

Advanced Training of Specialists of Russian Arctic Regions in Environmentally Safe Waste Management, Including Occupational Health Issues

1. **Project Name:** Advanced Training of Specialists of Russian Arctic Regions in Environmentally Safe Waste Management, including Occupational Health Issues.
2. **Project Category:** training workshop.
3. **Project Rationale:** The Project Steering Committee at its latest meeting held in Helsinki on March 25-26, 2009 approved the ideas for a number of other demo and pilot projects, some of which included cleaning Franz Josef Land of drums containing remnants of fuels, lubricants, and waste oils, remediation of a disused oil storage within a former military site, cleaning Tiksi Bay of sunk ships and sweepwood, eliminating outdated low-chlorine pesticides, preventing contamination of protected nature territories along the coast of the White Sea and the Barents Sea, and other.. A need for a specialized training of the personnel carrying out project activities in occupational health issues as related to environmentally safe handling of waste was noted. A willingness of the US Environmental Protection Agency to take part in this training and provide highly qualified occupational health trainers versed in operations involving handling of discarded drums containing residues of fuels or lubricants or other such material was voiced at the meeting.

Later on, in a discussion between US Environmental Protection Agency and Russian stakeholders, it was proposed to set up a dedicated training course for specialists representing Russian Arctic regions who would then be qualified to teach state-of-the-art waste management in their own provinces, i.e. a special course for trainers. The US EPA developed such a special course designed to have future trainers trained in the said subject. US specialists will take part in delivering the course.

4. **Proposed Scope:** The purpose of the training is to increase the trainees knowledge on the latest methods of ensuring environmental safety in operations involving handling of hazardous waste, including issues of occupational health. A special attention would be paid to issues related to removal of drums containing residues of hazardous materials, all aspects associated with handling outdated pesticides, reclamation operations, etc.

The delivery of the training is to comply with the RF Government Resolution No.340 of May 23, 2002, with the associated program approved by the RF Ministry of Natural Resources and endorsed by RF Ministry of Education (RF MNR decree No. 868 of December 18, 2002), and finally with the decree No.793 of November 20, 2007 ('On Training and Certifying Managers and Specialists of Organizations Specializing in Ensuring Environmental Safety') issued by RosTechNadzor (Russian Environmental, Technological and Nuclear Inspectorate).

The training is to be delivered by qualified specialists of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources, RosTechNadzor, and RosPotrebNadzor (Russian Consumers Inspectorate), as well as professionals representing organizations specializing in the field (practical aspects of handling of waste). Specialists that have completed the studies and passed the exam are entitled to receiving certificates granting them the right to work with hazardous waste. The possibility for such specialists to receive

also international certificates is now under consideration. Representatives of the Russian Arctic regions and aboriginal minorities will also be invited to the workshop.

- 5. Expected Result:** Capacity building of the representatives of the Russian Arctic regions in safe management of wastes typical of the Russian Arctic; preparation of training materials for teachers at the regional courses.
- 6. Current Project Status:** the project is now fully ready for being implemented. During the preparatory phase the training materials supplied by US Environmental Protection Agency will have to be translated into Russian.
- 7. Project Stakeholders:** RF Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology, RosPrirodNadzor (Russian Natural Resources Use Inspectorate), RosTechNadzor, RosPotrebNadzor, National Pollution Abatement Facility, Polar Fund, RAIPON (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East), representatives of the Russian Arctic regions, US EPA.
- 8. Project Replicability Potential:** the knowledge acquired by the representing Arctic regions trainees will be used in the preparation of the relevant courses in the Arctic regions of Russia.
- 9. Project Timeframe:** 20-24 July, 2009. Location: the Russian Federation.
- 10. Project Funding:** 50,000 USD, of which 50% are provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency (covering the travel and accommodation of the US trainers) and 50% by GEF (NPA-Arctic project).