

**Report from the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness
and Response (EPPR) Working Group to the SAO
Meeting – Svolvær, Norway April 23 – 24, 2008**

1. Developments since the November 2007 SAO Meeting

1.1 EPPR meeting

There has not been any EPPR meeting since the last SAO meeting.

1.2 EPPR 2008 meeting in Luleå, Sweden

The next EPPR Working Group meeting is scheduled for August 19. – 21, 2008 in Luleå, Sweden.

2. Ongoing Activities

For additional information on the status of EPPR projects, please refer to the 2007 EPPR meeting report <http://eppr.arctic-council.org/>.

2.1 Status of EPPR Oil Pollution Projects

2.1.1 Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technology (SCAT) Manual – next steps

The Arctic SCAT Manual project has been successfully completed with the printing of the Russian Translation version. This project has been supported by Canada and the US and the Russian copies are available from Canada.

2.1.2 Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil spills in the Arctic

We refer to the information from EPPR in the SAO meeting in Narvik in 2007.

The mapping workshop was well attended by participants from within and outside the Arctic Council. Organizations represented included: AMAP; EPPR; AC Secretariat; UArctic; GRID-Arendal; Lantmäteriet – Kiruna (GIT Barents Project); the Norwegian Coastal Administration - Kystverket (Safety at Sea project); Iceland Coast Guard; Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (AMAP radioactivity data centre); (PAME AMSA data/mapping consultant) and the Arctic Portal Development Manager.

This workshop followed a workshop in Tromsø organized by UArctic concerning creation of a circumpolar atlas (a collaborative project between UArctic and Statoil, with GRID-Arendal providing mapping services).

The objective of the Arctic Council workshop was to scope out the work involved to develop cooperative circumpolar mapping, and formulate recommendations on what needs to be done and how to proceed. A draft discussion paper to the AC was the result of this workshop. The purpose of this paper would be to: inform the AC of progress to date; introduce plans to present a more complete proposal to the AC in the fall 2008; outline the current 'vision' for collaborative activities among the AC WGs, and how these relate to those of external partners.

A separate document is sent to the SAO's for information.

2.1.3 Arctic Rescue

EPPR have highlighted the importance of improving the capacity to respond to emergencies in the Arctic. This was also endorsed by the Salekhard Declaration.

Exchange of information, training, exercises, public information, technical development and support is important tasks to reach this goal.

There will be a joint Russian – Swedish seminar in Dudinka in September 2008. The other Arctic Council countries are invited to participate in the seminar and the exercise.

2.1.4 Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while implementing infrastructural and other Economic Projects

At the Tromsø SAO meeting in April 2007, the AC Chair requested that reports on the progress on this project had to be presented at the consequent SAO meetings. The goal of the project is to work out common systems of safety and security from (and in case of) emergencies on major transport and industrial facilities in the Arctic. As an example, as one of the most serious threat for ecology of the Arctic are possible accidents with oil in offshore operations, Russia will organize on 1-2 October 2008, within the framework of this project, a full scale emergency exercise at its newly-opened facility in the Barents Sea - VARANDEY OIL Terminal of LUKOIL. Part of this project could also be establishment of a network of monitoring centers and emergency response centers. A special trust fund under World Bank to manage financing of the project could be established. Russia intends to submit this project for formal adoption by SAOs at their next meeting in autumn, after the August EPPR meeting.

2.1.5 Waste Removal

- Canada is the lead country for this project, with support from the US and Norway.
- The rationale for such guidelines is that the management of Waste generated by an oil spill is frequently the weakest part of Contingency Plans. No oily waste management manuals exist and shoreline oiling is to be expected.
- The minimization of waste volume and the use of *in situ* treatment techniques are a key part of the response decision process. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide the context for Oilspill waste management in the Arctic and to develop a Decision Guide (software).
- It is expected that Canada will distribute a draft document to the EPPR Working Group by the end of June 2008.

2.2 Radiological

USA and Russia are lead partners of all of the radiological projects.

2.2.1 Source Control Management

Source Control phase III - The Project is being implemented at two radiation hazardous facilities in the Northwest Russia. The Risk assessment was completed for the Atomflot facility in Murmansk and the developed Methodology was verified to be appropriate. The project work is also finished for the Zvezdochka facility, and the report is being finalized. As a result of Risk assessment, the most critical scenario was chosen, which will be used as a basic scenario for the summer exercise at this facility (see section 2.2.8). The project is coming to completion at the end of this phase.

2.2.2 Community Radiation Information Project

1) The Public Emergency Information Tutorial - is on-going. The training material has been updated to provide instruction to PR specialists who do not have a technical background. To address this additional group of users, the texts and exercise materials have been expanded. Computer simulations for training are under development. The project will be completed in October.

2) Planning Public Communication in Case of Radiation Emergency or Events Perceived by the Public as a Radiation Emergency is on-going project. A meeting was conducted with representatives of the federal and regional civil defence, emergency services, and Ministry of radiation and environmental safety of the Chelyabinsk Region in late 2007, from which commendations on planning the public communications were developed. The scenario of the information exercise was developed and agreed with the Ministry of Radiation and Environmental Safety of the Chelyabinsk Region. A communication exercise will be conducted in 2008.

