

**Emergency, Preparedness, Prevention, Response
EPPR Working Group**

**Report on 2006 – 2009 activities
(Revised April 2, 2009)**

**6th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting
Tromso, Norway
29th of April 2009**

1. Introduction

The mandate of EPPR Working Group EPPR Working Group is to deal with the prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies in the Arctic. Members of the Working Group exchange information on best practices and conducts projects (e.g. development of guidance and risk assessment methodologies, response exercises, training etc.). EPPR is not a response group. The work focuses mainly on prevention and preparedness strategies for oil and gas transportation and extraction, and on radiological and other hazards. In 2004, EPPR was directed by the Arctic Ministers to expand its mandate to include natural disasters.

2. Direction from Salekhard Ministerial Declaration

The 2006 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Salekhard, Russia endorsed EPPR's 2006-2008 activities as follows:

“Recognize that existing treaties, conventions and agreements provide the necessary framework for the work of the EPPR, **note** the need to continue to develop co-operation and the exchange of experience and lessons learned in the field of prevention, preparedness and response in the Arctic,

Note the results of the symposium in Moscow on Prevention and Mitigation of Emergency Situations in the Arctic, which has highlighted the special challenges related to emergency response in the Arctic,

Encourage the AC Member States to focus on the following areas and initiate new projects in order to improve the capacity to respond to emergencies in the Arctic

- exchange of information, training and experience
- public information
- technical development and support, and
- co-ordination of response

Request the EPPR to gather and synthesize knowledge and expertise on the behavior 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.

Welcome with appreciation the intention of the EPPR to initiate a number of projects in order to enhance cooperation in this area and the intention of Russia to establish a National Assistance Capability based in Northwest Russia to respond to radiological emergencies in the Arctic”

3. Progress Report 2006-2009 for EPPR Working Group Activities

Since the 2006 Ministerial meeting, the EPPR working group has met in Longyearbyen, Norway 26.-28 April 2007 and in Luleå, Sweden 20. – 22. August 2008 and in Las Vegas, USA from 17.-19. March 2009. In addition has two telephone conferences between EPPR HoDs been conducted.

Mr. Johan Marius Ly (Norway) chairs the work group through the 2009 Ministerial meeting, and Mr. Igor Veselov (Russia) is vice-chair. Ms. Ann Heinrich (USA) is elected as new chair and Ole Kristian Bjerkemo (Norway) as vice chair from May 1, 2009 to the next Ministerial.

Activities within Oil and Gas

The Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technology (SCAT) Manual lead by Canada has been translated to Russian language.

The Canadian project Guidelines and Strategies for Oily Waste Management in the Arctic Regions has been completed.

The Russian project Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while implementing infrastructural and other Economic Projects has been approved and some project activities has been conducted e.g exercise at the Varandey terminal.

The Russian project Arctic Rescue is an ongoing project. As a part of the project an International seminar was conducted in Dudinka, Russia.

As a follow up of the Salekard Declaration, the Norwegian project “Behavior of Oil and other Hazardous Substances in Arctic Waters (BoHaSA)” has been approved. The project will start in 2009 and will be finalized in 2010 or early 2011.

EPPR has been involved in the preparation of PAME’s Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment and some of the activities related to the report (workshops and other meetings).

The EPPR Secretariat has worked 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.

Activities within Radiation

The Source Control management projects for the Atomflot facility in Murmansk and the Zvezdochka Shipbuilding Center in Arkhangelsk Region have been completed. The objectives of this phase was to conduct a risk assessment and develop recommendations to reduce risks at the hazardous facilities through the application of the Risk Assessment Methodology (including ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems principles and training) A full scale exercise was conducted at the Zvezdochka facility in July, 2008 to test the implementation and effectiveness of plans and procedures developed from the risk assessment.

The Community Radiation Information Project is ongoing under leadership of US and the Russian Federation. The main activities in this project included: conduct of an emergency public information exercise and development of recommendations from the resulting findings, and development of a training course on public communications planning. This training course is now included in the management training curricula at Rosatom.

In addition two brochures have been published in Russian and English: “The Far East Nuclear Technologies and Environment” and “Keeping the Public Informed in Radiological Emergency.”

EPPR sponsors specific technical projects to improve capabilities to analyze and respond to radiation related incidents or accidents. These include:

- development of portable site customized systems for analysis, mapping, forecasting, and communicating radiation related information in an emergency. This system has been provided to 5 Russian facilities to date.

- two software programs to model airborne radiological dispersion and contamination from an accident, providing critical information to decision makers. This system has been provided to thirteen radiation-hazardous facilities of Rosatom to date.

