

RECORD OF MEETING
20th Project Steering Group (PSG) Meeting on Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)
Environmentally Sound Management of Stocks of Obsolete Pesticides (OP) in
the Russian Federation
Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation
October 31-November 3, 2011

Representatives from Finland, Norway, Russian Federation and Sweden participated in the meeting. The Russian representatives included Centre for International Projects (CIP), Environmental Protection Department of MNRM Russia for Krasnoyarsk Krai, FSUE "Siberian Research and Development Institute on Hydrotechnology and Melioration" (SibNIIG & M), and Zeleniy Gorod waste management company.

PSG visited two warehouses and one pesticide burial site in Kazachinsky and Yeniseiski districts. The warehouse in Kazachinsky district contained 3 tonnes of pesticides repackaged in 2010. Pesticides from four sites within this district were collected into this temporary storage. The PSG also visited a previously unidentified storage at a forestry nursery in Yuzhakovo containing approximately 2400 kg of herbicide Propinat and 360 kg of unknown pesticides. The storage was inadequate, and the PSG considered there was a need to repackage and remove the pesticides. In Ust-Tunguska (Yeniseiski district) the PSG visited a site where a former pesticide storage had been accidentally destroyed in fire 15 years ago. The pesticides, reportedly DDT and granosan, had been buried underground. The site had served as a pasture, and there had been reports of animal poisoning incidents. The PSG noted the potential formation of dioxins and other contaminants in burning of chlorinated compounds and agreed that there was a need to investigate the buried remains of the fire as the basis of further action.

The representative of waste management company Zeleniy Gorod informed the participants on the recent activities in the field of hazardous waste management. 140 tonnes of obsolete pesticides from Sakhalin, Omsk and Tyumen regions have been stored in the polygon "Serebristiy". The company has been contracted by Sakhalin administration to manage the obsolete pesticides. 40 t DDT and 25 t granosan were repackaged in 2011 for disposal in Krasnoyarsk Krai Polygon. In addition, the some local enterprises have disposed of oil from 14 PCB containing transformers. The company will also commence destruction of medical waste using a locally developed pyrolysis technology on mid-November (capacity 100 kg/h batch process). A collection system has been developed for mercury containing fluorescent tubes from households. 1000 lamps have been collected for destruction at exchange points located in stores selling lamps. While many different technologies (e.g. plasma, super-critical water oxidation) have been developed in Russia for the purpose, no licensed technology is available for destruction of obsolete pesticides. PSG visited Zeleniy Gorod polygon to study the recent development in hazardous waste management in the Krasnoyarsk territory.

The Environmental Protection Department of MNRM Russia for Krasnoyarsk Krai reiterated their support for ACAP activities in the region. They noted that there are 44 districts in Krasnoyarsk Krai, of which ACAP has covered 21 prioritised districts. The safe storage of the poorly stored pesticides in the remaining districts is essential. To date, out of the discovered 254 t of obsolete pesticides, 156 t have been repackaged. Nearly all have been kept in their original locations.

The head of Environmental Protection Department of MNRM Russia for Krasnoyarsk Krai noted that the 13 state inspectors responsible for enforcement have not been provided with full personal protective equipment, and had to purchase those on their own expense.

SibNIIG & M presented the progress in inventory activities in Taimyr, Evenki, Norilsk industrial area and Turuhansk according to the decision made at the 19th PSG. In addition the presence of OP was investigated comprehensively at Yeniseiski and Northern-Yeniseisky districts. Six storages containing 28 tonnes obsolete pesticides were found in the thorough study, which required 40 000 km travel by road, rivers and air. In addition, three pesticide burial sites as well as 5 storage facilities from which pesticides had been removed in the past were registered. DDT and chlorophos were commonly found. The PSG commended the work done. It also expressed its concern over the risk for pollution caused by these sites and decided to send a letter to the Krasnoyarsk Krai administration to call for attention in taking necessary action to manage the waste in an environmentally sound manner as soon as possible. SibNIIG & M announced that final report of the activities will become available by 1 December, 2011.

The PSG noted that reports of two relevant pilot projects commissioned by NPA Arctic (www.npa-arctic.ru) have been published. These are "Development of Technology of Clean Up of the Area of Decommissioned Sites of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence in Franz Josef Land Archipelago from Hazardous

Waste", and "Creating a System of Obsolete and Prohibited Pesticides Destruction in the Russian Federation with the Use of Innovative Technologies."

The Chairman reported about the International HCH and Obsolete Pesticides conference (IHPA) held in Gabala, Azerbaijan 7-11 September, 2011. ACAP project presentation and a technical paper were welcomed with high interest among the participants with most questions concerning destruction possibilities in EECCA region. CIP reported that after the previous PSG meeting it had presented the ACAP inventory project in Ukraine, Belarus and Azerbaijan. The presentation had raised a lot of interest.

The PSG noted with concern that currently it does not have an officially nominated representative of the Russian Federation. The chairman reported that the issue had been raised with the ACAP chairman.

The PSG noted the need to finalize Phases I and II in 2012 to be able to report to the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting of successful completion in spring, 2013. The PSG discussed about the work that should be done to cover the remaining areas. It was noted that there is need for further investigations in Murmansk, Kamchatka and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District. The PSG requested CIP to develop a work plan to finalize these regions. In Kamchatka it was considered necessary to establish contact with the local authorities and other organisations. The PSG noted that at least in Kamchatka and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District it would be useful to collaborate with ACAP Indigenous Peoples Contaminant Action (IPCAP) PSG with a view to work with the indigenous peoples on the pesticide inventories. PSG decided to seek collaboration with the indigenous peoples within the framework of IPCAP at its next meeting.

The PSG requested SibNIIG & M and CIP to develop a project plan on remediation of the pesticides burial site in Ust-Tunguska (Yeniseisk district). It was considered as an important demonstration project because the soil is likely to be heavily contaminated with dioxins, mercury and POP pesticides. The first step should be to request information on the contents of the warehouse and detailed information related to fire and burial.

The PSG also requested SibNIIG & M and CIP to develop a cost estimate for repackaging and removal of pesticides in the Yeniseisk forestry district nursery station warehouse.

CIP and SibNIIG & M presented two proposals for further inventory work in eastern and western districts of Krasnoyarsk Krai. It was agreed that the cost estimates will need to be further developed before a decision can be made. Revised versions will be provided to the donors for intersessional decision making with a view to initiate activities in spring 2012.

The next Steering Group meeting will tentatively be held in Kamchatka in June, 2012.

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