

Minutes

2nd Meeting of the Subgroup for Hotspots Exclusion (SHE)

Moscow, June 2, 2010

Participants

Åke Mikaelsson, co-chair, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden
Andrey Peshkov, co-chair, Ministry for Natural Resources and Ecology, Russia
Ruslan Butovsky, Fund for Sustainable Development, Russia
Ingrid Berthinussen, Climate and Pollution Agency, Norway (on telephone)
Henrik G Forsström, Nordic Environmental Finance Corporation, NEFCO (observer)

Background

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the general progress with the exclusion procedure from the established Subgroup for “Hot Spot” Exclusion, SHE.

The following issues were discussed and the following decisions were made:

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Russian co-chair opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

After minor adjustments the agenda was adopted to the order reflected in these minutes. Åke Mikaelsson was appointed chair of the meeting and Ruslan Butovskiy as secretary of the meeting.

3. Review of the Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the 1st SHE group Meeting in Kiruna were reviewed and adopted after minor adjustments.

4. Report on the general progress according to the Exclusion Procedure

Russia reported that Rosprirodnadzor and Rosgidromet are the Federal Services that will serve as “AFA” (Assigned Federal Authorities) according to the adopted Exclusion Procedure. Rostekhnadzor will change its functions and is unlikely to have a role in the exclusion of “Hot Spots”.

No contact was taken so far between Minpriroda RF and the Russian regions, i.e. neither with the five subject level authorities nor with the territorial organs of the Federal Authorities subordinated to Minpriroda RF. However, such contact is

foreseen during June 2010. On central level, Minpriroda RF has held discussions on the Exclusion Procedure with Rosprirodnadzor and Rosgidromet.

The SHE Subgroup discussed the screening procedures and Russia informed that now all analytical laboratories belong to Rosgidromet. It was recognised that Step 2 of the Exclusion Procedure states that *“The screening may comprise desktop studies of reports and other information from earlier surveys and action projects etc.”* and that *“If necessary, the AFA can conduct additional surveys of the “hot spot” to collect adequate and accurate information”*. After discussion, the SHE Subgroup concluded that it thus is realistic to urge for a primary “desktop screening” on all “hot spots” in the respective Federation subject and based on the information from that primary screening make a prioritisation for further work as stated in the Work Programme.

Regarding the possible second part of the screening, requiring additional sampling and analysis, Minpriroda RF may do sampling and analyze the samples being certified for that. Russia also stated that Russian territory is huge and the analyses are quite expensive, so it is important to develop the sampling scheme first which should be adopted by Minpriroda RF. NEFCO informed that NEFCO has funds also for surveys related to screening.

Based on this discussion, the parties agreed:

- 1) To initiate the exclusion procedure by submitting a letter to the Subject level authority and the territorial representatives of Rosprirodnadzor and Rosgidromet in all five Federation subjects in the Russian part of the Barents region. The SHE Subgroup agreed to draft such a letter to be submitted to the 3 x 5 authorities by Minpriroda RF.
- 2) That the letters should contain a) background information on the “Hot Spots List” and the BEAC WGE Ministerial Meeting, b) information on the Exclusion Procedure, c) Request to submit information on the status, work done and the respective authority’s ranking of the “Hot Spots” listed in the respective Federation Subject, d) request to form and give information on regional “Hot Spots Exclusion Groups” and e) Select 1-2 “Hot Spots” to be prioritised for exclusion in their respective Federation Subject.
- 3) That the letters should be sent next week and signed by the Deputy Minister of Minpriroda RF and the answers from the regions should be obtained by July 15, 2010.
- 4) To appoint facilitators in the regions to be later included in the regional groups (like Ms. Tiupenko from Komi). It is important to state in the letter that the groups should be limited to 5-6 persons with stable personal participation.

5. Discussion on the draft Work Programme for the Subgroup

The program was discussed and some changes suggested. The chairs will make the necessary adjustments and send it out again for possible approval at the next SHE-group meeting.

6. Next meeting

It was agreed that a telephone meeting will be held on June 30, 2010.

In addition, suitable dates for next meeting were proposed: October 20-22 in Karelia or during the ACAP meeting in Oslo in September 2-3, 2010.

7. Any Other Business / Next Steps

1. NEFCO informed that the “hot spot” information system should be in place by the end of 2010.
2. NEFCO informed all participants that a celebration of the 20-year-anniversary of NEFCO will take place in Helsinki on November 11, 2010.

8. Closure of the Meeting

The chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.