Activities within Natural disasters

Finland is the lead country for the project “Managing the cold conditions – a systematic approach”. An application for finances will be sent to the European Commission by the first half of the year 2009. The project period would then be for 2009-2011.

Local partners in Sweden and Finland will participate, as well the Russian Federation.

The first steering committee meeting was held in November 2008 at a national level. An international meeting will be arranged in 2009.

Collaboration with Permanent Participants, other Arctic Council Working groups and other relevant bodies

- PAME on the development of Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment
- AMAP and CAFF on the Arctic Council Spatial Strategy
- Northern Forum on sharing information on Arctic flooding
- Partnership with oil and gas industry to ensure that strategies are addressing noted shortfalls and gaps.

4. EPPR Work Plan 2009 – 2011

Oil and Gas

The Russian project Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while implementing infrastructural and other Economic Projects will continue with the international exercise “Barents Rescue” planned for September, 2009.

The Russian project Arctic Rescue will continue with a seminar planned for August 2009 in Anadyr, Russia

The Norwegian project “Behaviour of Oil and other Hazardous Substances in Arctic Waters (BoHaSA) will start in 2009 and be finalized in 2010.

A project “Co-operation on oil spill and HNS response in the Arctic” will start in 2009. The background for the project is to consider the existing regional agreements in relation to the future challenges in the Arctic based on oil and gas activity, shipping and the gap-analysis prepared by EPPR in 1997.

Radiation

The source control prevention project will continue with analysis of transportation of radiation hazardous materials at Russia’s Scientific and Research Institute of Atomic Reactors. The project will include application of the Risk Assessment methodology, and will be conducted through 2010.

An emergency exercise will be conducted in 2010 at the Nerpa Shipyard in the Murmansk region.

Work will continue through 2009 to enhance radiological technical support to EMERCOM's National Crisis Situation Management Center, including development of databases, manuals, and procedures for interfacing with multiple agencies.

The Community Radiation Information Project is continuing with development of tools to help specialists communicate radiation and emergency information with the public and media.

Three additional Rosatom facilities will be outfitted with site specific software to model airborne radiological dispersion and contamination from an accident, providing critical information to decision makers.

Additional technical projects for EPPR to sponsor to improve capabilities to analyze and respond to radiation related incidents or accidents were approved by EPPR at the March 09 meeting. These projects continue the focus on improving emergency response capabilities in the Arctic modeling of airborne radiation dispersion, emergency radiation data collection and analysis, and training.

The project names are:

- Emergency Rescue team Equipment. The aim of the project is to upgrade the equipment of the Emergency Response Team at the Zvezdochka facility and enhance the level of preparedness to radiation accidents following the results of the "Arctic-2008" exercise conducted at the facility.
- Radiation Survey Simulation System. The aim is to develop a site-specific modeling system for training and exercise purposes to simulate a radiological accident at two specific facilities.

Natural disasters

EPPR and Northern Forum will continue to share information regarding catastrophic flooding on Northern Rivers.

The project "Managing the cold conditions – a systematic approach" will continue for 2009 - 2011. For further details, see the work Plan.

EPPR will cooperate with other organizations by:

- Working together with AMAP and CAFF the Arctic Council Spatial Strategy
- Maintaining liaison with PAME and support relevant PAME projects as a follow up of the AMSA report
- Maintaining liaison with the University of the Arctic
- Maintaining liaison with Nordic Mapping Agencies on their project on Arctic Mapping
- Undertaking activities with the Northern Forum that support the EPPR agenda
- Maintaining liaison with the oil industry and other relevant organizations with the aim to enhance oil spill prevention and preparedness in the Arctic

5. List of Deliverables to the 6th Ministerial Meeting

- EPPR's 2009-2011 Work Plan

- Guidelines and Strategies for Oily Waste Management in the Arctic Regions
Sponsorship of technical projects to improve capabilities to analyze and respond to radiation related incidents or accidents: portable site customized systems for analysis, mapping, forecasting, and communicating radiation related information in an emergency have been developed for 5 sites and two software programs to model airborne radiological dispersion and contamination from an accident, providing critical information to decision makers has been developed for 13 sites.
- Brochure in the Risk and Safety series: The Far East Nuclear Technology and Environment
- Brochure on “Keeping the Public Informed in Radiological Emergency”
- Final Reports for the Risk Assessments at the Coastal Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Reloading Facility of FSUE "Atomflot" and shipbuilding center “Zvezdochka”
- Report on the full scale emergency exercise conducted at Zvezdochka in 2008
- Revised Arctic Guide for Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response

6. Proposed SAO Recommendations to Ministerial Declaration

The EPPR working group makes the following recommendations for SAO/Ministerial consideration .

