

STATUS REPORT
ACAP Mercury Expert Group
September 2015

The ACAP Mercury Expert Group (EG, formerly Project Steering Group) coordinates and facilitates Arctic Council demonstration projects that reduce the release of mercury into the environment; communicates results; and coordinates synergies between projects.

A. Work accomplished since January 2015

1) “Non-Ferrous Metals/Zinc Smelter Project Proposal for reduction of mercury releases from non-ferrous metals smelters in the Russian Federation” (Co-leads: NEFCO, Russian Federation, and United States)

NEFCO conducted an information exchange workshop “Technical Information Exchange on Mercury Abatement in the Metallurgical Industry.” This workshop is part of the ACAP-approved project plan, under the information exchange component. This component calls for information exchange (including a workshop) on applying cleaner production techniques and regulatory approaches. Because the full project does not yet have a Final Investment Decision (FID) from the PSI Committee, funding for the Workshop was provided by Sweden through the Swedish EPA Trust Fund with NEFCO to help reach out to the stakeholders. The technical information exchange was co-sponsored by the Swedish EPA Trust Fund managed by NEFCO and by the Barents Hot Spot fund managed by NEFCO and supported by the government of Russia. The meeting focused on mercury emission control in Russia, Sweden and the US, with a focus on mercury in the nonferrous metallurgical sector. It was designed to contribute to the work of the Expert Group, the smelter project, and the Barents process. In addition to nonferrous metal smelting industry representatives, facility owners, and NEFCO, several representatives of government agencies from Russia attended, including a representative of Rostekhnadzor, the ACAP Mercury Expert Group (EG) vice-chair, as well as representatives of the U.S. and Swedish governments. A meeting report entitled “Technical Information Exchange on Mercury Abatement in the Metallurgical Industry,” has been completed. NEFCO submitted the document to the Mercury Expert Group, the ACAP Chair and Executive Secretary, invited experts, attendees, and other stakeholders in June, 2015.

The information exchange is expected to help in the reach-out to the owners of the plant to cooperate in implementing the full project. The smelter project awaits a Final Investment Decision (FID) from the PSI. A written agreement with the plant management is needed prior to requesting FID. NEFCO hopes to be able to submit a FID request to the PSI by September 13. NEFCO has been conducting, and continues to conduct, significant outreach on the project, including regarding its timeline in relation to the development of BAT/BEP policies within Russia. NEFCO held a meeting on June 17 with MNRE, who supported the project.

2) “Mercury Emissions Reduction Technology Workshop Proposal” (Co-leads: the United States, Russian Federation)

This project envisions coordinating closely with the emission inventory and action plan development of an ongoing UNEP/GEF/Russia project. It is intended to disseminate results and encourage replication of successful mercury emissions reduction approaches, including an ongoing project to demonstrate the mercury emission control efficiencies of carbon sorbent technologies at a coal-fired power plant in Cherepetskaya, Russia. In addition to coal combustion, the workshop would address other key sectors for emissions reductions including non-ferrous metals smelting and gold mining. This project would use additional information dissemination methods before and after the workshop. The PSI Committee, on October 7, 2014, provided an Expression of Interest for the PSG/EG to further develop the workshop proposal. The proposal was submitted to the PSI Committee in May, 2015 for a Final Investment Decision (FID) which was not granted. The proposal is currently tabled for possible reconsideration at a future date.

B. Deliverables of the ACAP Mercury EG

Non-ferrous/zinc smelter project: Project workplan, information exchange and announcement of participating facility – partially completed

Emissions reduction technology workshop proposal: Workshop report -- remains at risk

Marianne Bailey, USEPA, PSG Chair