

**SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS REPORT TO MINISTERS
ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS
ACAP Progress Report 2002-2004**

Phase out of PCBs in the Russian Federation.

The Project is in the third and final phase to conduct technology demonstration for the destruction of 12,000 capacitors containing approximately 200 Tonnes of PCBs and to destroy 250 Tonnes of PCB liquids from transformers in Russia. Phase 3 activities are as follows:

1. Destruction of PCB-containing capacitors in regions affecting the Arctic:

Components of the plasma arc system are being prepared for shipment to Russia. Two Russian facilities, one in Yaroslavl and the other in Volgograd, were selected for potential placement of the system. The Yaroslavl Facility has offered to provide in-kind contributions to ship the system to Russia and to construct a new building to house the plasma arc system.

2. Cleaning of transformers and destruction of liquid PCBs. This NEFCO Project has received key approvals at the Federal level, but they are still waiting for approvals at the local level. The current plans are to place a facility in Kapitolovo, near St. Petersburg.

3. Collection and storage of PCBs. Denmark has initiated bilateral activities in support of the NEFCO transformer project in the Leningrad Region.

A draft **Fact Sheet** is in preparation integrating the work of AMAP and ACAP on these PCB-related projects.

Reduction of Dioxins and Furans Releases in the Russian Federation.

Three priority regions were selected for this project: Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Komi. Draft dioxin emission inventories have been completed and selection of sites for emissions measurements is in progress. Cleaner Production Training at the Arkhangelsk pulp-and paper industry is underway.

Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Releases from Arctic States

Phase 1 (Assessment and Prioritization) is nearing completion. The final draft of the “Assessment of Mercury Releases from the Russian Federation”, prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia has been received and awaits final approval by the Ministry.

A second report, on “Arctic Mercury Releases Assessment” has been prepared and the inventory of source categories is ready for approval by the Project Steering Group. The ACAP Steering Committee agreed that the report should also contain the regional assessment of existing and planned initiatives addressing the source categories in the Arctic states and identify possible measures for follow-up.

A combined AMAP/ACAP **Fact Sheet** on “Mercury –a Priority Pollutant” has been prepared and is under review.

Environmentally Sound Management of Stocks of Obsolete Pesticides in the Russian Federation

Eleven Russian priority regions that directly impact the Arctic were selected for project implementation. The Arkhangelsk Region was selected as the pilot demonstration region. As a result of this project, all obsolete pesticides stocks in Arkhangelsk Region, 62.7 Tonnes, were inventoried, repackaged, analyzed for heavy metals and chlorinated compounds and moved to safe temporary storage awaiting final destruction. A promotional event, highlighting the completion of this pilot demonstration project was held in Arkhangelsk on 16 September 2004.

All stocks of obsolete pesticides in Komi Republic (18.67 Tonnes) were inventoried, tested, repackaged and moved into safe storage. Inventories have been completed in Tyumen, Magadan and Omsk. Denmark is conducting similar bilateral activities in Pskov and Vologda. The AMAP/ACAP **Fact Sheet** on obsolete pesticides is available for the SAO's and Ministers.

Implementation of a Cleaner Production Program at the OJSC Norilsk Mining Company in the Arctic

The final report of the "Implementation of Cleaner Production, Eco-Efficiency and Environmental Management Systems...at JSC Norilsk Mining Company in the Arctic City of Norilsk" has been received and approved by the Steering Committee. As a result of the Cleaner Production Program **87 environmental projects were implemented**. Environmental gains achieved through this Program include: Reduction in fresh water consumption (million cubic meters) – 7.9; Reduction of waste discharge (thousands cubic meters) – 3,354; Reduction of use of electrical energy (million kWh) - 14.9; Reduction of discharges of heavy metals and their oxides into the atmosphere (tonnes) - 850. Economic savings exceeded \$6.8 Million USD. **The project has been successfully completed**. ACAP invested about \$100K USD.

ACAP Project Financing

There is sufficient funding currently available to meet the needs of the ACAP projects through the Spring of 2005. Additional donor contributions, particularly for the PCB and Obsolete Pesticides Projects (\$100K to \$200K each), will be needed.

Coordination and Cooperation with Other Organizations

The Chairs of the ACAP and Barents Euro Arctic Council/Working Group on Environment (BEAC/WGE) participated in the bi-annual Steering Committee Meetings of ACAP and BEAC/WGE. Opportunities for cooperation were discussed. Fourteen Arctic "Hot Spot" projects were identified from the NEFCO/AMAP "Hot Spots" Report. A project on dioxin reduction at a pulp and paper industry in Arkhangelsk was identified as a new cooperative project. The remaining projects will be further reviewed for decisions/recommendations.

Initiatives Implemented by Permanent Participants

The first project proposals to ACAP were presented Gwich'in Council International. Both the project on management of PCB-containing electrical generating equipment and reduction of dioxin emissions from barrel burning were accepted, in principle, for implementation in Alaska and the Russian Arctic. ACAP will look for funding for one or both of these projects.