EPPR Work Plan 2009-2011:

- *Welcome EPPR’s progress report 2006-2009 and endorse the EPPR work plan 2009-2011.*

Guidelines and Strategies for Oily Waste Management in the Arctic Regions

- *Acknowledge the work done by the EPPR Working Group and the lead country Canada on the Guidelines and Strategies for Oily Waste Management in the Arctic Regions and encourage the application of these Guidelines throughout the Arctic.*

Technical projects to improve capabilities to analyze and respond to radiation related incidents or accidents: portable site customized systems for analysis, mapping, forecasting, and communicating radiation related information in an emergency have been developed for 5 sites and two software programs to model airborne radiological dispersion and contamination from an accident, providing critical information to decision makers has been developed for 13 sites.

- *Welcome the implementation of technical projects to improve capabilities to analyze and respond to radiation related incidents or accidents which contribute to the protection of people and the environment*

Report Risk and Safety: The Far East Nuclear Technology and Environment, Brochure on “Keeping the Public Informed in Radiological Emergency”

- *Note with appreciation publications aimed at communicating radiation information to the public*

Final Report: Risk Assessment at the Coastal Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Reloading Facility of FSUE "Atomflot" and "Zvezdochka"

- *Welcome the Risk Assessment reports for the Coastal Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Reloading Facility of FSUE "Atomflot" and the Zvezdochka Shipbuilding Center and the work done to improve emergency management at the facilities*

Final Report: emergency exercise at Zvezdochka Shipbuilding Center

- *Note with appreciation the emergency exercises conducted to date and request EPPR to conduct another exercise in 2010 in order to enhance preparedness in the Arctic*

Revised Arctic Guide for Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response

- *Approve the Revised Arctic Guide for Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response*

EPPR's Strategic Plan is in a process for updating. The Ministers should note the ongoing work on updating EPPR's strategic Plan of Action.

- *Note that EPPR Strategic Plan of Action is in a process for updating.*

7. EPPR Working Group Administration

Norway has provided Secretariat support to the Working Group from January 1st. 2007 and to the 2009 Ministerial meeting. Mr. Jan Nerland was the Executive secretary from January 1st. to October 1st. 2007 and Ole Kristian Bjerkemo from October 1st. 2007 to the Ministerial.

7.1 EPPR Operating Budget

Salary Executive Secretary (30%) position:	NOK 300.000
Travel expenses Ex. Secretary:	NOK 70.000
Other expenses:	<u>NOK 50.000</u>
In total:	<u>NOK 420.000</u>

7.2 Communications

The EPPRs homepage <http://eppr.arctic-council.org/> is currently maintained by Swedish Radiation Safety Authority. It was decided in EPPRs annual meeting in 2009 that Sweden should continue as host. EPPR will look for possibilities to make the web more user friendly.

The EPPR homepage serves as the main outreach and communication tool. All EPPR-related reports, brochures, posters and other resources are available on the homepage. All of the documents are provided in English and some in Russian.

EPPR Workplan 2009 – 2011

OIL POLLUTION: L – LEAD P- PARTICIPANT

Project	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
Ongoing								
Arctic rescue			P		P	L	P	P
Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while Implementing Infrastructural and Other Economic Projects	P	P	P		P	L	P	P
Behavior of Oil and other Hazardous Substances in Arctic Waters (BoHaSA) (New 2009)	P		P	P	L		P	
Co-operation on oil spill and HNS response in the Arctic (New 2009)					L			

RADIOLOGICAL AND OTHER HAZARDS: L – LEAD P- PARTICIPANT

Project	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
Ongoing								
Portable analysis capability (Laptop based)						L		L
IBRAE Technical Crisis Center (TCC) support to the EMERCOM Crisis Situation Management Center.						L		L
Conduct of radiation emergency exercise			P		P	L	P	L
Source Control prevention related to transportation						L		L
Emergency Rescue Team Equipment (New 2009)						L		L
Radiation Survey Simulation System (New 2009)						L		L

NATURAL DISASTERS L – LEAD P- PARTICIPANT

Project	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
Ongoing								
"Managing the cold conditions – A systematic approach			L		P	P	P	

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHERS AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES

Project	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
Ongoing								
Northern Forum on catastrophic flooding						P		L
Nordic Mapping Agencies on Arctic Mapping					L			
PAME working group (Lead to be determined)								
Oil Industry					L			
University of Arctic (Lead to be determined)								
AMAP and CAFF on Arctic Council Spatial Strategy					L			

OTHER ISSUES L – LEAD P- PARTICIPANT

Project	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
Ongoing								
Host EPPR web site							L	
EPPR secretariat								L
Update the Strategic Plan of EPPR in process with the other EPPR countries	P				P	P		P
Update the Arctic Guide for Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response	P	P	P	P	P	P	L (P)	L

