

## **Status report**

### **ACAP WG Meeting**

**Ottawa, 16-18 September 2009**

## **Feasibility Study on mercury containing waste in the NW region of Russian Federation**

### **1. Introduction**

In 2006 it was decided by the ACAP mercury project steering group (PSG) to continue the mercury work on a "Feasibility Study on Mercury Containing Waste (MCW) in the Northwest Region of the Russian Federation". Denmark offered to be the lead on this project and a contract was awarded the Danish consulting company COWI A/S in August 2006 with funding from Norway, Finland, NEFCO, Russia and Denmark. The project was expected to begin October 2006 with Rostekhnadzor, Moscow as the Russian Federal counterpart. However due to restructuring of the Russian authorities and lack of progress the project was initiated September 2007 in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Russian institute Ecobezopasnost authorised by Rostekhnadzor.

The aim of the project is to prepare a feasibility study for an improved system for collection, transport, storage and treatment of mercury containing waste in the 7 territories of NW Russia (Archangelsk, Nenets Autonomous Ocrug, Murmansk, Komi, Karelia, St. Petersburg City and region. Based on the existing system for the North West region specific components for a Demonstration Project shall be proposed for an optimised system for management and handling of MCW in the NW Region, replicable for implementation within other regions in the Arctic and subarctic parts of Russia.

### **2. Work accomplished**

- Mercury waste questionnaires filled in by 6 territories of NW Russia
- Mission to the NW territories, October 2007.
- Draft baseline report and working group meeting document prepared by Cowi, January 2008.
- Successful workshop in cooperation with Ecobezopasnost, February 2008.

- Minutes of the Meeting (MoM) prepared by Ecobezopasnost, March 2008.
- Scenarios for possible future optimised mercury management by Cowi, March 08
- The status of the whole project is given by the consultant in the Status report of 5.2.2009.

### **3. Completion of the project and possible continuation**

In March 2009 a PSG meeting was held back to back to the ACAP WGM in Stockholm where Denmark informed about lack of progress in the project. If no further progress would be observed Denmark would like to complete the project. However Russian commitment was strongly expressed by the ACAP chair and a plan was agreed with Danish EPA and the consultant. Archangelsk, Murmansk and Karelia fulfilled the criteria for being selected as priority regions for the feasibility study. Based on this selection Archangelsk was selected as the pilot region where the demonstration project could be initiated. The attached minutes includes an agreed plan for the work to be carried out. Based on the agreements at the PSG the consultant in cooperation with DEPA prepared letters for Archangelsk informing about the project and future cooperation ready for posting in May 2009. However due to lack of facilitation from the Russia side it has neither been possible for Danish EPA nor the consultant to get the project initiated in Archangelsk though the consultant has been ready during summer 2009 to initiate the cooperation.

Danish EPA therefore recommends the project to be cancelled.

### **4. Financial status of the project**

The existing funds for the feasibility study have been allocated and the consultant has informed that new work has to be covered by an addendum. However Denmark has not been willing to initiate any addendum before a cooperation agreement with Archangelsk is signed.

### **5. Other activities**

The status of the “Mercury control demonstration project at a Russian coal power plant” will be reported separately.

Information about the UNEP mercury partnership cooperation with Russia will be reported by US.