

Record of the NDEP-NOC/CEG Workshop on SMP 2

EBRD Headquarters, London

Thursday, 12 April 2007

The workshop on Strategic Master Plan, Phase 2 (SMP 2) was proposed by the 21st plenary meeting of the IAEA Contact Expert Group (CEG) to the Nuclear Operating Committee of the Northern Dimensions Environmental Partnership which accepted the proposal at its meeting of 8 December 2006. The workshop was organised by the EBRD and the CEG Secretariat in co-operation with Rosatom and IBRAE. Financial support for the workshop was provided by the EBRD and the CEG Secretariat.

The workshop was attended by representatives from 13 countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, and four international organisations: EBRD, European Commission, Nordic Investment Bank, and IAEA.

The workshop objectives were to make early presentations of the preliminary results of the SMP 2 related to: Integrated Programme, and interim stages of its development; Priority Programme and Strategic Investigation. Additionally, the workshop enabled valuable comments from international experts and representatives of donors to be made which the SMP 2 team might leverage in the finalisation of the project, especially related to other Strategic Investigations. The workshop was structured on presenting and discussing some of the main results of the SMP 2 work allied with presentations by selected Western experience in corresponding technical areas.

The SMP development team presented an overview both of the scope and content of SMP 2 including approaches and methodologies used. The Integrated Programme and the list of Priority Programme were discussed in depth. It was acknowledged that the Integrated Programme now covers all the main problem areas related to Russia's nuclear legacy in North-West region.

The value and necessity of both co-operation and co-ordination was recognised by the workshop. In this regard the SMP 2 report will be an important tool to facilitate just that. It is important that the eventual report therefore strikes an appropriate balance between being widely distributed and maintaining information confidentiality. Wide distribution of the report to NDEP and CEG members will facilitate Donor decision making particularly in regard to which specific projects to take onboard. Such distribution will also increase transparency and a wider understanding of the serious situation in regard to Russia's nuclear legacy. The Russian party proposed such a distribution. In this regard the CEG's exemplary record of supporting co-ordination and providing advice, together with the EBRD's ability to implement multi-lateral projects, will ensure the SMP 2 investment achieves a significant return for the international community.

The SMP development team presented preliminary results of four of the eight Strategic Investigations:

- management of non-reprocessable and damaged fuel,
- criteria for environmental remediation of contaminated sites,
- regional management of radioactive waste,
- improvement of the legal and regulatory framework.

The following comments and observations on the strategic investigations were collected during the workshop:

- It is essential to have a clear strategy, accepted by the Russian organisations. In this respect finalisation of the Strategic Investigations within SMP 2 will be a valuable contribution.
- The Russian presentations of the preliminary results correspond to good practices and international guidance.
- Regarding radioactive waste management in the Northwest region, a subject of concern for long time, it was noted that a comprehensive strategy is not yet finalised.
- The participants have noted the fact that safety and radioactive protection criteria used in this program fit quite well with the international recommendations.
- Final destination of damaged or un-reprocessable fuel is an ongoing legacy problem which remains to be solved. This was underlined by several presentations.
- It was noted that work and studies carried out under bilateral programmes should be taken into account by the SMP 2 team in a timely manner in order to offer a fully co-ordinated approach and to have an up to date information system and prevent duplication.
- Close co-ordination between regulator and operators is a crucial factor for efficiency of implementation of the program.

In conclusion, the workshop has been both timely and valuable, noting that the SMP 2 work comes to a conclusion within the next four months. SMP 2 will help for efficient planning and implementation of the projects both within the NDEP Support Fund's comprehensive program and all Donor country bilateral initiatives. Presentations and discussions have been very useful both for the countries and international funding organisations participating in co-operating projects with the Russian Federation and for the Russian participants in their work to upgrade the Russian waste management system. The group hopes that this workshop, as the previous ones, will help to enhance the efficiency of the international co-operation.

The CEG and the NOC express their thanks to the EBRD for excellent preparation and support to the workshop which significantly has contributed to its success.