

**Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)  
EPPR Progress Report to the SAO meeting  
in Syktivkar, Russia, April 26-27, 2006**

Since the meeting in Copenhagen in April, 2005 the Working Group has continued its work on various projects. The present report submits the main results of work presented at the annual meeting held in Tornio, Finland, April 5-7, 2006.

Recognizing that existing treaties, conventions and agreements provide the necessary framework for the work of the EPPR, the WG would like to draw attention to 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.

The recent Russian sponsored symposium held in Moscow on Prevention and Mitigation of Emergency Situations in the Arctic has highlighted the special challenges related to emergency response in the Arctic in particular

- Awareness of the severe effects that disasters might have on Arctic ecological systems and on the traditional way of life of Arctic indigenous people;
- Extreme operating conditions for rescue workers and response equipment in the Arctic, and the need to develop the ability to respond to emergencies in cold and remote areas;
- The need to expand the exchange of experience and lessons learned in order to improve the technical capabilities and the practical expertise in response to emergencies in the Arctic;

In order to address these issues the EPPR will put special focus on these areas and initiate new projects in order to improve the capacity to respond to emergencies in the Arctic. The projects will focus on

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

The EPPR WG decided to initiate a number of projects in order to enhance the cooperation in this area and will be developing a proposal for establishing a National Assistance Capability based in Northwest Russia to respond to radiological emergencies in the Arctic. Further the group decided to start a review of the possibilities to strengthen the response capabilities in cold climate in 2007.

Sweden has, through the Swedish Rescue Service Agency, arranged a series of international courses on the environmental impact of emergencies operations within the framework of Partnership for Peace (PfP). The course program includes presentations made by different experts. It could be adjusted to take in to account the special conditions of the Arctic. Sweden will review the possibilities to run the resulting course program in order to enhance cooperation in the field of emergency prevention and preparedness and will report back at the next EPPR meeting.

Canada outlined a proposal to develop guidelines and strategies for oily waste management decisions in the Arctic. The WG members were invited to send their comments to Canada before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. It was decided that Canada would convene an Experts Meeting/Workshop. A more detailed proposal will be provided at the next WG meeting.

The Working Group received a detailed briefing on the basis for the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment. The presentation included a discussion of the state of Arctic climate change, the projections for ice coverage change, the nature of current marine vessel traffic in the area, and the potential impacts of such marine traffic growth. The EPPR Working Group Chairman will contact the PAME Working Group Chairman to discuss the formal contribution of EPPR to the AMSA data collection and analysis process. Individual Working Group nations should plan on reporting periodically to the EPPR Working Group on their data acquisition efforts and any issues raised thereby. Working Group members were requested to ensure that all stakeholders in the entire AMSA process are identified and communicated to the AMSA Executive Steering Group.

Exchange of information, presentations and updates were provided on the following topics of relevance to the EPPR:

- The Mackenzie Gas Project (Canada)
- Hurricane Katrina (US)
- R&D response for oil in ice (Finland, US)
- Recent North Slope oil spills (US)
- Prince William Sound Regional \ Citizen's Advisory Council research program (US)

In the first phases of the Source Control project (US & Russia), risk assessment based upon the ISO14001 Standard was performed, and recommendations made to improve the safety level at two facilities. A Risk Assessment Methodology was developed for both chemical and radiation hazards. The third phase of the Source Control (US & Russia) project is being carried out at two facilities in the Northwest region of Russia, which are related to nuclear powered vessels maintenance and nuclear submarine decommissioning activities: FSUE "Atomflot" in Murmansk and FSUE "ME Zvezdochka" in the Arkhangelsk Region. The objective is to verify the Risk Assessment Methodology in complex conditions, which combine both chemical and radiation risks, as well as to perform the risk analysis and to develop recommendations for reduction of risks and improvement of emergency response system. The results of the risk analysis can be used as input data for development of a scenario of a major international emergency exercise at "ME Zvezdochka" in the future. The third phase is to be implemented within the next two years. Countries are invited to participate in the project.

Three courses on ISO14001 Standard application were developed for the top managers and environmental specialists of nuclear industrial facilities (US & Russia). The courses covered development and implementation of Environmental Management Systems based on ISO14001 standard, and internal auditing. The courses were conducted at the Training Center "Emergency Response" of the Institute for Advanced Training (MIPK "Atomenergo") of Rosatom. Experts from more than 25 Rosatom facilities and all Russian nuclear power plants attended the courses. The importance of this activity is stressed by the Rosatom policy on implementing ISO14001 at all facilities as tool for continual improvement of environmental protection, safety level and facility's operation. The developed lecture materials and exercises are transferred to MIPK for further use in the

training programs for Rosatom specialists. With the implementation of the third course, EPPR has completed its work on this project.

