

Minutes
ACAP Mercury PSG/Expert Group Teleconference
January 22, 2015

Attendees:

Marianne Bailey - USEPA
Petra Hagstrom - Sweden
Husamuddin Ahmadzai - NEFCO
Alona Yefimenko - IPS
Stan Durkee - USEPA
Amelia Letnes – USEPA
Gail Lacy – USEPA

1. Upcoming ACAP WG meeting – PSG presentation and Status report.
 - Hodayah Finman, USEPA, will attend.
 - Husamuddin will attend as well.
 - Hodayah and/or Marianne (if able to connect remotely) will make a powerpoint presentation on behalf of the PSG; Husamuddin will assist as necessary.

2. Update on non-ferrous metal smelter project, next steps, what is needed -- Husamuddin –
 - The PSI has provided an Expression of Interest for both (smelter and workshop) projects.
 - Smelter project needs to engage with smelter, the prime candidate is the Chelyabinsk zinc smelter; awaiting commitment of smelter owner.
 - Been in touch with technology suppliers and smelter-affiliated design institute.
 - Next week plan to meet with consultant to shape and develop the technical information exchange using the approach already shaped by NEFCO-Sweden-US.
 - Two tentative dates for a two-day information exchange: April 8-9 or April 15-16.
 - Up to 25 local participants. Funding will be available for local participants, international participants will need to pay their own way. A plan is expected to be available soon.
 - Discussion will include description of the USEPA-led coal-fired plant project, in collaboration with various Russian institutes, UNEP and the Swedish Environmental Institute that demonstrated that the use of carbon sorbents can achieve 80-90% percent reduction in emissions at a Russian plant burning Russian coal.
 - Hope that USEPA will be able to attend.

3. Update on workshop project, next steps, what is needed -- Marianne-
 - The PSI provided the PSG an Expression of Interest, but also questions to answer in its further consideration of funding. These questions include submission of a detailed budget; assurance that there is no duplication with ongoing UNEP/GEF/Russian Federation project; designation of an in-country coordinator and project beneficiary; and indications of what other ACAP countries would be participating.

- US is working to flesh out answers to those questions and expand the plan for the project, including updating the draft agenda, recognizing that the task cannot be completed until a Russian coordinator has been designated.
- Still need a formal designation of in country coordinator, to jointly plan the workshop. Hodayah will be raising this at the ACAP meeting, may be in meeting or on margins.
- The PSG's response to the PSI Committee's questions must be submitted to the Committee by 2/20/15, so USEPA and the PSG are asking that the Russian Federation provide notification of the designated in-country coordinator by the first week of February.

4. Update on UNEP-GEF-Russia project

Tabled since UNEP and SRI are unable to attend.

5. Opportunities for PSG/EG leadership

Marianne has chaired, would be most happy to offer the opportunity to others in the group, should anyone wish to step up to lead.

6. Other business? Recap of next steps

- Status of countries' ratification of Minamata: 10 have ratified, many are on the brink of ratification. EU and EU countries are close. EU needs to make some legal changes, so hoping for end of the year. Continued optimism that entry into force will occur towards the end of this year.

7. Next steps –

- Sending powerpoint to ACAP meeting, let Marianne know if you want to see it in advance. Will put out minutes from this call to the larger group.
- Husamuddin will distribute the plan for the smelter technical information exchange meeting when available. EPA (and other ACAP representatives) will advise of their participation.
- Marianne will share any outcomes from ACAP meeting and advise of communications received from the Russian Federation as to designation of a workshop coordinator.