

**Presentation at the Murmansk region's Environmental hot spots and Cleaner
Production seminar
Murmansk, October 10, 2008**

Good afternoon, dear colleagues!

Let me inform you about implementation of the environmental hot spots and cleaner production programme activities in the Komi Republic.

BEAC Environmental Ministers' Declaration adopted at the 8th ministerial conference in Moscow on November 9, 2007 is a programme document determining the focus of Barents environmental activities for a two-year period. One of the important chapters of this document refers to implementation of environmental hot spots in Northwestern Russia. Each Russian region in the Barents area has a list of environmental hotspots published in the AMAP (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme) in 2003. This list is a document which encourages regional environmental authorities to take a closer look at the state of the environment in their region and to draw immediate attention to its implementation.

Understanding the importance of this work in late 2007 Komi Natural Resources and Environmental Minister A.P. Borovinskikh signed a decree on establishment of a special working group on implementation of environmental hot spots and cleaner production in the Republic of Komi. From our point of view this was an important step which enabled joining forces of the federal, regional and municipal authorities, business community and education in addressing the problems related to the implementation of the cleaner production programme and environmental projects.

The working group first met on February 13, 2008. Apart from the 13 members of the group the meeting was also attended by 18 representatives of various stakeholders. Understanding the importance and significance of the forthcoming work we invited NEFCO's Henrik Forsström and Maria Maliniemi, Anne Berteig of Norway's Ministry of Environment, Viktor Markov from Karelia and Yan Tsygankov of the Russian-Norwegian Cleaner Production Centre to this meeting. This high-level representation made it possible for us to thoroughly discuss the entire agenda and make decisions necessary for the ensuing work. It is important to use other's experience in this field rather than try to reinvent the wheel. In this respect Karelian experience shared by Viktor Markov at the meeting was very useful for us.

What did the working group start with? First of all a list of Komi environmental hot spots was updated and reported. I want to note that the situation has changed drastically since 2003 and the most pressing environmental issue for the region is the disposal of solid municipal and medical waste.

Both republican and municipal authorities are well aware of the problem and are making attempts to tackle it. On September 27, 2007 the Municipal Council of Syktyvkar approved the investment programme for the upgrade of the existing municipal solid waste dump. The programme is being implemented by a private company Eco-tekhnologii which plans to complete construction of a waste sorting station and install the waste sorting equipment by the end of this year. A database of environmental sites contaminated by industrial and other wastes is now being developed. The Komi Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has a digital map of municipal and industrial waste dump sites in a 1:200 000 scale in ArcView format. The Ministry is also drafting a regional waste management programme for 2009-2013, which was discussed on 03.10.08 at the meeting of the interdepartmental commission under the Republic of

Komi's Economic Council. The programme will receive financial support once it is approved by the Government and State Council of Komi. This means that efforts of municipal authorities, the Komi Government and NEFCO are now applied in one direction and will definitely bring positive results.

It won't be an exaggeration to say that that our active position has made NEFCO be more decisive and send their expert team to Syktykvar in the beginning of May to discuss the waste issue with the authorities. In the coming months we hope to receive NEFCO experts' report on the solid municipal waste problem in Syktykvar and other cities of the Republic, which will offer an important outside view on tackling this problem.

We have long been saying that we have no feedback on cleaner production implementation activities in Northwestern Russia, in other words, we do not know how programme participants are implementing various projects aimed at environmental rehabilitation and cutting of raw material costs. We invited representatives of companies/organizations involved in Cleaner Production to the meeting of Working Group in Syktykvar where they made presentations of the promotion of cleaner production at their companies and shared their proposals and comments with regard to the implementation of the programme in the Republic of Komi. From my point of view this bilateral process which is crucial both for the Russian-Norwegian Cleaner Production Centre, TEKN and local environmental authorities.

The first meeting of the working group on the implementation of environmental hot spots and cleaner production programme which took place in Syktykvar in February showed that its establishment was a sound and correct decision on the part of the Ministry.

1. A working group of this kind makes it possible to join forces of various environmental authorities in the region.
2. The group makes it possible to be fast in reporting on the status and progress of the projects on the environmental hot spots list.
3. All members of the group may voice their opinion and views with regard to the status of any hot spot and participate in an open discussion.
4. Presence of this group stimulates both the authorities and private businesses in finding real solutions of environmental problems.
5. Information on the meeting of the working group is covered in the mass media.

Thank you for your attention!

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