

ACAP

Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic

ACAP PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS

**By Bob Dyer
Chairman**

**12-14 October 2005
Khanty Mansiysk, Russia**

ACAP Report to SAOs
Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia
12-14 October 2005

Overview of ACAP Progress since SAO Meeting of April 6-7, 2005

- The most recent ACAP Steering Committee meeting was held on 22-23 September 2005 at the RF Ministry of Natural Resources in Moscow.
- Work has been initiated on this new project to reduce/eliminate sources and releases of Brominated Flame Retardants.
- Continue to strengthen cooperation with the Barents Euro-Arctic Council/Working Group on Environment (BEAC/WGE) and on “hot spots” in Barents Region. The current focus is on Dioxins/Furans discharges from the pulp and paper industry in the Arkhangelsk Region and Mercury waste in the Nenets and Murmansk Regions. These “hot spots” were identified in a report prepared by NEFCO and AMAP for the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.
- Working Closely with RAIPON and Gwich’in Council International on Community Action Projects (PCBs, Obsolete Pesticides and Dioxins/Furans Emissions from open pit burning).
- Initiated outreach work with UNDP, regarding support for technology evaluation and transfer projects in RF, in anticipation of Russia ratifying the Stockholm Convention.
- Prepared summary, for SAOs, of recommendations and actions to complete the PCB and Obsolete Pesticides demonstration projects in Russia.

ACAP Projects

- Phase-out of PCBs in Russia (Co-chairs: Russia, AMAP Secretariat).
- Reduction of dioxin and furan releases in Russia (Chair: Sweden).
- Management of stocks of obsolete pesticides in Russia (Chair: Finland).
- Reduction of atmospheric mercury emissions from the Arctic states (Chair: Denmark).
- Reduction/elimination of sources and releases of brominated flame retardants (Chair: Norway).
- Cleaner production at Norilsk Mining Company (Russia) – completed by ACAP, but continues through self-financing by the company.
- New ACAP/AMAP Fact Sheets on mercury and brominated flame retardants (available by December 2005).

Destruction of PCB-Containing Capacitors (USA)

- 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.

- 19 sites were evaluated and 9 sites have been visited by the technical experts team.
- A primary and two back-up sites were identified:
 - (1) Chimprom, Volgograd
 - (2) “GITOS/VNIIOCHT, Saratov Region

- (3) Ecolline, Yaroslavl
- “Chimprom” is preparing a Business Plan to demonstrate a sustainable waste management operation.
- Next step will to develop an Environmental Assessment to include certification of plasma arc technology for use at the site.

Destruction of PCB liquids from Transformers (NEFCO)

- NEFCO plans to destroy 250 tons of PCB liquids from Russian transformers.
- Project has been **restarted** to consider two sites in the Rostov Region.
- Detailed design of Russian PCB-destruction system for these sites is being submitted to regional authorities for approval.
- Next step – application for and approval of construction permits.

PCB Collection and Storage Project (Denmark)

Denmark has continued an expanded collection and storage project in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region to update inventories of PCBs and obsolete pesticides in the area and to ensure proper storage conditions.

Environmentally-Safe Management of Obsolete and Prohibited Pesticides (Finland)

- Inventories are being completed in Tyumen (149 t), Omsk (540 t) and Altai Republic (61t). 23 tons, 390 tons and 24 tons of pesticides, respectively, have been repackaged.
- A total of 476 tons of pesticides have been repackaged in six Regions.
- Over 854 tons of obsolete pesticides have been inventoried and placed into safe storage in six Regions.
- Over 216 additional tons of obsolete and prohibited pesticides were discovered during the inventory development in the six regions.
- 88 tons of unidentified pesticides have been analyzed in the six regions.
- Total donor allocation into this project to date is \$550,000.
- An additional \$95,000 US has been contributed by the Russian regions to co-fund these ACAP regional projects.
- Inventory developments in Altai Krai (1,414t) and Kurgan (646t) have started.
- Three priority regions remain for the completion of Phase 2 of this project.
- Phase 3 of this project will be the destruction of the obsolete pesticides. However, there is recent information suggesting that at least one region may be using an environmentally unacceptable landfill for disposal of the repackaged obsolete pesticides, rather than waiting for a destruction facility to be built.

