introduction

ACAP held its second meeting under the US Chairmanship in Washington, D.C., USA, February 2-4, 2016. 20 participants attended representing six AC countries (the Kingdom of Denmark and Iceland were absent), one Permanent Participant (AIA), and one observer organization (NEFCO). ACAP welcomed participation by Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of International and Tribal Affairs, US EPA, Jane Nishida, and United States SAO, Julie Gourley, who both offered welcoming remarks at the start of the meeting.

The meeting focused on follow-up activities from the last ACAP meeting in Tromsø 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 Amarak (the AC Tracker) were updated after the meeting.

On February 2, the EG on POPs and Mercury, and the EG on Hazardous Waste met in back-to-back meetings at the EPA. On the morning of February 3, the Chair of the EG SLCP, along with others experts, lead an in-depth discussion on the *Arctic Black Carbon: Reduction of Black Carbon from Diesel Sources* project. These three side meetings took advantage of the large number of US based experts within the EGs and also provided an opportunity for members of ACAP to learn more the projects being developed or under implementation within these three EGs.

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. The EG plans to submit three items for ACAP approval, and potential delivery to Ministers in 2017: 1) The final report titled *Summary of Technical Information Exchange Meeting on Mercury Abatement in the Metallurgical Industry Workshop*. 2) The final report from the sampling and analysis assignment at the Vorkutinskiy Cement plant. 3) The final feasibility report for a pilot action project at the Vorkutinskiy Cement plant.

Expert Group on Hazardous Waste: ACAP agreed to intersessionally approve the *Super Critical Water Oxidation (SCWO)* project proposal, and submit relevant documents to the next PSI Committee meeting (March 22). With regard to the grandfathered project *Demonstration of Management and Destruction of 250 tonnes of PBCs in Transformers (Phase III)*, ACAP decided that once the EG agrees on the development of the ToR in cooperation with the PSI Fund Manager, then ACAP approval is assumed. For the 2017 Ministerial Meeting the EG HW indicated three potential deliverables: 1) A report/technical review on the use of SCWO for environmentally sound destruction of obsolete pesticide. 2) Report from the project on Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) of environmental and health risks of old pesticides storage sites. 3) Feasibility study for the Phase out of PCBs in the Russian Federation project

Indigenous Peoples Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP EG): The *Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project* is undertaking the requirements, including the addition of Russian sites, towards securing a Final Investment Decision from PSI. ACAP will be presenting the *Circumpolar Local Environment Observer Network (CLEO)* during the SAO meeting in Fairbanks, noting workshops that will take place in Canada and Finland later in 2016.

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) The emission inventory article focusing on on-road transport, *"A methodology for calculating transport emissions in cities with limited traffic data: Case study of diesel particulates and black carbon emissions in Murmansk"* and was published in *Science of the Total Environment* in early 2016.
 - 2) A Russian National emission inventory of diesel black carbon will be completed by March 2017.
 - 3) Implementation of the Battelle/EEF Russia pilot project *Wind-diesel Project at Tundra Collective in the Murmansk Region* continues.
 - 4) Completion of two feasibility studies: *Mapping substituting solution for diesel power plants in the Arctic and Northwest Russia* and *Feasibility study for energy supply conversion from diesel in Dolgoshcheli, Mezenskiy District*. They serve as examples for communities across the Arctic.
 - 5) The report *Circumpolar Best Practices: Policy and Financing Options for Black Carbon Emission Reductions* was approved by ACAP for publishing as an ACAP/AC report, and will be forwarded to SAOs for approval as a 2017 Ministerial deliverable.
- 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.
- Following EG approval of the project *Mitigation of Methane Emission - Skytyvkar Dyrnos Landfill Project Russian Federation*, ACAP agreed to review intersessionally, to meet PSI Committee deadlines.
- ACAP decided to review, concurrently with the EG SLCP, the revised project proposal *Mitigation of Black Carbon and Methane Emissions from the Oil and Gas Sector in the Russian Arctic*, to meet PSI Committee deadlines.
- ACAP noted three 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* and a project on *Mitigation of Black Carbon from Agri-burning*. These projects may come forward to ACAP for consideration either intersessionally or at the next working group meeting.

For the 2017 Ministerial Meeting the EG SLCP indicated four potential deliverables: 1) Murmansk Diesel Black Carbon Inventories – Fact Sheet. 2) Wind diesel project at Agricultural Cooperative “Tundra” – report and Fact Sheet. 3) Valday Cluster Upgrade for Black Carbon Reduction in the Republic of Karelia – report and Fact Sheet. 4) Circumpolar Best Practices: Policy and Financing Options for Black Carbon Emission Reductions from Diesel Sources Report.

Collaboration with other working groups/other organizations

- ACAP welcomed the presentation and participation of the Chair of the SDWG WG, Roberta Burns, at the meeting, and decided to seek an opportunity during the Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2017-2019) for a back to back meeting with SDWG.
- 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.

ACAP Strategic Plan

ACAP will update its Strategic Plan to reflect the current work streams and priorities, for submission to SAOs at the October 2016 SAO meeting in Portland, Maine, USA.

Working Group administration and next meeting(s)

ACAP is Chaired by Ulrik Westman (SWE) and the Vice-Chair is Hodayah Finman (U.S). Secretariat support is provided by Executive Secretary, Patti Bruns at the Arctic Council Secretariat.

ACAP decided to undertake greater efforts to communicate the results of projects both within the Arctic Council, but also externally to a wider audience. To that end two fact sheets, one on the Murmansk Diesel Black Carbon Inventories and one on CLEO have been submitted to SAOs for comments and/or approval in Fairbanks.

ACAP is pleased with the work of the four newly merged Expert Groups, and agreed to review the structure of the EGs at the first ACAP meeting of 2017.

ACAP will plan to meet August 30 – September 1, 2016 in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. The ACAP Chair will make a formal request to the Russian Federation Head of Delegation to ACAP to confirm the date and location as soon as possible.