

ACAP ARCTIC CONTAMINANTS ACTION PROGRAM

Summary of Main Activities

February, 2015

Introduction and New Project Proposals

Since the last SAO meeting in October 2014, the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) Working Group has had one meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland, January 27-29, 2015. Expert Groups (EG) have continued to implement projects and progress has been made in priority areas. The Working Group welcomed the US Chairmanship Priorities and has reflected relevant priority areas in the draft 2015-2017 Work Plan.

Four projects were presented for intersessional approval at the ACAP meeting in Rovaniemi.

Community-Based Black Carbon and Public Health Assessment Project: This project, led by AIA, seeks to examine the impacts of black carbon at the community level, including the identification of sources, promotion of mitigation measures and building community awareness and capacity. The project has been partially developed with funding from the Government of Sweden. The Russian Federation will provide information on a suitable counterpart at the federal level.

Circumpolar Local Environment Observer Network (CLEO): The Local Environment Observer Network (LEO) is an instrument that facilitates communication and cooperation between traditional and western science practitioners and has been used effectively in Alaska since 2010. This project, led by the US, seeks to expand LEO across the circumpolar region. CLEO will provide on the ground knowledge to better understand serious contaminant issues and how changing climate impacts contaminants. CLEO will make it possible to tailor response measures, and develop effective strategies for changing Arctic communities.

Implementation of the Action Plan for dioxins and dust emissions reduction at the Vorkutinskiy Cement Plant: This project, led by Sweden with co-leads from the Russian Federation and Norway, will implement mitigation activities based on data sampling and analysis, and results from a feasibility study undertaken in a previous ACAP project.

Inventory Programs, Control Technologies and other Support to Russia's Compliance with International Convention Requirements: Led by Sweden and in close cooperation with the Russian Federation, this project seeks to follow up on results from previous ACAP projects and promote systematic inventories and remedy action planning regarding dioxins and furans together with Russian environmental authorities. Emission and production information from selected pilot regions will be examined using the UNEP Tool-kit. Joint Seminars will be arranged with relevant stakeholders to examine options towards eliminating remaining emissions. General requirements for compliance with the Stockholm Convention on POPs, implementation of new regulations, and outreach activities will be taken into consideration.

Summary of progress on ACAP projects

ACAP can provide the following update on current projects:

- The ACAP Expert Group on Short-Lived Climate Forcer Contaminants (SLCFC) has continued implementing two projects focusing on Black Carbon: the *Diesel Black Carbon Reduction in the Russian Arctic* and the *Black-carbon case studies platform*.

- The WG received a presentation on Rapid Environmental Assessment of pesticide contaminated sites by the Obsolete Pesticides Expert Group. Following a suggestion by AIA, the Working Group encouraged the EG to involve RAIPON on selection of the sites and to see if demonstration could take place in or nearby indigenous communities.
- NEFCO provided an update from the PCB EG. The WG welcomed the update from the Polar Fund (RF) on a project proposal on PCB clean-up on Franz Josef Land. The project proposal will be finalized in the coming weeks. The WG noted that the project will require EG and ACAP approval. NEFCO was thanked for leading the PCB EG until now. The WG invited countries to consider possibilities to provide a new chair the soonest.
- ACAP welcomed the information from NEFCO that its trust fund will fund a mercury emissions and control technology workshop. Russian Federation proposed to keep the Russian Executing Agency (REA) informed of discussions.

Deliverables for the Ministerial

ACAP is seeking SAO approval of one additional deliverable for the Ministerial. The ACAPWOOD report was approved by SAOs in Yellowknife, October 2014.

Economic benefits, social advantages, and emission reductions: Bus fleet upgrade by Murmanskavtotrans Brochure – As part of the larger project *Reduction of Black Carbon from Diesel Sources in the Russian Arctic*, pilot mitigation projects have been undertaken to address two of the largest sources of black carbon, on-road and off-road transport. This brochure highlights the case study of a bus company deciding to purchase more fuel-efficient buses, which reduced the black carbon emissions in its fleet. While providing an overview of the project, the brochure serves as an outreach tool for other companies seeking to reduce black carbon from diesel sources.

Working Group administration and next meeting(s)

ACAP is Chaired by Jaakko Henttonen (FIN) and the Vice-Chair is Ann-Sofi Israelson (SWE). Secretariat support is provided by Finland and by the Working Group Coordinator at the Arctic Council Secretariat.

After the Ministerial, ACAP will be Chaired by Ulrik Westman (SWE). Secretariat support will be provided by the Working Group Coordinator at the Arctic Council Secretariat. The date and location of the next ACAP WG meeting will be determined intersessionally.

The IPCAP EG will be Chaired on an interim basis by Mr. Jim Gamble (AIA), and Co-chaired by Mr. Patrick Huber (US).

Collaboration with other working groups/other organizations

ACAP Vice-Chair (SWE) provided an update on the work of Task Force on Black Carbon and Methane (TFBCM). The framework document negotiated by the TFBCM identifies a role for ACAP. The WG encouraged participation of the ACAP SLCFC Expert Group in the proposed new Expert Group, outlined in Annex C of the Framework Document. ACAP also discussed the implementation of ACAPWOOD recommendations and agreed it would be important to have these submitted to the work of the newly proposed Expert Group by the TFBCM.

ACAP welcomed a report from Finland on Barents Euro-Arctic Council co-operation on Barents region hotspots. The WG on Environment is currently considering several exclusion proposals on pollution sources that have been proposed to be removed from the list of environmental hot spots in North Western Russia.