

# Minutes of the 21<sup>th</sup> CEG Meeting

*Bruges, Belgium, 5-7 September 2007*

The 21<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IAEA Contact Expert Group (CEG) for International Radioactive Waste Projects in the Russian Federation<sup>1</sup> was held on 5-7 September 2007 in Bruges, Belgium. The meeting was organised by Belgoprocess and the CEG Secretariat in cooperation with Federal Atomic Energy Agency of the Russian Federation (Rosatom). 60 participants from 13 countries and five international organisations attended the meeting.

Three major topical issues were considered, namely:

1. **Midterm milestone of the G8 Global Partnership Programme: Progress and results in NPS dismantlement and remediation of nuclear sites and achievements under bilateral and multilateral Nuclear Legacy programmes in the Russian Federation.**
2. **Main outcomes and findings of the CEG workshops held in 2007.**
3. **CEG organisational and financial matters.**

## **Mid-term milestone of the G8 Global Partnership Programme: Progress and results in NPS dismantlement and remediation of nuclear sites and achievements under bilateral and multilateral Nuclear Legacy programmes in the Russian Federation.**

The following presentations were delivered in this session:

1. Major achievements and current state of activities under the Russian Programme for Comprehensive NPS Dismantlement and Remediation of Radioactively Contaminated Sites by Mr. Viktor Kovalenko, Rosatom, Russia
2. Progress and programming at the Global Partnership mid-point by Mr. Michael Washer, Foreign Affairs Canada
3. Main achievements and progress at the GP mid-point by Mr. Gilbert Fady, CEA, France
4. German support for utilization of nuclear submarines in Russia - Progress in project execution by Mr. Holger Schmidt, Energiewerke Nord GmbH, Germany
5. Status of the activities under the Italian – Russian Cooperation Agreement for Global Partnership – main achievements, criticalities, future programs by Mr. Massimiliano Nobile, SOGIN, Italy
6. The UK Government's Global Partnership Programme contribution to addressing nuclear submarine legacy issues in NW Russia - projects and lessons learnt by Mr. Alan Heyes, BERR, UK
7. U.S. Activities in Russia - Past and Future by Ms. Jill Zubarev, DOE, USA
8. Norway's Action Plan on Nuclear Safety in North-West Russia: Experiences and Status by Mr. Robert Kvile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
9. Japan's Assistance for the Dismantlement of the Decommissioned Nuclear Submarines and Related Project in the Russian Far East by Mr. Hajime Sasaki, Japan-Russia Cooperation Committee, Japan
10. Belgium - Russia Cooperation: Working Programme 2007 by Mr. Rik Vanbrabant, Belgoprocess, Belgium
11. Achievements and plans for continued co-operation with Russia by Mr. Magnus

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<sup>1</sup> Established under the auspices of the IAEA with the Secretariat operated by IAEA.

- Westerlind, SKI-ICP, Sweden
12. Achievement and plans for co-operation with Russia in the framework of Community Programmes by Mr. Jean-Paul Joulia, European Commission
  13. NDEP Nuclear Window Programme - achievements and current state of activities by Mr. Serge Gas, EBRD
  14. Main results of the feasibility studies for the Lepse dismantlement project. Plans for the future work by Mr. Nikolay Mantula, MSCo, Russia
  15. Strategy Definition for Russian Federation NPP Back End Radioactive Waste Management, Including Draft Legislation and Institutional Framework - Main Project Results and Conclusions by Mr. Jorgen Krone, DBA Technology GmbH, Germany
  16. Outcomes of the RTG Master Plan development and preparation of the Plan of near term actions for its realisation by Mr. Alexander Grigoriev, RRC KI, Russia
  17. Main lines of the INSC (Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation 2007-2013) and main activities foreseen to be implemented in the RF under the Action programmes 2007 and 2008 by Mr. Yves Gigase, European Commission

CEG noted substantial progress reached in the Russian Federation within the frame of the G8 Global Partnership Programme in dismantlement of the retired nuclear powered submarines (NPS). CEG took into consideration that all submarines (except the accident ones) would be dismantled by the end of 2010 as the Russian side reported.

