CEG Newsletter #3

Next CEG Events as agreed at the last Plenary Meeting in Paris:

- Workshop on Disposal of Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel will be held on 24-26 February 2009 in Bommersvik, Sweden (with a technical tour to Oskarshamn laboratories).
- Workshop on Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Radioactive Waste (including special sessions on the Mayak Plant) to be held in St-Petersburg, Russia on 3-4 June 2009. By now there are no plans for a technical tour.
- 23rd CEG Plenary Meeting will be held in September 2009.

Recent news from CEG members' programmes

Russia

In December the first party of submarine spent nuclear fuel has been removed from Gremikha by the service ship Serebrianka. 294 fuel assemblies (from VVR reactors) have been placed in six casks TUK-18 which will soon be shipped to Atomflot and then transported to the Mayak plant for reprocessing.

Canada

The dismantlement of two Yankee Class NPS at Zvyozdochka is now underway with both NPS scheduled to be de-fuelled by April 2009. Their dismantling is scheduled for completion by March 2010.

Upgrades to the Bolshoi Kamen to Smolyaninovo rail line (for transportation of SNF and RW) are under implementation. Approximately 30% of the rail line is scheduled to be laid, ahead of schedule, by Christmas 2008. Works to replace one bridge in its entirety and repair another are scheduled to be completed by April 2009. The rail line remains on schedule to be operational by September 2009.

Preparations for the transport of two Victor III NPS from Kamchatka to Primorsky using a Dutch heavy lift vessel are progressing on schedule. The Republic of Korea will be also providing a contribution towards their dismantlement in 2009/10.

EBRD

A system for monitoring storage conditions of the spent reactor cores (SRC) of Alfa-class submarines has been commissioned in Gremikha. This was done under the Grant Implementing Agreement for Gremikha funded by the NDEP Support Fund administered by EBRD The computer-based integrated system permanently monitors and records temperature, humidity, radiation level and neutron flux in each cell of two storage facilities where SRC are located. It also generates warning signals in case of emergency. The system will be incorporated in the Murmansk Regional system for radiation monitoring developed under the NDEP funding too. Commissioning of the system will allow extension of the SRC storage facilities operation till 2015; before this date all SRC should be removed from Gremikha.

France

In October 2008 a solid waste incinerator for the Zvezdochka shipyard (including the cementation centre) was manufactured in France. In December the tests will be completed and the incinerator will be supplied to Russia by the beginning of 2009. The building at Zvezdotchka shipyard will be completely refurbished by December 2008. The certification process has been started. The total French budget for this project is 10 Million €.

Feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the Gremikha site and urgent actions:
Three contracts were signed (for over 2 M€) in September (decontamination of the “alpha” core N°910, refurbishment of the dry doc, handling crane refurbishment). The total French budget involved from 2004 in the Gremikha project is more than 15 Million €.

Rosatom proposed to CEA to finance the removal of 24 RTGs from the Baltic Sea. At the present time negotiations are being conducted.

Norway

In October Norwegian and French representatives visited a waste storage facility at Mayak. It was arranged as part of the Norwegian - Russian project for removing RTGs from Northwest Russia to inspect the final stage of the RTG project - long term storage at Mayak. The heat sources (RHS) are put in storage canisters together with vitrified liquid HLW waste. The visit focused on technical and economic aspects of the waste treatment including a special technology for handling damaged RTGs.
Norway and France are cooperating in assisting Russia to remove RTG. In 2008 46 RTGs have been removed from Akhangelsk and Nenets area.

UK and Norway

In early October 2008 a November class submarine # 291 was successfully transported from the Shipyard 10 to Nerpa Shipyard in an operation joint-funded by UK and Norway (under the Global Partnership Programme) and using four pontoons provided by Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation (AMEC). The submarine will be dismantled at Nerpa Shipyard.

The SPP-200 pontoons were designed by Lazurit and constructed by Nerpa, using funding provided by UK under the AMEC programme. Having completed their trials, the pontoons are now ready for use for the safe transportation of decommissioned nuclear powered submarines that are classed as being of poor condition and unsuitable for towing. The pontoons are designed for coastal water towing.

UK

In December a UK funded contact for manufacturing and supply of 50 casks TUK-120 for Atomflot was completed. The contract was managed by the Crown Agents. 7 casks have already been loaded

with non-reprocessable spent nuclear fuel from the Lotta service ship and placed at the Atomflot facility for long term storage.

Japan

In August the dismantlement work of a Victor III class submarine funded by Japan was completed at the Zvezda shipyard in the Far-East. The Republic of Korea and New Zealand also contributed to the project. This was a third Russian NPS dismantled with the use of Japanese funding. Defuelling and towing of the submarine to the shipyard were funded by the Russian side.