

Progress Report 2002 – 2004

SAO / Ministerial Meetings – Reykjavik, 22-24 November 2004

EPPR Working Group Activities

Since the 2002 Ministerial meeting, the EPPR Working Group has met in Murmansk, Russian Federation (3-5 June, 2003) and Inuvik, Canada (20-22 April, 2004). The next EPPR meeting will be held in Denmark in April 2005.

Ms. Laura Johnston (Canada) became Chair of the Working Group in October 2002 for the period 2002-2004. Mr. Kjell Kolstad (Norway) was Vice-Chair for the same period. Canada provided Secretariat support to the Working Group and Ms. Vicki McCulloch was the Executive Secretary. Following the 2004 meeting, the Russian Federation (Mr. Igor Veselov) was elected Chair and Finland (Mr. Timo Viitanen) was elected Vice-Chair for the period 2004 - 2006. Canada and the Russian Federation are confirming the details of the EPPR Secretariat transition.

The EPPR website (<http://eppr.arctic-council.org/>) is currently maintained at the Arctic Centre in Finland. Sweden will host the web site for a period of five years, beginning in January 2005.

The Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) manual project, led by Canada and the US, has been completed. This manual completes much of the work required within the oil and gas field and fills the last of the gaps identified in the 1998 environmental risk assessment.

Several Source Control Management projects (Phases I and II) have been completed under the leadership of the US and the Russian Federation:

- The source control management and prevention strategies for chlorine handling at the Apatity waterworks
- The Phase II risk assessment at the NIIAR Fuel Research Department
- A series of ISO 14001 training programs
- A revised 'working draft' of the 'Refined Risk Assessment Methodology' Report

The materials for the Community Radiation Information project for the Kola area have been completed by the US and the Russian Federation.

EPPR Work Plan 2004-2006

Continue work on the oil and gas-related issues will continue through information sharing and in following up on the recommendations from two recent workshops in Anchorage and Trondheim on oil spill response in ice-covered waters.

With Norway as lead country, conduct a pilot study with GRID Arendal to develop an interactive web-based map series that will include radiological source data from AMAP and the known locations of radioactivity from other sources. Based on the results of the project, hold a workshop and make recommendations at the next EPPR meeting. This pilot project is the follow-up to the completed 'Circumpolar Map'.

As part of the 'Arctic Rescue' initiative, identify potential sites for a network of stations throughout the Arctic to the Russian Federation.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is fostering development of international response capabilities to address nuclear events. Led by the US, EPPR member countries are invited to help shape the Arctic component of this ongoing project. This effort should lead to the development of the nuclear response component of the Arctic Rescue initiative.

Undertake the Phase III Source Control Management pilot project on risk assessment in the Murmansk Region. This project is led by the US and Russian Federation. The working draft of the 'Refined Risk Assessment Methodology' Report may be revised based on lessons learned.

Participate, as appropriate, in a tabletop emergency exercise involving the transport of radioactive material to be conducted by the Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation (AMEC) partners in the Murmansk region.

Prepare a Community Information booklet to provide radiological response information for government officials in the Russian Federation This is a joint effort led by the US and the Russian Federation.

Contingent on the Ministers agreement to expand the mandate of EPPR to include natural disasters, update the EPPR Strategic Plan and Work Plan.

EPPR will continue to cooperate with other organizations by:

- Participating in the AMAP-led Petroleum Hydrocarbon Assessment project (2006) and the upcoming Oil and Gas Symposium (2005).
- Testing the emergencies component of PAME's Oil Transfer Guidelines (subject to agreement from PAME).
- Providing input to the PAME-led Arctic Marine Strategic Plan.
- Providing comments on the SDWG's draft Sustainable Development Action Plan.
- Undertaking activities with the Northern Forum that support the EPPR agenda.
- Maintaining liaison with the University of the Arctic.

Activities Requiring Guidance from SAOs

- Confirm the election of the Russian Federation as Chair and Finland as Vice-Chair of the EPPR Working Group for the period 2004 - 2006.

Deliverables for Ministers in 2004

- Recommendation regarding the inclusion of natural disasters in the mandate of the EPPR working group
- Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) Manual
- Community Radiation Information Project brochures
- Risk Assessment Methodology document (working draft)
- Information booklets
- Reports on exercises, e.g., Bilibino

Questions to SAOs / Ministers

Senior Arctic Officials and Arctic Ministers are kindly requested to:

- Take note of EPPR's progress report 2002-2004 and work plan 2004-2006.
- Agree to expand EPPR's mandate to include natural disasters, and to provide further direction in this regard.
- Take note of:
 - the production of the SCAT Manual;
 - the work under the Community Radiation Information Project;
 - the ongoing development of the Risk Assessment Methodology documentation;
 - the preparation of information booklets on radiation; and
 - the reports on emergency response exercises.