

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Subgroup for Hot Spots Exclusion

Telephone Meeting on 3rd of February 2010, at 09.00 CET

- 1) The meeting was opened in time scheduled, with representation of Finland (Henna Haapala), Sweden (Åke Mikaelsson), NEFCO (Henrik G Forsström), Norway (Barbro Thomsen) and Russia (Andrey Peshkov from MNRE, Ruslan Butovsky from Fund for Sustainable Development).
- 2) The Agenda was adopted, the Åke Mikaelsson was appointed Chair of the meeting and Ruslan Butovsky – Secretary.
- 3) The Minutes of the Meeting of November 25th, 2010 were reviewed and adopted.
- 4) MNRE reported that 4 out of 5 Federal Subject Administrations have responded to the letter. Karelia did not respond yet (- probably because of the relatively new team) but the work was said to be in progress. The negotiations with Rosprirodnadzor on how to combine activities are taking place now. As regards Roshydromet, this Agency does not have valuable information about the status or actions on the HotSpots (HS), but on the environmental status around them. By mid-February, MNRE has to select 2-3 “hot spots” for every region from the list, and then to reach the agreements with the regions on the scope of work and funding available. MNRE assumes that the financial situation in the regions may be difficult, but the availability of funds must be estimated. The information sent by the regions should be better analyzed by MNRE and sent to the SHE group participants by February 9. MNRE will discuss the SHE activities with Minregion RF to get the clarification on the availability of funds for the regions from the federal budget. In some cases, targeted funds are available for improvement of water quality (for instance in Nenets AO – for water purification). The HS, which are not on the first priority list will be excluded in a second turn, but the work on their exclusion must continue in the way described in the Work Programme. The situation with the availability of funds must be clarified by MNRE and SHE members after 1-2 weeks. It is important to state that the regions must understand that the project external funding is limited (“seed money”) and must find their own administrative and financial resources for the HS elimination. It is important to stimulate the motivation of the hot spots owner to work for exclusion. The SHE instruments that the groups possess in this respect basically are minor funds for prefeasibility studies and assistance in fund raising/financial planning, administrative and technical know how (using the methodology of cleaner production concept).

- 5) The visits to the regions are planned for weeks 8. It was decided that MNRE will call the regions to understand their availability for a kick-off meeting in Moscow in week 8 and at the same time will explore the possibilities to visit the regions. The regional site visits and the kick-off meeting may take place during the same week, but it would be better if the kick-off meeting could take place first. The visits will be performed by SHE group members as a whole with the representation from MNRE. In line with the new program of site visits, the time schedule in Appendix 2 of the SHE Work Programme must be revised. The SHE group members are encouraged to review and give their comments on adjustments till next meeting.

- 6) i) Åke Mikaelsson informed the participants on the Pajala project progress. The project will be launched on March 1 and needs a Steering Committee. Åke suggested including the SHE members to such a SC + 2-3 Russian experts. Henna Haapala suggested that the SC must be represented by experts experienced in mining and metallurgical industry and/or permit granting. Henna will check for a suitable Finnish representative in the SC of the “Pajala Project” and Barbro will check for a Norwegian ditto as well. Åke will send more information on the Pajala project in order for the SHE-group to nominate a suitable representative,

Henrik G Forsström informed the participants that ii) Arctic Centre has started its work on the Information System; iii) To facilitate the work of SHE, the funding of 70,000 Euro that was earlier earmarked for the Ad.hoc Task Force may be available after the adoption by the NEFCO Board on March 3, 2011; iv) Consultants Rambøll Barents have recently finalised a study for NEFCO and NPA Arctic on oil spill prevention from sea transport. The study and other information on oil-pollution-related HS may be found on NPA Arctic website.

- 7) Next SHE WG meeting is scheduled to February 17 at 8.00 CET. The agenda will be determined next week.