

Minutes
ACAP Mercury PSG Teleconference
September 3, 2014

Attendees:

Marianne Bailey – U.S. EPA
Marilyn Livingood – U.S. EPA
Stan Durkee – U.S. EPA
Gail Lacy – U.S. EPA
Gunnar Futsaeter -- UNEP
Husamuddin Ahmadzai – NEFCO
Matti Verta – Finland
Hui Peng – Canada
John Munthe – Sweden

1. The smelter project has received an Expression of Interest from the PSI and now the project needs to be developed further. One element will be an information exchange workshop. Approximately 30K US of Swedish funding will be used for the information exchange. Husamuddin circulated a concept note regarding the information exchange on July 30. USEPA responded.

The next meeting of the PSI Committee will be on October 7. Documentation is now being prepared for that meeting. Russia has requested that the workshop take place near the smelter, at the Design Institute of Yekaterinburg. The timing of the workshop is still to be determined, in coordination with and with the approval of the Swedish EPA; January is possible. The PSG participants are urged to reach out to industry stakeholders to encourage their participation. LRTAP and Minamata provisions will be part of the information exchange.

Husamuddin will circulate a revised concept note for the information exchange in the coming weeks.

2. The mercury emissions reduction technology workshop is not moving ahead at this time because it has not gone forward to the PSI for a funding decision and because the PSG's efforts to fund it through participant contributions has not been successful (the Swedish funding will now be devoted to the smelting-specific information exchange, and we do not believe the Norwegian funding is still available).

In discussing options for moving the workshop forward, we noted that one option is to put it off until a later date. Another is to encourage the PSI to consider the proposal for funding. Given the length of time that the PSG has already been considering this approved project, the PSG agreed that the PSG Chair would submit the approved proposal to the PSI, via Husamuddin, with a cover note explaining how the project will lead to tangible investments in mercury emissions reductions by impacting the Russia mercury action plan, and how it will lead to reductions in Russia's current mercury inventory (citing data). In order for the workshop to remain in synch with the action plan development, Gunnar indicated that the spring/summer of 2015 would be at the later end of what would work and that he would verify that with the implementers. There was considerable discussion of the timing and how quickly the PSI could or could not consider and/or approve the project, as well as a reminder that a PSI project should also show other contributions.

3. Other updates – Stan indicated that the report of the coal-fired power plant project will be available in the coming weeks. Gunnar indicated that the GEF project has collected initial information, translation of and training on the inventory toolkit will take place, and the project has established contact with industry sectors. A meeting is planned with a Chinese delegation in mid-October.

4. Next meeting -- The group agreed to convene again by teleconference in mid-October.