Under the Community Information Project the information series “Risk and Safety” will be continued with the development of a brochure on the nuclear activities in the Far East region of Russia. The brochure will be completed in April 2007. “The ABC of Radiation Protection” booklet has been completed in both Russian and English. A third brochure, “Emergency Public Information” designed for public information specialists who may not have nuclear training, has been completed in Russian. The English translation will be finalized by June 2006. A tutorial for information specialists on effective communication with the public in a radiation accident will be developed.

Exchange of information, presentations and updates were provided on the following topics of relevance to the EPPR:

- Advanced training program for the emergency rescue teams (ERT) of Rosatom (US & Russia)
- Emergency exercise in 2005 at the Atomflot facility in Murmansk (EPPR Members participated as observers)
- Planning of an exercise in 2007 at the Zvezdochka facilities in Murmansk (US & Russia)
- Development and installation of the plume modelling code Nostradamus
- Development of portable software/hardware system for experts conducting radiation surveys in the field

Information was provided on the Northern Forum Flood Working Group Meeting in Yakutsk, Sakha Republic in March 9-12, 2006. The Northern Forum has requested EPPR to cooperate in the following assessments:

- Assess the accuracy of the flood risk assessment;
- Determine the entities in charge of issuing flood, warning in each region and country
- Determine how warnings are issued;
- Work to harmonize how flood, warning are issued and determine their adequacy.

EPPR has nominated two representatives to participate in the Northern Forum working group.

The EPPR website (<http://eppr.arctic-council.org/>) is currently hosted by Sweden. The EPPR project information on the Arctic Council web site will be updated by the Secretariat, in consultation with the project leads. Canada has committed to upgrade the EPPR Website.

On the Secretariat of EPPR activity. Secretariat is organized in Russia and sponsored by the Ministry of Russia Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters. We also thank the US for their financial input in the activity of the secretariat.

It was recommended that the Chairman of the EPPR Working Group discuss with the Chairman of the PAME Working Group the possibility of periodic joint meetings of the two Working Groups.

Recognizing the importance of a knowledge base for disaster prevention and emergency preparedness, EPPR looked at ways of developing the education and outreach dimension of its work. EPPR took note of possible initiatives to cooperate with the University of the Arctic regarding International Polar Year (IPY) proposals, including the proposals for community engagement and a

curriculum on Environmental Stewardship and Radioactivity and for the development of Online Learning in Arctic Regions using Wireless and Mobile Technologies.

## EPPR Work Plan 2006-2007

### OIL POLLUTION: L - LEAD, P - PARTICIPANT

PROJECTS	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
<i>Ongoing</i>								
Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technology (SCAT) Manual – Next Steps	L							P
Oily Waste Disposal	L							
The Mackenzie Gas Project	L							
Beaufort the strategic Regional Plan of Action	L							
<i>Proposed Projects</i>								
Interactive Maps and Environmental Information from Arctic Council Programmes on the Web	P		P		L	P	P	P
Arctic Rescue						L		

### RADIOLOGICAL & OTHER HAZARDS: L - LEAD, P - PARTICIPANT

PROJECTS	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
<i>Ongoing</i>								
Source Control Management Phase III – FSUE “ME Zvezdochka” and FSUE “Atomflot”						L		L
ISO 14001 Training Programs						L		L
Community Radiation Information Project						L		L
Conduct of radiation emergency exercises – Moscow table-top exercise						L		L
<i>Proposed Projects</i>								
Development of Brochure on Far East Region of Russia						L		L
Portable analysis capability (Laptop based)						L		L
NOSTRADAMUS: real time computer system for estimation of atmospheric transfer						L		L
Work on establishment of Training Center “Emergency Response” (TC ER) at MIPK						L		L

### NATURAL DISASTERS: L - LEAD, P - PARTICIPANT

PROJECTS	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
<i>Ongoing</i>								
Working Groups on Flood (project of the Northern Forum)						P		
<i>Proposed Projects</i>								
Project to create a prevention system concerning catastrophic flooding on northern rivers (in cooperation with the Northern Forum)						L		
"Managing the cold conditions - A systematic approach"						L	P	
Host EPPR Website	P					P	L	