Substantial improvements have been achieved in spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and radioactive waste (RW) management. Activities on remediation of the legacy storage facilities in the Andreeva Bay and in Gremikha are also progressing smoothly, but substantial preparatory work is still required before the actual SNF and RW removal may be initiated. Several donors are participating at each site. Their projects are strongly interrelated and reliant on each other. It would be a waste of money and resources and moreover a great disappointment for all donors if projects are not completed because of delays of other donor's project. In this respect the coordination of multilateral activities at these sites is critically important and the role of the international coordination groups under the Rosatom leadership is crucial. Comprehensive plans for remediation of each site are needed to provide a clear picture for the way ahead.

CEG members recognised that the allocated resources are not sufficient for the complete remediation of these sites. These sites will require remediation and clean-up activity long after 2012 – the Global Partnership final year. It is important to achieve tangible results from all the current and proposed projects before 2012.

CEG members stressed the importance of informing political leaders of their countries about the achievements of the Global Partnership Programme. Their awareness and appreciation are crucial for the directors of assistance programmes in justifying and financial planning of future activities in Russia.

Some CEG members have already started thinking about future challenges in the field of nuclear safety and security after 2012, and possible joint actions to tackle them. They welcome the views of other members and would like to discuss this matter in future.

The CEG underlined the need for a comprehensive approach to NPS dismantlement and remediation of sites including management of radioactive waste in the long-term. The role of the Strategic Master Plan (Phase II) in this regard is therefore very important.

CEG noted the need for expansion of international assistance to the Far East of Russia, where most of the activities on NPS dismantlement and remediation of nuclear sites are performed under the Russian funding, and external assistance is very limited. Taking into consideration successful and efficient experience of piggybacking mechanism, CEG appreciated and supported proposal of Canada to use funds available from other donors directed to this region through Canada's already established legal and project management frameworks.

CEG recognised progress in the bilateral Belgian-Russian programme and recommended that information on these projects should be included in the CEG database.

CEG noted the importance of introduction of the new RW category – Very Low Level Waste – as a tool for a cost efficient and effective option for disposal of waste generated during the remediation activities and strongly supported any mechanism to introduce this approach in Russia.

CEG acknowledged the completion of an important milestone of the Lepse dismantlement project and the EBRD plans to proceed with implementation activities. Initiation of new NDEP projects is also appreciated as well as the European Commission plans.

Efforts of the Western donors and the Russian Federation to ensure the safety and security of RTGs are strongly supported by CEG. While in the NW Russia this problem has been practically solved with the support of several donors under the Norway's lead, more efforts are required for RTG dismantlement along the Northern coast and in the Far East of Russia. The need for expansion of international cooperation in this area is highlighted by the CEG.

### **Main outcomes and findings of the CEG workshops held in 2007**

Mr. Michael Washer, Foreign Affairs Canada, presented the main findings and outcomes of the CEG workshop on Nuclear Legacy Problems in the Far East of Russia, which was held on 23-25 May 2007 in Vladivostok, Russia. Mr. Alexander Kiselev, Zvezda shipyard, Russia, reported on the main nuclear legacy problems and state of current projects in this area.

The meeting recognised that the workshop had been timely and extremely informative for the G8 Donor countries, providing clear picture of the Region's specifics and the scale of the problems, which in some cases are larger than in the North-West Russia. This includes the dismantlement of NPS, nuclear-powered surface vessels, nuclear service ships, and RTGs, isolation of accident submarines, management of SNF and radioactive wastes, etc. Some projects being implemented are very similar to the ones in North-West Russia: e.g. construction of the coastal storage for reactor compartments, establishment of the regional centre for radioactive waste management and storage, remediation of the SNF and RW storage facilities, etc. Therefore, the exchange of technical information and lessons learned between the regions is very important and must be both supported and actioned.

CEG supported the development of a Strategic Master Plan for the Far East of Russia which should provide for optimisation of efforts and efficient use of resources. This work will play an important role in planning and implementation of the whole Far East programme.

Mr. Serge Gas, EBRD, presented an overview of the NOC-CEG workshop on the results of the Strategic Master Plan, Phase 2 (SMP-2) that was held on 12 April 2007 in London, UK. In addition Mr. Ashot Sarkisov, IBRAE, Russia presented the scope and main outcomes of SMP-2.

