

Minutes
ACAP Mercury PSG Teleconference
October 10, 2014

Attendees:

Marianne Bailey – U.S. EPA
Marilyn Livingood – U.S. EPA
Stan Durkee – U.S. EPA
Gail Lacy – U.S. EPA
Husamuddin Ahmadzai – NEFCO

The PSI Committee, on October 7, provided an Expression of Interest for the PSG (now known as Expert Group) to further develop the workshop proposal. With this, the ACAP mercury group now has two projects with Expressions of Interest from the PSI, now in full project development phase.

Husamuddin reported that the PSI Committee had a number of questions on the workshop proposal, which we will need to clarify moving forward. He said the PSI Committee had a useful exchange of views and, while all recognized that workshops are not the main purpose of the PSI, there was recognition that this proposal could support Russia's implementation of the Minamata Convention, including the development of a Russia Mercury Action Plan, noting that Russia signed the Convention in September. The PSI Committee asked NEFCO to work with the PSG to focus the proposal and harmonize it with other activities, including an October workshop organized by SRI (UNEP-GEF umbrella). Specific questions included how to ensure no duplication of effort, how to follow up, and who is contributing resources.

In addition, the PSG will need to tell the PSI fund manager specific costs of the Workshop Project, other co-financers and who the beneficiary of the project is to be. This latter would be what we have referred to in the past as the "in-country coordinator."

We will also need one person from the PSG to be on the PSI supervisory committee for the project, along with the beneficiary and the fund manager.

With respect to timing, for full PSI approval, all documents must be submitted either intersessionally or ahead of a PSI Committee meeting. For relevant review process this means at least two months prior to a consideration by the PSI Committee. The next PSI meeting (the next one is on the 24th of March 2015.) Therefore, by mid-February at the latest we will need to have all the questions answered and all the documents complete. After that, it will take 2-3 more months to finalize arrangements to hold the workshop in June/July at the very latest.

Next steps for Workshop project

- Marianne will communicate anew with Russia MNRE with respect to the beneficiary/in-country coordinator designation.
- USEPA will also reach out to SRI and UNEP to get updated information about the October workshop referenced in the PSI discussion, as well as other upcoming activities.
- USEPA will initiate a continuing dialogue soon with the designated Russian in country coordinator, whom we anticipate will be SRI, to harmonize the workshop with GEF-funded UNEP-Russia mercury project goals and those of ACAP. USEPA in close cooperation with the Russian in country coordinator will also continue to refine the budget.

Next steps for Smelter project

- Husamuddin reported that plans continue to move forward for a small information exchange that would take place in Russia with the smelter owner and other relevant participants, probably around January 2015. The government will be developing legislation over the next year or so to implement the BAT/BEP provisions for RF industrial operators.
- Husamuddin will circulate a revised concept note for the information exchange in the coming weeks. The information exchange could feed into the larger workshop discussed above.