Bi-lateral Project of Denmark with Pskov and Vologda Regions

- Initial inventory work has been completed.
- Over 300 additional tons of obsolete and prohibited pesticides were discovered during the inventory development in the two regions.
- In Vologda, more than 330 tons of obsolete pesticides have been repackaged.
- In Pskov, more than 150 tons of obsolete pesticides have been repackaged.

- In Pskov, one of three storage facilities have been reconstructed.

ACAP Recommended Actions for Completion of the PCB and Obsolete Pesticides Projects in the Russian Federation

The PCB Project reached the implementation stage two years ago and consists of three projects ready for implementation:

1. Transformers treatment and destruction project (NEFCO)
2. Destruction of PCB-containing capacitors (USA)
3. Transformer Collection and Storage Project (Denmark)

The Obsolete Pesticides destruction project will reach the implementation stage this year.

Both projects require development of a Centralized or Regional Waste Storage and Destruction Facility for PCBs and Obsolete Pesticides.

Recommended Actions:

1. Rostekhnadzor (Federal Agency on Environmental, Technological and Nuclear Supervision) should identify and address problems related to Regional acceptance of toxic and hazardous wastes (PCBs and obsolete pesticides) from other regions of Russia for treatment and destruction.
2. The key federal and regional environmental ministries and agencies should provide technical support for preparation of the necessary environmental assessments and certifications for placement and operation of storage and destruction facilities for PCBs and obsolete pesticides.
3. Financial support should be provided by the Ministry of Finance and other appropriate Ministries to provide directed co-funding for these Regional projects in Russia.
4. Request RF Rostekhnadzor:
 - To develop a schedule for phasing out the use of PCB-containing equipment.
 - To develop a schedule for destruction of PCBs and obsolete pesticides stockpiles.
 - To ensure that regional/territorial authorities, including regional offices of Rostekhnadzor, receive and agree to implement the above schedules.
5. Develop incentive-based regulations and economic measures (e.g. fee for service) to encourage PCB and pesticides owners to collect, transport, and dispose/destroy these materials to meet the objectives of the Stockholm Convention and the LRTAP Heavy Metals Protocol.

6. Encourage early ratification of the Stockholm Convention to mobilize resources from the Global Environment Facility to address these priority pollutants.

ACAP requests endorsement of these Recommendations by the Senior Arctic Officials for transmittal by the Arctic Council Chair to Rostekhnadzor, the Ministry of Natural Resources and other RF Ministries for action, as deemed appropriate.

Reduction of Dioxins/Furans Releases into the Environment (Sweden)

- Phase 1 final report, “Evaluation of Major Dioxins/Furans Sources in Arkhangelsk and Murmansk Regions and Republic of Komi” was completed in August 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.
- Phase 2 is focusing on reduction of dioxins/furans emissions from Arkhangelsk pulp and paper facilities by implementing Cleaner Production (CP) techniques.
- Cleaner Production training at Arkhangelsk (Novodvinsk) pulp-and paper facility was completed in June 2005. This facility is on the “hot spot” list.
- As a result of this CP training, 56 projects have been developed and 21 projects have been implemented by the facility. Many of these projects have resulted in significant reductions of dioxins/furans releases into the water and air.
- Next Step: Meeting of donors and technical experts in November to plan additional targeted dioxins/furans reduction project at pulp and paper facilities in the Arkhangelsk Region.

Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Releases from Arctic States (Denmark)

Phase 1

- In addition to the Reports that have been released on
 - “Arctic Mercury Releases Inventory”
 - “Assessment of Mercury Releases from the Russian Federation”,
- Two additional reports are scheduled for release in November 2005, as follows:
 - Mercury Action Plan for Russia to Reduce Major Mercury Release Sources
 - Assessment of Mercury Reduction Measures in Existing Binding and Non-Binding International Instruments

Phase 2 - Project Identification and Evaluation

- Three potential mercury-release reduction demonstration projects have been identified for further evaluation:
 - Mercury-specific air pollution controls on a coal-fired facility.
 - Technical upgrades and improved air pollution controls at a mercury-recycling plant.

- Collection and preliminary treatment of mercury waste in an existing recycling facility in NW Russia. (This is on the existing NEFCO-AMAP “Hot Spots” List.)
- Funding is sufficient for Phase 2 of this project.
- A new Project was endorsed by the Mercury Project Steering Group at their September 2005 meeting in Ottawa. It also directly responds to the UNEP Governing Council (GC23) Partnership initiative to reduce sources of mercury in the environment. This project, presently supported by Canada and the U.S., will assist Russian chlor-alkali production facilities to significantly reduce mercury consumption and release. A technical workshop will be held at Volgograd “Caustic” on 16-17 November 2005. It will be coordinated by RusChlor and the Russian-Norwegian Cleaner Production Center.

Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs) (Norway)

- In November 2004, this project was approved by the Arctic Council Ministers.
- A Project Steering Group meeting was recently held in Oslo on 4-5 October 2005.
- The primary focus of this meeting was to review country responses to a questionnaire designed to develop an initial inventory on production of BFR chemicals and import/exports of products containing BFRs.
- Key information from the participating countries, required to complete the inventory, was identified. Further efforts are underway to obtain this information.
- It was noted that while BFR production was generally decreasing, the amounts of BFRs entering waste streams, at the end of useful product life, was increasing.
- A fact sheet in English will be available on the ACAP website by December 2005, and production of the fact sheet in Russian is under consideration.
- A table identifying alternatives to BFRs will be prepared.

New ACAP Initiatives Managed and Implemented by Permanent Participants

Community-based model for PCB mitigation in the Arctic – Gwich’in Council International (GCI)

- On-site inspection for obsolete electrical equipment has been completed in four Alaskan villages.
- Six obsolete electrical transformers have been identified (one was punctured and leaking).
- Next step is to sample the transformer liquids and, weather permitting, package the transformers for shipment for safe storage and treatment.
- An additional village has recently notified GCI that they have 15 improperly discarded obsolete transformers.

Dioxins /Furans: GCI Project

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

Community-based model for identification of sources of PCBs and obsolete pesticides in the Russian North - - Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North (RAIPON)

- Activities have started in three indigenous villages in the Nenets Autonomous Region to include:
 - Training of the local population to identify sources of PCBs and obsolete pesticides.
 - Collection of samples from the local landfills to test for PCBs and pesticides.
 - Provide new food storage containers to local communities to replace POPs-contaminated containers used in some households.
 - A special training course on safe food consumption is being developed for schools and community education programs.

At the recent ACAP Steering Committee Meeting, RAIPON and GCI presented a proposal to consider creating a separate Community Action Based Project Steering Group under ACAP.

The mission of this Community Action Initiative would be to build a grassroots capacity using a holistic culturally relevant approach to address pollution issues in Arctic Indigenous Communities.

ACAP now has a fully operating webpage.

- A key element is a page for each ACAP project:
 - Brief description of purpose
 - Completion timeline for various phases of each project
 - Donor information
 - Background documents
 - Links provided to:
 - Other Working Groups
 - Member Countries
 - Permanent Participants:
 - RAIPON
 - ACAP Observers:
 - Barents Euro-Arctic Council/ Working Group on Environment
 - Indigenous Peoples Secretariat
 - Nordic Council of Ministers
 - NEFCO

Financing the Work of ACAP

The ACAP Secretariat and Chair are co-located in Washington, D.C. and all expenses for carrying out these functions are provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ACAP Steering Committee Meetings are held semi-annually and are hosted on a rotating basis by the participating countries. The meeting costs are primarily provided by the host country with support from the Secretariat.

Project Steering Groups have been established for five major pollutant-elimination projects (PCBs, Dioxins/Furans, Obsolete Pesticides, Mercury, and Brominated Flame Retardants). Each of these Project Steering Group has a Lead Country, which is responsible for management and cost-tracking of the project.

The costs to implement ACAP Projects are provided as voluntary contributions by donor-countries and, with respect to Russia, by various regions and organizations, and include in-kind contributions.

The costs to implement each of these projects vary by the nature of the demonstration activity and the phase. The number of donor-countries and the amounts of contributions also varies for each project.

Requested actions for SAOs:

ACAP is currently a provisional Working Group. This provisional status expires at the next ministerial meeting in November 2006. The Project Support Instrument (PSI), to finance ACAP Projects, was approved at the November 2004 Ministerial meeting. To maintain continuity and to ensure successful completion of ACAP projects, and to encourage donor contributions to the PSI, for ACAP projects, it would be desirable to have ACAP approved as a permanent Working Group. In addition, the actions taken under ACAP are more accurately characterized as an action “Program” rather than a “Plan”.

Recommendations:

- Change of status of ACAP to a permanent Working Group.
- Change the name of the Working Group to Arctic Council Action **Program**.