

ACAP Status Report
Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials
Yakutsk, Russia
April 6-7, 2005

Primary ACAP Objectives for 2005-2006

- Initiate work on the recently-approved project to reduce and eliminate Brominated Flame Retardants
- Strengthen cooperation with BEAC/WGE and Nordic Council/EWG with initial focus on Pesticides, Dioxins/Furans, and Mercury identified in the Barents Region “Hot Spots” Report prepared by NEFCO and AMAP
- Participation of Observer Countries in the work of ACAP.

ACAP Projects

- Reduction of PCB releases in Russia (Russia, AMAP Secretariat)
- Reduction of dioxin and furan releases in Russia (Sweden)
- Fact sheets on POPs, heavy metals and radioactivity – completed
- New fact sheets on PCBs, obsolete pesticide stockpiles, and brominated flame retardants (joint AMAP/ACAP project, under development)
- Management of stocks of obsolete pesticides in Russia (Finland)
- Reduction of atmospheric mercury emissions from the Arctic states (Denmark)
- Cleaner production at Norilsk Mining Company (Russia) – completed
- Reduction/elimination of sources and releases of brominated flame retardants (Norway)

PCB Destruction - Project Status

- 500,000 PCB-containing capacitors are estimated to remain in Russia. As a technology demonstration, the project Phase 3 will destroy 12,000 capacitors containing ~200 tons of PCBs using U.S. plasma arc technology at an approved site.

Site Selection has been completed

- 9 sites were evaluated.
- A primary and a back-up site were identified:
 - (1) Ecolline, Yaroslavl and
 - (2) Chimprom, Volgograd.
- Final Site selection will be based on preparation of a “Business Plan” indicating a sustainable waste management operation.
- Business Plans will be completed by July 2005
- First shipment of plasma arc system equipment is scheduled for August 2005.

The NEFCO Project to Destroy PCB liquids from Transformers

- NEFCO plans to destroy 250 tons of PCB liquids from Russian Transformers.
- Project has been **restarted** to consider other regions, due to differing opinions between city and regional governments of St. Petersburg on the extent of the PCB problem.

Some lessons learned from the NEFCO project to date are:

- Regional and local governments do not share the imperatives of the Stockholm Convention due to the long term completion dates; 2025 – 2028.
- Need to develop legislation that stimulates phase out and destruction of PCBs.

PCB Collection and Storage Project (Denmark)

Denmark has initiated a collection and storage project in support of the NEFCO PCB Project

Dioxins/Furans- Project Status

- Norway is a new Donor Participant in this project.
- Phase 1 final report due May 1st, 2005. This Report includes an inventory, standardized sampling and analysis protocols, relevant RF regulations and standards; compilation of existing monitoring data, stack emission sampling, development of emission factors, and QA/QC protocols.
- Project Working Group agreed that initial focus of Phase 2 would be on reduction of dioxin emissions from Arkhangelsk pulp and paper facilities by implementing Cleaner Production techniques
- Cleaner Production training at selected facilities in Arkhangelsk is in progress
- Results to date will be presented at the international Dioxin/Furans Conference, Toronto, in August 2005.
- Available funding to date for FY 05 is \$38,000 USD + Norwegian contribution.

Mercury -Project Status

- ACAP Mercury project directly responds to the UNEP Governing Council (GC23) Mercury Programme Initiative.
- Phase 1 – Two Reports have been released:
 - Arctic Mercury Releases Inventory
 - Assessment of Mercury Releases from the Russian Federation
- Two other reports are to be published in FY 05:
 - Action plan for Mercury release reduction in the RF
 - Assessment of existing Agreements on mercury release sources in Arctic Countries.
- Fact Sheets have been released in Russian and English and will be updated by Summer '05
- Phase 2 – Two sectors have been identified, in which suitable pilot projects should be chosen (coal fired power plants and mercury recycling and storage) a third sector is to be selected for evaluation.
- Funding is sufficient to initiate Phase 2 of this project.

Obsolete Pesticides - Project Status

- All stocks in Arkhangelsk (64 t), Magadan (20 t) and Komi (18 t) have been repackaged, analyzed and safely stored.
- Similar projects in Tyumen (230 t) and Omsk (250 t) will be completed in 2005.
- Over 915 additional tons of obsolete and prohibited pesticides were discovered during the inventory development in the five regions.
- 233 tons of unidentified pesticides have been analyzed in the five regions.
- 93 tons have been repackaged.

- \$95,000 was contributed by the Russian Regions to co-fund, together with donor countries, these ACAP Regional Projects.
- Projects in the Altai Republic (Gorny Altai) and Kurgan have started.
- Gorny Altai
 - 20 tons of obsolete pesticides have been located.
 - Many warehouses located in flood zones.
- Kurgan
 - Initial inventory is 1025 tons of obsolete pesticides
 - 500 tons are in metal containers (over 30 years old) of 20-50 tons each.
- The Project in Altai Krai (1414 tons) is pending additional funding from donors. The Region is contributing \$35,000 to the project.
- Three Priority Regions remain for the completion of this project.
- The next phase of this project will be destruction of the obsolete pesticides.

Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs) –Project Status

- At the November 2004 Ministerial Meeting, this project was formally approved.
- BFRs are used for fire protection in:
 - Electrical and electronic equipment
 - Plastic cabinets, insulation
 - Circuit boards
 - Textiles and furniture
 - Foam insulation materials
 - Transport (train, bus, car, airplane)
- AMAP has produced a Fact Sheet on BFRs which addresses environmental concentrations.
- Seven Arctic countries are participating in the project.
- Currently the project has \$50K USD in budget, awaiting contributions by Norway and US. Target is \$125K USD.
- Objectives:
 - Identify and develop safe waste-handling and recycling practices for BFR-containing products
 - Identify alternative flame retardant chemicals and technologies and promote safe alternatives.

Project Support Instrument (PSI) - Status

The Arctic Council Ministers:

- Emphasized the need for reinforcing efforts to finance circumpolar cooperation
- Supported the Project Support Instrument (PSI) concept as a funding mechanism
- Requested the SAOs to establish a pilot phase of the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument and develop a set of guidelines
- NEFCO and ACAP were tasked to develop Draft Guidelines

ACAP Steering Committee

- Reviewed draft PSI Guidelines (March 2005)
- Presented the proposed guidelines to the SAOs

Next Steps:

SAOs

- Approve PSI Guidelines
- Select a Fund Manager
- Invite contributions

New Projects to be Implemented by Permanent Participants

Projects have been proposed by Gwich'in Council International (GCI) and Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)

PCBs: GCI and RAIPON Projects

- The GCI project focuses on abandoned PCB sources in ten local villages.
- A similar project has been presented by RAIPON for:
 - Two communities in the Nenets Autonomous Republic,
 - Two communities in Chukotka.

Dioxins /Furans: GCI Project

The focus is on community training awareness programs to reduce dioxin/furans emissions from open burning (barrel burning)

Obsolete Pesticides: RAIPON Project

Addresses the problem of Obsolete and Prohibited Pesticides in the Nenets and Chukotka communities to collect, identify, remove, repackage, and safely store these pesticides.

The ACAP Steering Committee has approved these proposals, in principle, and they will be integrated into the existing Project Working Groups.