CEG highly appreciated the completion of the SMP-2 development and the results achieved. CEG noted that SMP presents a unique comprehensive strategy and programme for elimination of the nuclear legacy in the NW Russia and formulates all major tasks that have to be carried out. Development of SMP was based on a sophisticated methodology and systematic approach that enabled developers to justify priorities and take into account inter-relations between different tasks and projects, including those that are already being implemented. CEG acknowledged the importance of the SMP-II as a document of high strategy level that will be a basis for further development of short-term and long-term programmes of Rosatom dealing with the dismantlement and remediation of sites in the NW Region and also for planning of international cooperative efforts.

CEG proposed that the possibility to form single-compartment units not only at Nerpa shipyard but also at the Shipyard #10 and at the Sayda Bay storage site should be included in the Master Plan. On the basis of SMP it would be beneficial to quickly develop a concept for the future use of containers for the RW transportation and storage. CEG noted that the results of the SMP-2 should match the main technical options studied for RW and SNF management under the major bilateral projects (Andreeva Bay, Gremikha, Sayda Bay).

Although the final review and discussion of the SMP-2 will be performed by the NOC, any questions, comments and recommendations regarding the presented information should be sent to Mr. Sarkisov for consideration during finalisation of the SMP-2 documents in September 2007.

### **The CEG organizational and financial matters**

The CEG Secretariat reports were received with interest. CEG approved the Financial Report of the CEG Secretariat for 2006 and decided to increase contributions of the CEG member-countries to the CEG Secretariat budget for 2008 up to US \$15,000.

Mr. Hans Forsstroem, CEG member for IAEA and Mr. Alan Heyes, CEG member for UK, presented general procedures and selection process for replacement of the current CEG Executive Secretary since his contract expires at the end of 2007. They also presented Mr. Oleg Goroshko who had been selected by IAEA for this post. CEG has acknowledged the IAEA decision and expressed the highest appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Sergey Bocharov for his efficient and dedicated work in the capacity of the Executive Secretary during more than seven years.

In order to provide continuity of the CEG Secretariat operation, CEG reiterated its request to IAEA to arrange for Mr. Goroshko to work together with the current Executive Secretary for two weeks in November 2007 in order to transfer information and skills in operation of the CEG Secretariat, organisation of the CEG meetings and workshops and interaction with the CEG

parties.

During the discussion on the evaluation of the CEG achievements and its future, it was noted that CEG had a great influence on the international efforts and proved to be an efficient mechanism for assisting to coordination of international programmes in Russia – nobody has now any doubts on the importance of the CEG work. CEG proposed that CEG Chairman would report to the next meeting of GPWG on the CEG activities. It was also recommended to the CEG Secretariat to prepare a plan of CEG actions for the next 5 years. The plan is to be drafted by the current Executive Secretary and his successor in November 2007 and to be approved by the CEG.

Since CEG is currently expanding its activities in the Far East Region and given growing Japanese assistance to Russia, CEG believes that it is extremely important to have Japan in the CEG as a full member. CEG will re-iterate its invitation to Japan to join CEG. All possible means should be used to involve the Republic of Korea, Australia and other Pacific countries to join CEG.

CEG decided to explore new tools for improvement of communication within and outside CEG, including the following:

- distribution of information on achievements in international projects through the CEG Secretariat,
- regular (quarterly) e-mail letters on the state of the projects implementation.

CEG asked its members to closely cooperate with the Executive Secretary to test this mechanism.

As a result of the discussion of the plans for 2008, CEG proposed to hold two CEG workshops in spring 2008 and one plenary meeting in autumn.

CEG supported a proposal of the Russian side to arrange a workshop on System for Radioactive Waste Management in the North-West Region of Russia, which will cover the establishment of the regional RW management centre, interrelations of the waste flows, RW management technologies to be applied and regulatory and licensing issues. The UK proposed to host the workshop tentatively in March 2008 in Oxford. This proposal was appreciated by the CEG. Exact timing will be defined in further communication.

The US side proposed a workshop on the Action plan for RTG dismantlement in the Russian Federation. The plan is expected to be finalised by the end of 2007 and could be distributed to the interested parties early in January. The Russian side proposed to host this workshop in Moscow at the RRC Kurchatov Institute in April 2008. This proposal was accepted by CEG with gratitude.

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

CEG appreciated a proposal of the French side to hold the next 22<sup>st</sup> CEG plenary meeting on 24-26 September 2008 in Paris. A special session on the licensing and regulatory aspects could be arranged at this meeting.

CEG expressed its gratitude to the Belgian side and the CEG Secretariat for excellent organisation of the 21<sup>th</sup> CEG meeting.