

“Reduction or Elimination of Sources and Releases of Brominated Flame Retardants”

PROJECT STATUS REPORT to the ACAP Working Group Meeting Ottawa, 16-17 September 2009.

(1) Work accomplished since last ACAP WG meeting in Stockholm, March 2008

There has been no activity in the BFR PSG since the last project progress report to the ACAP WG meeting in March 2009.

(2) Funding expenditures since last WGM in Stockholm, March 2009

Since the last report to the ACAP WG meeting in March 2009, no expenditures have incurred on the project budget.

(3) Next Steps of the Project

The PSG has not yet been able to find activities suitable to continue the project in a Phase II. As a consequence of this, the BFR PSG is continuing as an information exchange forum for 2009-2010. This will not fulfil the demands for a Phase II project, but it might still be a useful activity for the different countries in their future work with BFRs. The PSG has discussed organization of the information exchange forum. A simple model for information sharing by e-mail will be tried out and evaluated. The BFR PSG will continue to search for phase II projects.

The Phase I report, “Final Report of Phase I of the ACAP Project on Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs) Phase I: Inventory of sources and identification of BFR alternatives and management strategies”, was made available on the AMAP website in October 2008. The ACAP secretariat has been encouraged to make the report available on the ACAP website as well. Data in the published report is valid through 2005. The project steering group considered updating the report but decided that the report remained valid in 2008 and that an update would not be warranted. The PSG does not consider it to be relevant to print the report as such, but a promotional flyer to advertise the report is planned.

The BFR PSG has been in contact with IPS (Indigenous Peoples Secretariat) regarding the initiative made by IPS in the ACAP WG meeting in Oslo, March 2007, on preparing a fact sheet/flyer on the ACAP BFR-project. The PSG will assist IPS with the preparation of a fact sheet on BFRs aimed at indigenous peoples.

(4) Timeline to completion

The information exchange forum will continue throughout 2010, and the PSG will continue to search for phase II projects in this time period. Further, a draft promotional flyer to advertise the phase I report should be developed during 2009.

(5) Total funding expenditures since inception of project

Total finances allocated for the BFR project to date amount to ca. 935 000 NOK (ca. 160 000 USD; 117000 EUR); finances have been contributed by Canada (14%), Denmark (28%), Norway (25%), Sweden (30%) and the United States (3%). In addition these and other members of the Arctic Council have provided in kind contributions to the project. The provisional budget for Phase I of the project was ca. 860 000 NOK (ca. 147 000 USD; 108 000 EUR). Total expenditures to date on the BFR project (including some outstanding costs associated with production and printing of the Phase I report) amount to ca. 700 000 NOK (120 000 USD; 88 000 EUR).

As reported to the March 2009 ACAP WG meeting, the excess funding (around 200 000 NOK) is currently provisionally tagged for initiation of Phase II of the project.

(6) Estimated funding required to complete project

It is considered that the project resources currently available would be adequate to cover the costs associated with the information exchange activity that has been planned for the BFR PSG.

Implementation of any other follow-up activities would require allocation of further financial resources to the project, and according to information presented within the PSG no countries have indicated intentions to provide additional resources. If some Arctic countries would volunteer to set up Phase II projects the financial situation will change.

(7) List of publications, technical papers, and/or presentations

- Report of Phase I of the ACAP Project on Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs) – Inventory of sources and identifications of BFR alternatives and management strategies.

It should also be noted that AMAP has released its Arctic Pollution 2009 report. This report contains the latest information on BFR levels and trends in the Arctic environment and ecosystems. This report also summarises some of the results of the phase 1 report of the ACAP BFR project.

(8) Requests for ACAP WG

The BFR PSG reiterates the request for the ACAP WG secretary to post the BFR Phase I report on the ACAP website.