2.2.3 Development of Brochure on Far East region of Russia

A brochure on nuclear activities in the Far East region of Russia is in the final stages of development and will be published and translated this summer.

2.2.4 Portable analysis capability

Portable analysis capability-laptop based - is on-going project. Five portable systems for analysis of radiation situation (laptop based) shall be developed and transferred to the following facilities:

- * Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Mining and Chemical Combine" (FSUE MCC);
- * FSUE "R&D Institute of Nuclear Reactors" (FSUE NIIAR); FSUE "EE Zvezdochka";
- * FSUE "DalRAO";
- * FSUE SY "Zvezda"

Along with the system development, specialized user manuals are developed. System delivery and training will be conducted this year, and the project shall be completed in November 2008.

2.2.5 NOSTRADOMUS Real time computer system for estimation of atmospheric transfer

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The NOSTRADAMUS computer system is developed by IBRAE to analyze accidents of various scales. This system was designed to effectively forecast results of both aerosol and gaseous forms with subsequent precipitation. The Nostradamus code is based on a robust transport model.

Nostradamus project was completed in December 2007. In total, 13 radiation hazardous facilities were equipped with this software.

2.2.6 IBRAE. Technical Crisis Center support on the EMERCOM Crisis Situation Management Center.

EMERCOM crisis center support - is on-going project to provide technical and scientific information and support to the National Crisis Situation Management Center (NCSMS) of EMERCOM of Russia by the Russian Nuclear Safety Institute, IBRAE. In 2008, training of the duty officers will be conducted, and specialized databases and information related to protection of population and territories will be developed for NCSMS. The project will be completed in 2009.

2.2.7 IAEA's Response Assistance Network (RANET)

The International Atomic Energy Agency has established RANET to facilitate response to a radiological emergency. EPPR countries are encouraged to register response assets under RANET .

2.2.8 Conduct of radiation emergency exercise

The Federal Agency on Industry, the Administration of the Arkhangelsk Region and the Nuclear Safety Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IBRAE) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy will conduct an exercise on assessing consequences and responding to radiation emergency at the Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Center of Shipbuilding "Zvezdochka" on July 30 - August 1, 2008.

An invitation to the exercise has been distributed to all of the EPPR countries.

2.3 Natural disasters

2.3.1 Prevention network concerning catastrophic flooding on northern rivers (Northern Forum Flood Working Group)

The participating regions in this project are Alberta and Yukon (Canada), Alaska (U.S.), Khanty-Mansiysk AO, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Sakha Republic, Vologda Oblast' and Komi Republic (Russian Federation). For 2008, Alaska, Alberta, Yukon, Krasnoyarsk and Sakha will be receiving SAR radar images from the "Polar View" program to monitor ice jams and potential flooding.

A new monitoring program has been started with UNOSAT (the UN agency for emergency satellite monitoring) to provide this type of imagery in emergency situations to the Sakha Republic for the Lena River and the Krasnoyarsk Krai/Ugra Institute of Information Technologies (URIIT) in Khanty-Mansiysk for the Ob/Yenissei basins, in the form of pilot projects.

Negotiations are under way to create at URIIT a hub of satellite SAR imagery for all the Russian regions. Training between participating regions on mathematical modelling and satellite imagery interpretation is also scheduled for this year. The members of the Northern Forum Flood Working Group have now developed several projects to work jointly on flood forecasting for some of their common river basins.

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For 2009, on one hand, the UNOSAT program might be expanded to other regions and on the other hand, the European Commission will take over from the European Space Agency the provision of radar satellite imagery for the “Polar View” participants. By that time, it is expected that URIIT will be able to deliver on a regular basis satellite imagery of climate change events and other catastrophic events in the Northern areas of the Russian Federation to international agencies and interested committees at the Arctic Council.

The Northern Forum has also started negotiating with the UN Development Program to create a project aimed at studying land use and mitigation of flood risks in Arctic and Northern areas. Specialists will visit the concerned areas and work together with their local colleagues and world experts to determine where the risks are the highest and what measures need to be taken to avoid catastrophic flooding, in particular taking into account changes brought about by global warming.

2.3.2 Managing the cold conditions – a systematic approach

Finland is coordinating this project.

2.4 Other issues

2.4.1 Updating the EPPR Web Site

The EPPR Secretariat is to continue work to refine the web site. The possibilities for all of the countries to upload documents on the EPPR web site will be investigated.

2.4.2 EPPR Chairmanship and Secretariat

The EPPR Chair, Mr. Tor-Christian Sletner, left his position in Norwegian Coastal Administration on December 31, 2007. The Norwegian Chairmanship is also responsible for the EPPR secretariat.

Norway proposed that Mr. Sletners successor within Norwegian Coastal Administration, Mr. Johan Marius Ly, should be elected as the new EPPR Chair for the remaining part of the Norwegian Chairmanship. The secretariat arranged a telephone meeting between the EPPR HoD to discuss this proposal.

