

Minutes of the 18th CEG Meeting

Moscow, Russian Federation, 13-15 October 2004

The 18th meeting of the IAEA Contact Expert Group (CEG) for International Radioactive Waste Projects in the Russian Federation¹ was held on 13-15 October 2004 in Moscow, Russian Federation. The meeting was organised by International Science and Technology Centre (ISTC) in cooperation with the CEG Secretariat, Rosatom and Russian Research Centre Kurchatov Institute (RRC KI). 73 participants attended from 14 countries and six international organisations.

Five major topical issues were considered, namely:

- 1. State of activities and plans for implementation of the G8 Global Partnership Programme.**
- 2. Main outcomes and findings of the CEG workshops hold in 2004.**
- 3. Cooperation with the coordinating bodies of MNEPR, Global Partnership Programme and NDEP.**
- 4. Current state of activities on remediation of the Gremikha site.**
- 5. CEG organizational and financial matters.**

Four additional presentations were made and received with interest:

1. Welcoming statements *by Mr. S. Antipov, Rosatom and Mr. U. Meyer, ISTC.*
2. Overview of international cooperation in the implementation of the Russian programme on comprehensive dismantlement of nuclear submarines and remediation of nuclear sites *by Mr. S. Antipov and Mr. V. Akhunov, Rosatom.*
3. Presentation of the CEG web-based database on cooperation projects *by the CEG Executive Secretary.*
4. Status of the MNEPR Programme *by Mr. P. Reyners, OECD/NEA.*

Implementation of the Russian Programme on Nuclear Submarine Dismantling

The current state of international cooperation for dismantling Russian retired nuclear submarines and remediation of nuclear hazardous sites was presented by Mr. S. Antipov, Head of the Department for Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations, Rosatom². Mr. Antipov stated that international co-operation with Russia has recently made substantial progress: Legal frameworks were established with the majority of donor countries now, making it possible to expand technical assistance to Russia. The MNEPR Agreement signed last year was the basis for many bilateral agreements.

Mr. Antipov commended Australia for joining the international submarine dismantlement efforts under the G8 Global Partnership Programme through joining the Russia-Japan Cooperation Committee (since a bilateral agreement between Russian and Australia is not currently available).

Detailed analysis of committed and expended funds together with major achievements and specific problems was provided by Mr. Antipov. He recognised the need for coordination of visits of foreign experts to nuclear sites, where Western assistance is provided, because clearance procedures are rather complicated and time consuming. Mr. Antipov noted the

¹ Established under the auspices of the IAEA with the Secretariat operated by the IAEA.

² On 18 October 2004 Mr. S. Antipov was appointed as a Deputy Head of the Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency (Rosatom).

need for the long-term planning of international assistance in order to coordinate it with the Russian activities.

Mr. Antipov noted that CEG is one of the most competent body to address international and national activities in relation to the dismantlement of nuclear submarines and nuclear clean-up activities in Russia. He further noted that CEG demonstrated its efficiency and value and plays an important coordinating role.

Mr. V. Akhunov, Deputy Head of the Department for Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations of Rosatom, in his intervention presented the state of the RF comprehensive nuclear submarines dismantling programme. He noted that in total 195 nuclear submarines retired from the Navy by the beginning of 2004. 103 NSs were dismantled. 18 subs will be dismantled this year including five with international funding. 83 submarines still await dismantling including 42 submarines in the Pacific Region. The Russian Government has established 2010 as the deadline for completion of dismantling of nuclear submarines retired at present.

Mr. Akhunov identified the most challenging problems as:

- safe transportation of retired submarines to the dismantling shipyards
- insufficient funding from the Russian budget,
- nuclear sites (ex-naval bases) remediation since situation is getting worse every year there.

Mr. Akhunov further mentioned that international assistance at the Far East Russia is limited, but the scale of the problems there is the same or even larger than in the North West Russia, and invited Canada, USA and AMEC³ Programme to investigate possibility of extension of their assistance to the Pacific Region.

