Terms of Reference on Development of Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy in the Northern Regions of the Russian Federation

(Summary)

1. Objectives

More than 1,9 milliard tones of toxic wastes are buried on the territory of the Russian Federation at storage devices, warehouses, burial grounds as well as land fields, dumps and other facilities owned by enterprises.

On the instructions of the Government of the Russian Federation Rostechnadzor carried out the estimation of the situation that led to conclusion that there is a constant waste accumulation in the country. But for all that the index of toxic wastes usage and sterilization was stabilized and now accounts for 3-6 % of the total amount of wastes that was created within a year, only in several regions this index reaches 20-30%.

Due to lack of land fields for warehousing and burying of industrial wastes there is a common practice of placing industrial wastes at unofficial dumps which represents a serious hazard to the environment.

Persistent organic pollutants are still one of the major problems for Russia, first and above all dioxins and dioxin-like compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, chlorine containing pesticides, heavy-metal pollutants (mercury and it's compounds, lead, cadmium). A wide range of enterprises from chemical, metallurgical and energy and other sectors are the source for these chemical agents.

These compounds are persistent to the environment, have cumulative properties and high biological activity, toxic for many life substances and can affect the functioning of ecologic systems that appears to be the most obvious in the Arctic Region.

The issue related to the utilization of polychlorinated biphenyls used as dielectric in transformers and condensers of energy systems is pending to be solved, its stock is estimated to be 30 thousands tones.

On the territory of almost all subjects of the Russian Federation warehousing spots for outdated pesticides and agrochemicals are in non satisfactory condition (about 30 thousands tones overall). The burying grounds of these chemicals that were created before are now in pitiable condition as well. The industrial infrastructure that could eliminate these substances hasn't been created yet.

Sources of environmental contamination by mercury and its compounds - chemical and metallurgical industry enterprises; energy complex facilities; manufacturing of the following items - mercury thermometers, lights sources, galvanic elements; gold mining; industrial wastes and outdated pesticides and their banks; mercury and mercury containing fields, accidental and deliberate (including criminal purposes) storage of mercury and its compounds, spill of metallic mercury in residential use.

By now mercury containing wastes accumulated on the territory of the Russian Federation exceed 1 million tones.

In the view of realization of "State policy basics in the field of chemical and biological security within the period until 2010 and further prospects" approved by the president of the Russian Federation on December the 4rd 2003 Register №2194-пр the Government of the Russian Federation allocates extensive attention to this program.

During the meeting of the **Security Council** "On measures of ecological safety provision in the Russian Federation" on January **30th this year country leaders indicated the problematic issues** in the field of ecological safety provision, connected to imperfection of the legislation and normative legal provisions, duplication of authorities in the federal entities of executive power and, respectively, lack of effective governmental management, control and supervision in environmental field. There were also key tasks and directions defined that have to be solved in the nearest future for the sake of ecological security of the country.

For the fulfillment of the tasks mentioned above **effective usage of the existing state management instruments** in the field of ecological security (state ecological control and supervision, state ecological expertise, regulation and

administration of negative industrial impact payments) is not enough, the **development of new instruments of environmental management** is also required, kind of instruments that would create efficient incentives for limitation of the negative industrial impact on the environment by modernization of industry and introduction of new, ecologically friendly, energy efficient technologies.

According to **the Program of Social Economic Development for Medium-Term Time Period** (2006-2008) the Government of the Russian Federation defined the major ways of solving problems set by the President of the Russian Federation as well as ambitious tasks of state ecological policy development for long–term time period are defined. The latter provide for creation of **ecologically oriented economy,** characterized by minimum industrial impact on the environment.

Prioritized tasks directions stipulate the following activities:

- On the preparation of Conception Draft on production and consumption waste management strategy in the Russian Federation,
- On the preparation of Conception Draft of **Federal Target Program** "Production and Consumption Waste Treatment Perfection in the Russian Federation"
- Preparation of Conception Draft and Terms of Reference Draft on the Development of **Federal Law Draft "On Changes made in the Federal Law on Production and Consumption Waste" (**The Federal law draft envisages the introduction of Liability principle, namely a product producer is responsible for ecologically safe wastes utilization by the end of the product's "life cycle"; harmonization of terms and definitions used in Russian legislation with the International Legal Acts and European legislation in the field of Waste treatment Management; introduction of addendum to the Federal Law, that precise the procedure of economic stimulation in the field of waste treatment).

In addition to the efforts undertaken by the Russian Federation, Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) decided to develop the Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy in the North regions of the Russian Federation based on this Strategy a pilot project on Hazardous waste management to be carried developed and carried out at one/two regions of Arctic Sub Arctic zones of the Russian Federation.

The proposed project is included in the work plan for 2006-2008 approved by SAO in Salekhard. The necessity of this project's development and realization is caused by the need to create efficient Hazardous wastes management system that would provide constant decrease of industrial impact of hazardous substances on the environment, (these substances are hazardous waste's components) and is connected to both realization of ACAP and Russian Federation plans.

As a result of the Project the Integrated Hazardous Waste management strategy will be developed. It represents an interconnected range of long-term measures that encompasses institutional, normative legal, technical and technological, as well as informational aspects. In the framework of the project a region/regions will be selected for approbation of the developed strategy in the form of creation of Regional System on Hazardous Waste Management.

2. Project Participants

The participants are Federal Environmental Industrial and Nuclear Supervision Service and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Ecosafety". It is planned to involve regional experts in the work.

3. Background

Nowadays regulation of the wastes' treatment in the Russian Federation is carried out by such mechanisms as licensing of hazardous wastes' handling, establishment of their accommodation limits, carrying out of the State ecological control. The scope of the specified mechanisms is distributed equally to the whole spectrum of hazardous wastes of the 1-5 classes of hazard and practically to all the sources of their formation. At the same time there is a group of the most dangerous

wastes of the 1-2 classes of the hazard demanding special attention because within the framework of usual market mechanisms their management ends up at the stage of their accumulation. The problem is aggravated by geographical features of the location of such wastes' formation sources, such as mainly dispersion of sources on the Russia Federation Northern regions` territory that impede the creation of economically accessible system of wastes` collection and neutralization.

The available information on formation and accumulation of hazardous wastes of the 1-2 classes of hazard officially represented by economy subjects to State ecological bodies essentially differs from the data received by the method of an expert estimation that affects administrative decisions taken in this sphere. Wastes` treatment in social sphere and in domestic use is barely controlled. Capacities on neutralization of dangerous wastes available in the country are not eligible to meet the existing demand, not only because of capacity bottlenecks but also by virtue of absence of specific ecologically friendly technologies, high cost of neutralization, the necessity of dangerous wastes' transportation for long distances, etc.

4. Means of reaching the Target Specified

Development of Integrated Hazardous waste Management Strategy in the Northern Regions of Russian Federation presumes the realization of the following activities.