ACAP Website

The new format for the ACAP web-site was presented and accepted by the Steering Committee.

Status of ACAP as a Working Group

The implementation of most of the ACAP Projects requires a multi-year time and funding commitment by the donor countries. Currently, ACAP is a "special initiative", not a permanent Working Group. However, considering the importance of the ACAP work in supporting international environmental contaminant elimination of priority pollutants in the Arctic, the need for stability and permanency of ACAP to guarantee completion of projects and to encourage multi-year funding, the Steering Committee recommends that ACAP be made a permanent Working Group of the Arctic Council effective in 2004.

Reduction of Brominated Flame Retardants' (BFRs) in the Arctic

At the October 2003 SAOs Meeting it was agreed to initiate a new ACAP Project on reduction of Brominated Flame Retardants. The final project proposal was accepted at the October ACAP Steering Committee Meeting. ACAP requests approval by the SAOs, and recommend to the Ministers inclusion of this project into the Annex "A" list of projects under ACAP.

The Steering Committee agreed to transfer the Annex "B" Project on "**Guidelines for EIA on Radioactive Waste**" to the Contact Expert Group of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

ACAP Work Plan for 2004-2006

- Complete the AMAP/ACAP Fact Sheets on PCBs, Dioxins/Furans, Mercury and Cleaner Production
- Sponsor and participate in the International Conference on "Cleaner Production as a Contribution to Sustainable Development" in Moscow, Russia on 6-9 December 2004
- Implement Phase 3 of the PCB Project to include shipment, assembly and testing of the plasma arc PCB-destruction systems
- Complete inventory and repackaging and safe temporary storage of the obsolete and prohibited pesticides in the remaining six priority regions in the Arctic
- Achieve measurable reduction of the dioxins/furans emission at one pulp and paper industrial facility in Arkhangelsk Region
- Prepare a regional assessment of existing and planned initiatives addressing source categories in the Arctic States and identify possible measures to be followed up, and implement a model mercury source control and reduction project in Russia
- Initiate the new project on brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and coordinate with AMAP on their BFR database development
- Continue evaluation of emerging priority pollutants including contaminants identified by the LRTAP Convention
- Complete content addition for the ACAP Website
- Support implementation of one cooperative project with the Permanent Participants
- Continue cooperation and outreach with the Barents Euro Arctic Council Working Group on Environment (BEAC/WGE) to include implementation of joint projects addressing contaminant "Hot Spots" in the Arctic
- Develop specific cooperative activities with the Nordic Council of Ministers/Environmental Working Group
- Continue to explore outreach opportunities with industry to find solutions to environmental problems addressed by ACAP
- Expand participation of the Arctic Council Observer countries in the work of ACAP
- Explore opportunities for additional funding of the ACAP projects

SAOs recommend to the Ministers to:

- Take note of the ACAP Progress Report 2002-2004 and endorse the Work Plan for 2004 – 2006
- Endorse the Brominated Flame Retardants Project as an ACAP Annex "A" Project
- Encourage ACAP to continue its action projects addressing priority pollutants of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and the priority pollutants under the LRTAP Convention

- Request ACAP to continue its close coordination with AMAP on problems related to emerging chemicals
- Encourage ACAP to continue its evaluation and application of innovative technologies to address the problems of POPs and heavy metals contamination in the Arctic
- Encourage ACAP to continue its outreach and cooperation with the Permanent Participants to address local and regional contamination problems in the Arctic
- Commend the Russian-Norwegian Cleaner Production Center and Norilsk Mining Company on their successful completion of the ACAP Cleaner Production Project
- Note the excellent work achieved by the Arkhangelsk Regional Administration in successfully completing the model demonstration program for inventory development, repackaging and safe storage of all stocks of obsolete and prohibited pesticides in the Region
- Endorse changing the status of ACAP from a Special Initiative to a permanent Working Group of the Arctic Council

REYKJAVIK DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council

ACTIONS AGAINST POLLUTANTS

We suggest that the second paragraph be revised as follows:

On the fourth line beginning with the word “welcome” change the wording to read as follows: “...welcome the entry into force of these agreements, and request AMAP and ACAP to support the implementation of these agreements. **(delete the remainder of this sentence).**”

Welcome the work of ACAP to support implementation of the Stockholm Convention to eliminate priority pollutants in the Arctic; and note with appreciation the special efforts of the Russian Federation in implementing the ACAP Projects

Welcome the outreach and coordination of ACAP with other international fora such as the Barents Euro Arctic Council’s Working Group on Environment to bring a greater focus on solving contaminants problems in the Arctic.

Encourage ACAP to continue its outreach and cooperation with the Permanent Participants to address local and regional contamination problems in the Arctic

Request ACAP and AMAP to continue their close coordination and information exchange on problems and solutions related to emerging chemical contaminants impacting the Arctic