State of activities and plans for implementation of the G8 Global Partnership Programme

The following presentations were given under this agenda item:

1. Foreign Affairs Canada. Global Partnership Program (GPX). Submarine Dismantlement Program by *M. Washer, Foreign Affairs Canada and Mr. M. Gerchikov, NSS Ltd., Canada.*
2. France in the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction by *Mr. A. Mathiot, CEA, France.*
3. Germany. G8 Global Partnership by *P. von Dobschütz, Ministry of Environment, Germany.*
4. Co-operation between Italy and the Russian Federation in the framework of the G8 Global Partnership by *Mr. C. Mancini, MOFA of Italy.*
5. Norwegian activities under the G8 Global Partnership and Norway's bilateral co-operation with the Russian Federation by *Mr. R. Kvile, MOFA of Norway.*
6. Sweden-Russia cooperation by *Mr. B. Karlsson, MOFA of Sweden.*
7. FSU Nuclear Legacy Programme by *Mr. D.R. Thomas, UK DTI.*
9. US Technical Assistance Programmes to Russia by *Ms. J. Connery, US DOE.*
10. Planned and Future Tacis Nuclear Safety Activities in NW Russia by *Mr. R. Turner, EC.*

³ AMEC stands for Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation Programme, which is a cooperative effort of Norway, USA, UK and Russia at the level of Ministries of Defence.

11. RF-Japan Co-operation on the Nuclear Submarines Dismantlement *by Mr. T. Suzuki, MOFA of Japan.*

During presentations and discussion that followed it was recognised that several countries, including Canada, Germany, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America, Japan and Sweden are actively implementing NS dismantlement and nuclear clean-up projects under the G8 Global Partnership Programme and bilateral initiatives. Preparatory activities for the RF-Italian Programme are being conducted and project initiation will start after ratification of the Agreement between RF and Italy, which is expected early next year. Several important projects were initiated under the TACIS Programme. At the same time no activities on submarine dismantling have been started under the French assistance programme.

It was recognised that long-term planning is important not only for the Russian side but for the donors as well.

Several parties revealed their support to projects on safe management and replacement of RTG⁴ batteries.

The need for improvement of coordination between the donors participating in projects on Andreeva Bay remediation and those who is planning to join these efforts was underlined. In this regard the establishment of an Andreeva Bay coordination group was supported.

CEG recognised that recently some activities have been initiated on the Lapse project and decided that the state and plans for implementation of the Lapse project would be discussed at the next CEG plenary meeting.

Main outcomes and findings of the CEG workshops organised in 2004

Mr. D. Field, RWE NUKEM Ltd. presented main findings and outcomes of the CEG workshop on Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment as Applied to the Dismantling of Nuclear Submarines and the Remediation of Sites, which was organised on 17-19 March 2004 in Oxford, UK. In addition the following presentations were given on this topic:

1. Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment – Recent Developments *by Mr. I. Amundsen, NRPA, Norway.*
2. Risk Assessment of the nuclear submarines towing *by Mr. M. Washer, Foreign Affairs Canada and Mr. M. Gerchikov, NSS Ltd., Canada.*
3. AMEC Projects associated with the safe storage and transport of decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines *by Mr. J. Holloway, UK Embassy in Moscow.*

Results of the CEG workshop were recognised as very useful guidelines for donors. A number of EIAs have been conducted after the workshop with the use of the workshop's guiding principles and recommendations.

CEG recognised that sharing the experience and results of conducted environmental impact and risk assessments could save a lot of money (and time) for the donors, because some analyses that have been completed could be fully or partially applicable under similar projects supported by other donors.

Mr. C. Bergman, SIP, Sweden presented an overview of the CEG workshop on Methods and

⁴ RTG is a thermoelectric generator on the basis of high activity strontium sealed source.

Techniques for Radioactive Waste Management Applicable for Remediation of Isolated Nuclear Sites held on 26-28 May 2004 in Petten, the Netherlands. He noted that Russian plans on creation of RW management centre in Andreeva Bay were presented and generally supported. Experience gained in Andreeva Bay should be used for remediation of other sites (e.g. Gremikha site).

CEG endorsed recommendations of the workshop. It was recognised that pending decision on construction of the regional repository for radioactive waste complicates waste management in the NW Region of Russia.

