

## **Recognize ACAP as a permanent Working Group of the Arctic Council Discussion Paper**

The Arctic Council Action Plan to eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP) was created in response to the 1997 AMAP Report “Arctic Pollution Issues: A State of the Arctic Environment Report” which was produced under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy.

The Alta and Iqaluit Declarations of 1997 and 1998, respectively, affirmed and reaffirmed the commitment of the Ministers and SAOs to increase efforts to limit and reduce releases of contaminants into the environment and to develop an Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic. Norway was asked to take the lead in developing this Action Plan.

It was particularly noted in the 1998 SAO Report to Ministers, that:

- “Remediation of environmental risks that threaten the Arctic environment and the health of the local, particularly indigenous inhabitants needs cooperative action by all the Arctic States at the global, regional and national level.
- Because of the wide range of pollution issues, including health risks, the process of identifying and initiating appropriate actions should be a continuous activity under the Arctic Council, and be carried out in a phased process. It will be important to prioritize between the various issues of concern and be selective on the actions initiated in order to develop an operative document.”

In the 2000 SAO Report to Ministers at Barrow, the strategy for the Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution in the Arctic was endorsed by the Ministers. The strategy calls for action at the national, regional and global levels.

It was recommended that an ad hoc Steering Committee (the Committee) should be established on an interim basis for two years “awaiting a review of the structure of the Arctic Council organization”. The Barrow Ministerial approved the ACAP strategy and recommendations. Norway was asked to chair the Committee.

The terms of reference for the Committee included pollution prevention, source control and reduction, environmental remediation, technical assistance. The Committee was tasked to develop and evaluate proposals for approval by Ministers and develop a project management regime that could include project steering groups. Since 2000, ACAP has been developing practical solutions to environmental problems and achieving measurable environmental results. ACAP manages its work through a Steering Committee and is accomplished by Project Steering Groups.

Since 2000, seven projects have been developed by ACAP and approved by the SAOs and Ministers. These projects primarily focus on the priority pollutants under the Stockholm Convention and the Heavy Metals Protocol of the LRTAP Convention, and include:

1. Multilateral Cooperative Project for Phase-out of PCB Use and Management of PCB-containing Wastes in the Russian Federation

2. Reduction/Elimination of Emissions of Dioxins and Furans in the Russian Federation with Focus on the Arctic and Northern Regions Impacting the Arctic
3. Development of Fact Sheets on Arctic Contaminants
4. Environmentally-sound Management of Stocks of Obsolete Pesticides in the Russian Federation
5. Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Releases from Arctic States
6. Implementation of the Cleaner Production, Eco-efficiency and Environmental Management Systems at the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Company in the City of Norilsk, Russian Federation. (**Note: This project has been completed**)
7. Reduction/elimination of Sources and Releases of Brominated Flame Retardants

At the Ministerial meeting in Inari in 2002, the Ministers “reconfirmed their readiness and will to continue, further develop and implement ACAP and noted with appreciation the initiation and successful implementation of several priority projects as concrete actions toward reducing pollution of the Arctic.”

**The Ministers decided to continue implementation of the ACAP, as described in the Barrow Declaration, until the Ministerial Meeting in 2006.**

Some examples of **measurable environmental results** achieved to date include:

**Project:** Environmentally-Safe Management of Obsolete and Prohibited Pesticides

- Over 1,697 tons of obsolete pesticides have been inventoried, repackaged and placed into safe storage
- Of this amount, over 566 additional tons of obsolete and prohibited pesticides were discovered during the inventory development
- 235 tons of unidentified pesticides have been analyzed for mercury and chlorinated compounds
- Two new regional storage facilities have been constructed

**Project:** Implementation of the Cleaner Production, Eco-efficiency and Environmental Management Systems at the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Company in the City of Norilsk, Russian Federation.

Three Cleaner Production training programs have been completed under this ACAP Project:

- 74 employees have been trained and certified as Cleaner Production Advisors
- 274 environmental technical projects have been developed
- 87 environmental technical projects have been implemented

Examples of environmental results include:

- Reduction in fresh water consumption: 7.9 million cubic meters/y
- Reduction of waste discharge: 3.4 million cubic meters/y
- Reduction in electrical energy use: 14.9 million KW/y
- Reduction in diesel oil use: 210 tons/y
- Reduction in discharge of heavy metals and their oxides into the atmosphere: 850 tons/y

Implementation of these environmental technical projects resulted in \$8.6 million in economic gains for the Norilsk Nickel Company over the past three years.

**Project:** Reduction/Elimination of Emissions of Dioxins and Furans in the Russian Federation with Focus on the Arctic and Northern Regions Impacting the Arctic - - - Arkhangelsk (Novodvinsk) Pulp and Paper Facility

54 projects have been developed under a Cleaner Production Program

21 of these projects have been implemented

Environmental results achieved:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| • reduction in fresh water consumption and discharges | 1.26 Mil cubic meters/y |
| • reduced electrical consumption                      | 1.05 Mil kWh/y          |
| • reduction in Biological Oxygen Demand               | 56 tons/y               |
| • reduction in Chemical Oxygen Demand                 | 467 tons/y              |
| • reduction of air emissions                          | 32 tons/y               |
| • reduction of solid waste formation                  | 63,500 cubic meters/y   |

At the request of the SAOs, and to strengthen the financing of these important ACAP initiatives, NEFCO developed the Project Support Instrument (PSI). The Ministers approved the pilot phase of the PSI in 2004. Funds have been contributed to the PSI which may serve as a source of continued support for ACAP.

ACAP has carefully followed the recommendations of the Senior Arctic Officials and Ministers. ACAP has achieved significant measurable environmental results as envisioned under the original Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy.

**Request the Senior Arctic Officials to:**

- Approve ACAP as a permanent Working Group under the Arctic Council.
- Rename the **Arctic Council Action Plan** to the **Arctic Contaminants Action Program** to better reflect the focus of its activities.