It was consensus on the Norwegian proposal of election of Johan Marius Ly as the new EPPR chair. The length of term will be finally approved at the end of the next EPPR meeting together with discussions on handover to next chair and secretariat. The EPPR Secretariat will prepare a document on EPPRs Operating Guidelines for discussions on the EPPR meeting in August 2008.

The Secretariat support for EPPR during the period 2007-2008 is being provided by Norway. The cost of Secretariat support included man hours is estimated to NOK 400.000 per year.

2.4.3 Update the Strategic Plan of EPPR

Based on the fact that the Strategic Plan of EPPR is not updated, Norway has been asked to start a process for updating the Strategic Plan. A discussion document was distributed to the EPPR representatives medio March. Based on input from the EPPR representatives will the Secretariat update the discussion document and prepare a draft for final discussions in the EPPR meeting in August. The result of the discussions in August will be presented for the SAOs in the fall 2008.

3. Future Activities and Plans

In the Salekard Declaration of 2006, the Ministers requested the EPPR to gather and synthesize knowledge and expertise on the behaviour of oil and other hazardous substances in Arctic waters, and to promote the development and use of technologies and working methods that improve the capability to respond to accidents that involve such substances.

Norway has started a process of drafting a project proposal for circulation within EPPR in the spring 2008. Investigations for funding of the project and possible co-operation with the Oil and Gas Industry have also started up. A draft project proposal will be discussed in the EPPR meeting in August 2008. The SAOs will be informed about the further process in the SAO meeting in the fall 2008.

4. Cooperation with other Arctic Councils working Groups and others

4.1 Other Arctic Council Working Groups

AMAP

The EPPR Secretariat have conducted the workshop on Circumpolar Mapping in close cooperation with AMAP and CAFF and will work close together with these two working groups in the possible future work on how spatial information could be managed within the Arctic Council and how this could be conducted in co-operation with external parties.

PAME

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment

The November 2004 Ministerial Declaration of the Arctic Council stated the following with regard to AMSA: Request PAME to conduct a comprehensive Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment as outlined in the AMSP (Arctic Marine Strategic Plan) under the guidance of Canada, Finland, and the United States as lead countries and in collaboration with the EPPR working group and other working groups of the Arctic Council and Permanent Participants as relevant.

The EPPR Secretariat received in September 2007 a request from PAME, Head of the AMSA team mr. Lawson Brigham about EPPR's participation in writing the AMSA report. The US and Canada, in cooperation with the EPPR secretariat, are coordinating on the oil spill response technology chapter to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment. The EPPR secretariat has in addition to this contributed with relevant information to the AMSA report on request.

The Norwegian chairmanship of EPPR received invitation to become member of a small, organizing committee for the Arctic Summit, a small Arctic workshop held March 18. – 20. 2008 at the University of New Hampshire's Coastal Response Research Center. The EPPR Executive Secretary was selected to take part in this activity.

An EPPR delegate from Canada and the EPPR Executive secretary participated in the workshop.

Regional Programme of Action (RPA)

The chairman of EPPR and the EPPR secretariat has participated in the revision process of the Regional Programme of Action (RPA) for the Arctic.

CAFF

See text about AMAP

SDWG (Sustainable Development Working Group)

No specific co-operation

ACAP (The Arctic Contaminants Action Program)

No specific co-operation

4.2 With Other Organizations outside the Arctic Council

Several organizations operate within the same fields as EPPR, and the Working Group will continue to seek opportunities for co-ordination and co-operation with regional bodies, such as the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Council of Baltic Sea States, the International Maritime Organization, Northern Forum. NATO

Northern Forum

See project “ to create a prevention system concerning catastrophic flooding on northern rivers”

University of the Arctic

The Norwegian Chairmanship of EPPR and the EPPR Secretariat, other AC WG's Secretariat and others was invited to the Arctic Dataholders Consortium meeting. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Arctic Frontiers Conference in Tromsø, Norway, on January 23, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to form an Arctic Dataholders Consortium for a GIS- based Arctic Online Atlas. The development of a consortium of major data owners and holders would increase the integrity and tools for shared Arctic Map-able data, by allowing high quality data to be accessed online in a shared mechanism. The initiative was a part of an Arctic Atlas project which is being developed by UArctic.

The EPPR Secretariat will consider this initiative in connection with EPPRs work within AC on Circumpolar mapping.

Oil and Gas Industry

EPPR secretariat participated in a Roundtable between representatives of the Oil and Gas Industry and Representatives of the Arctic Council WGs Secretariats Wednesday, 23 January 2007. Many areas of common interests were brought forward.

The EPPR Secretariat will bring the information from the meeting for further consideration and discussions in the EPPR meeting in August 2008.

5. Questions to SAOs

Based on this report, the SAOs are kindly asked to take note of:

- The state of the ongoing / recently completed projects
- The information on the Russian project within EPPR on Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while implementing infrastructural and other Economic Projects
- The preparations for a project on gather and synthesize knowledge and expertise on the behaviour of oil and other hazardous substances in Arctic waters etc.
- The ongoing process with EPPR Strategic plan and EPPRs operating guidelines

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- The EPPR Working Group's future activities and plans with respect to cooperation and coordination with other groups within and outside the Arctic Council