CEG supported proposal of the Norwegian side to organise the CEG workshop on securing and replacement of RTGs. The objective of the workshop will be to increase the awareness of the donors on RTG issues, to discuss EIA and risk assessment, experience and technologies that could be used for safe handling and replacement of RTGs. It was agreed that the workshop would be held in Oslo, Norway on 16-18 February 2005. All CEG members and Denmark have to be invited to attend the workshop.

CEG supported proposal of the Russian side to arrange a workshop on dismantling of nuclear service ships and service vessels with nuclear power installations. The workshop could take place at the NW Russia in May 2005. Exact location and dates should be defined at a later stage in communication with the Russian side. Funding of the workshop organisation is to be defined later.

CEG decided that the CEG Secretariat would provide assistance to organisation of the workshops in a way similar to previous CEG workshops.

CEG suggested and requested that the next 19th CEG plenary meeting would be held 4-6 October 2005 in Ottawa, Canada (awaiting confirmation by Canada).

Cooperation with the coordinating bodies of MNEPR, Global Partnership Programme and NDEP

Acting Chairman of the CEG informed the meeting on his contacts with the steering bodies of C8 Global Partnership Programme, MNEPR committee and NDEP operational committee. The meeting discussed the subject of question and noted that the global coordination and control of all international programmes in the CEG-related areas is impossible, however, technical coordination is easy and should be done at the CEG level, where all countries and international organisations can discuss specific issues and projects. In practice CEG members should ensure project proposals grant aided by Governments were able to be freely discussed at CEG meetings to enable effective coordination and value for money. It was also noted the importance of obtaining the commitment of the key Russian organisations involved in such nuclear legacy work. Without this commitment and coordination, their successful completion is likely to be more difficult to achieve. Role of Rosatom as a Beneficiary and a general coordinator was recognised as of great importance. Main task of CEG now is to provide wide informational exchange, and the role of the CEG members is to promote CEG.

Current state of activities on remediation of the Gremikha Site

Mr. B. Stepenov, RRC Kurchatov Institute, Russian Federation, presented an overview of activities at the Gremikha site. A number of improvements have been made there including physical protection, preparation of infrastructure for defuelling of submarine reactors with

liquid metal coolant (LMC) and renovation of LMC spent fuel storages. Engineering surveys of SNF casks stored on the open pad, buildings and structures are under way. General concept of radioactive waste management has been developed. CEG recognised that international assistance for remediation of the Gremikha site has not been provided. Russian funding is not enough to stabilise and improve the situation there, so Western support is urgently needed. The situation worsens every day with increased environmental risk.

The CEG organizational and financial matters

CEG Executive Secretary presented pilot version of the new web-based database on cooperative projects in the CEG-related areas. In general CEG membership supports the layout and structure of the database and its interface. Several comments were provided and they will be incorporated during further upgrading of the database. It was noted that close co-operation between the CEG Secretariat and the experts nominated by the CEG members for submission the data is crucial for the database comprehensiveness. In order to make the database available to the general public in the future it was decided that CEG parties would check the database content related to projects they sponsor by end of November 2004, and provide comments and additional information on the projects to the CEG Secretariat.

The CEG Secretariat reports were received with interest. CEG approved Financial Report of the CEG Secretariat for 2003 and decided to keep contributions of the CEG member-countries to the CEG Secretariat budget for 2005 at the current level of \$11,111 US.

CEG unanimously elected for the next two years Mr. Alan Heyes, Deputy Director, Department of Trade and Industry, UK as a Chairman of the CEG and Mr. Michael Washer, Senior Project Officer, Global Partnership Programme, Foreign Affairs Canada as a Vice Chairman of the CEG.

It was decided that the CEG Terms of Reference should be reviewed at the next CEG meeting, along with the procedures for electing the chair and vice chair.

Recognising importance of the CEG activities and anticipating further extension of international co-operation in the CEG-related areas, CEG decided:

- to continue the CEG and its Secretariat operation for another two years under the same organisational and financial conditions; and
- to ask the IAEA Director General to continue the IAEA support of the CEG activities in 2006-2007 under the same organisational and financial conditions and accordingly to extend the CEG Executive Secretary's contract.

CEG thanked CEG Secretariat, ISTC and the Russian side for excellent arrangements for the 18th CEG meeting.