

**RECORD OF MEETING**  
**23rd Expert Group (EG) Meeting on Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)**  
**Environmentally Sound Management of Stocks of Obsolete Pesticides (OP) in**  
**the Russian Federation**  
**Helsinki, Finland**  
**April 16-17, 2015**

Representatives from Finland, Norway and Sweden participated in the meeting.

The chair informed on recent issues at ACAP WG level. The PCB Expert Group has not been active lately, and currently has no chair. The EG took note that the phase III destruction demonstration projects of the OP and PCB groups have a lot of similarities and therefore often require same experts. The EG decided to propose ACAP WG to consider merging the groups into an Expert Group on Obsolete Pesticides and PCB.

Using supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) technique to destroy organic contaminants, such as pesticides and PCBs, was discussed.

The EG finalized a project proposal on Rapid Environmental Assessment of pesticides contaminated sites (Annex 1). It will be sent to ACAP for inter-sessional approval according to the ACAP operating guidelines paragraph 7.4. The project is included in the ACAP workplan 2015-2017.

Pending the approval of the project, the EG expects to have a face-to-face meeting with REA project partners in Russia in June-July, 2015.

The EG decided to organize an international information exchange workshop on obsolete pesticides inventory and destruction technologies. The workshop is foreseen to be held in Russia in 2016 for approximately 100 stakeholders and decision-makers, including representatives of the priority regions and Russian and international experts. The tentative topics to be covered are: Obsolete pesticides stockpile management in the Arctic; Best available technologies for destruction; Russian and international requirements for destruction and landfilling; Sharing experiences in setting up treatment facilities. The EG will prepare a project proposal for ACAP inter-sessional approval with a view to submitting a funding application to PSI for their next meeting in fall 2015.

The decisions are subject to written objections by absent Arctic States in the Expert Group by 24 April.

For Finland



Timo Seppälä

For Norway



Isabelle Thélin

For Sweden



Niklas Johansson



Emma Nurmi



Gunnhild Preus-Olsen

## **Rapid Environmental Assessment of Pesticides Contaminated sites**

A project proposal by the ACAP Obsolete Pesticides Expert Group  
April 17, 2015

### **Project Description**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

Pesticides may become obsolete because of poor storage conditions that lead to damage or alteration of the preparations or loss of identity, because their shelf-life has been exceeded, or because they have been prohibited or other changes in product registration and approval have occurred. The Russian Federation has large stocks of obsolete pesticides, estimated at 40,000 tonnes, originating mostly from the Soviet era. In 2001 the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP), initiated a project under the Arctic Council to improve management of obsolete pesticide stockpiles in twelve priority regions in Northern Russia. The first two phases of the project—inventory and repackaging, and screening and provision of safe storage, were been completed in the selected priority regions of the Russian Federation in 2013. Hundreds of pesticides storages were emptied and the pesticides were repackaged and transported to regional interim storage facilities to await environmentally sound destruction. However, the former storage buildings, building materials and the surrounding areas may also have been contaminated to a variable extent in the past decades, posing a threat to the surrounding population, ground and surface waters and the environment. There are examples of cattle poisonings apparently due to pesticide contamination.

In other former Soviet Union countries, Rapid Environmental Assessments are being implemented by Blacksmith Institute under FAO-EU partnership project GCP/RER/040/EC “Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides as a model for tackling unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union.”

The project will be implemented in close cooperation with the regional and local authorities.

The project is included in the ACAP Workplan 2015-2017.

#### **2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

##### **2.1 Objective**

The project will demonstrate a cost-effective and rapid technique to screen levels and scope of contamination at 3-4 pesticide contaminated sites in different priority regions impacting the Arctic using a methodology that the Blacksmith Institute developed for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The method can help to assess the environmental and health risks caused by hundreds of old pesticides storages in Northern Russia. The project closely follows on Russian implementation of Stockholm Convention on POPs.

The methodology will help to identify those pesticide contaminated sites, e.g. former pesticides storage sites or burial sites, which pose a threat to the human health and/or the environment in a cost-efficient manner. Considering the high number of current and former pesticides storages, prioritization is necessary.

Based on the reports and experiences, the Expert Group will evaluate the suitability of the methodology in identifying pesticides contaminated sites of environmental or health concern in the Russian Federation.

Depending on the results of the Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA), a clean-up project may be developed to demonstrate environmentally sound clean-up of a pesticide contaminated site in Russia, including destruction of the hazardous waste.

The REA methodology is explained in more detailed in Annex 1.

## **2.2 Partners and responsibilities**

Tentative project partners are:

- Village administration of the selected sites (Site owners)
- Local and regional environmental and agricultural authorities of the selected storage sites (Supervision)
- Polar Fund, Moscow (main consultant, reporting to ACAP OP EG, overall coordination in Russian Federation)
- Marina Y. Klimova, pesticides inventory expert (sub-consultant)
- Сибирское экологическое агентство - Siberian Environmental Agency (sub-consultant responsible for REA)
- Дальневосточный фонд экологического здоровья - Far Eastern Environmental Health Fund (sub-consultant responsible for REA)
- ACAP Obsolete Pesticides Expert Group (Supervision and overall coordination, Reporting to ACAP WG)

## **2.3 General technical description**

Project components (activities and tasks):

Component 1: Identification of partners

- The ACAP OP Expert Group will prepare the necessary contracts with the consultants

Component 2: Selection of sites for REA

- The sub-consultant (Klimova M.Y.) will make a proposal for the sites based on the inventory data and consultations with Arctic priority regions

Component 3: Agreements on implementation of REA with the appropriate authorities and site owners

- Polar Fund and other consultants will agree on co-operation and the details of implementation with the associated regions (subjects of RF), authorities and site owners

Component 4: Implementation of REA

- Siberian Environmental Agency and Far Eastern Environmental Health Fund will implement the Rapid Environmental Assessment under supervision of Polar Fund and OP EG

Component 5: Reporting

- The consultants will prepare reports (in Russian and English) on the selected REAs for Expert Group approval
- Reports will be sent to FAO for information

Component 6: Evaluation

- The EG, in cooperation with Polar Fund, will prepare a review of the general applicability of REA in the Russian Federation, taking into account the experience of Component 5
- The review will be translated into Russian and published on the ACAP website

Table 1. Workplan for 2015 (project initiation subject to approval by ACAP WG)

Component	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Identification of partners							
Selection of sites for REA							
Agreements on implementation of REA with the appropriate authorities and site owners							
Implementation of REA							
Reporting							
Evaluation							

## 2.4 Tentative budget

1. Selection of priority regions:	2 000 EUR
2. Project administration and supervision:	5 000 EUR
3. Travel and communication costs connected to 1. & 2.:	5 000 EUR
4. Rapid Environmental Assessment:	30 000 EUR
5. Reporting, translation, printing:	3 000 EUR
6. Contingency:	<u>5 000 EUR</u>
	50 000 EUR

## 3. FINANCE

### 3.1 Financing plan

The project funding has been secured through donor funding from Finland, Norway and Sweden. In-kind contribution is expected from local and regional authorities.

## 4. PROJECT RISKS

The project implementation is dependent on necessary permits and permissions from the regional and local authorities for the work as well as the cooperation of the villages and/or enterprises in question. Some of this can be circumvented with the possibility to choose another site.