EPPR Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Report from the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group to the SAO Meeting in Kautokeino, Norway November 19 – 20, 2008

1. Developments since the April 2008 SAO Meeting

1.1 EPPR meeting

EPPR conduced the Annual meeting in Luleå Sweden on August 19. – 20.2008. The main issues discussed in the meeting are reflected in this report.

2. Ongoing Activities

For additional information on the status of EPPR projects, we refer to the 2008 EPPR meeting report on EPPRs web page http://eppr.arctic-council.org/.

2.1 Status of EPPR Oil Pollution Projects

2.1.1 Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technology (SCAT) Manual – next steps

This is a manual worked out and distributed by Canada in English language. The manual has also been translated into Russian language. The project has been finalised.

2.1.2 Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil spills in the Arctic

We refer to the information from EPPR in the report to the SAO meeting in Svolvær in April 2008 and the discussion document on this issue prepared by the secretariat of CAFF, AMAP and EPPR.

As the SAOs were informed about, the information paper was intended for review by all of the WGs of the AC, and also by agencies and organizations outside Arctic Council which are involved in the development of circumpolar maps, quality control and use. Based upon the results of discussions between the WGs, the plan has been to further develop the document and to submit a proposal for consideration/approval by SAOs at their fall meeting 2008.

EPPR noted that there is an ongoing research process within AC on this issue and EPPR will participate as relevant. EPPRs feedback was that further information was needed before a final conclusion could be taken.

As a result of this EPPR concluded in the August meeting: "*EPPR noted the work since the last meeting conducted by the secretariat. EPPR was in principle positive to the development of an Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure, but would not recommend rushing the process. EPPR prefer a stepwise approach to this work as indicated in the discussion document. The preliminary steps proposed in the discussion document should be followed. (Identifying gaps in the existing information). The secretariat was given mandate to continue the work with the other working groups Secretariats. EPPR could not fully support the project before a detailed proposal including funding is on the table. The Circumpolar map is a completed project. EPPR is not updating the map.*"

Due to heavy work load on the AMAP, CAFF and EPPR secretariat has the work on the proposal been delayed. A proposal has therefore not been prepared to the SAO meeting as

announced.
In connection with this work has the Nordic Mapping Agencies proposed to enlarge the project GIT Barents into an Arctic SDI. EPPR is interested in participating in the ongoing discussions regarding the potential to develop an Arctic SDI.
We also refer to the annotated agenda to the SAO meeting regarding the Nordic Mapping Agencies' initiative.

2.1.3 Arctic Rescue

EPPR have highlighted the importance of improving the capacity to respond to emergencies in the Arctic. This was also endorsed by the Salekhard Declaration.
Exchange of information, training, exercises, public information, technical development and support is important tasks to reach this goal.
An international seminar (organised by Russian and Sweden) was arranged in Dudinka, Russia in September 2008 with 52 participants. There were written reports from the specialists and organizations of Russia, Sweden, Finland and Canada.The organizers from the Russian side were Emercom of Russia, minicipal administrations and the company "Norilsk Nickel". Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation also took part in the workshop.
Reports were presented on the following topics: emergency prevention and coordination of emergency responses in Arctic; medical problems in the work of rescuers and fire fighters in low temperature conditions; mitigation of emergency situation of ecological nature in Arctic, including large oil spills.

2.1.4 Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while implementing infrastructural and other Economic Projects

Russia informed about the project at the April 2008 SAO meeting in Svolvær. Based on the conclusions from EPPR 2007, Russia gave a more detailed presentation on the project in the annual EPPR in August 2008.

The goal of the project is to work out common systems of safety and security from (and in case of) emergencies on major transport and industrial facilities in the Arctic. As a part of the project Russian organized on October 1 – 2, 2008, within the framework of this project, a full scale emergency exercise at its newly-opened facility in the Barents Sea - VARANDEY OIL Terminal of LUKOIL. Part of this project could also be establishment of a network of monitoring centres and emergency response centres. A special trust fund under World Bank to manage financing of the project could be established. In relation to this has Russia has asked the different AC countries for additional funding. The feedback from the participants in the EPPR meeting was that the possibility of contributing to a fund is slim. The countries could support individual projects that are developed under this proposal employing the usual EPPR process (propose projects; seek comments and recommendations; get approval from group; conduct work; deliver products).

Based on the discussion in EPPR 2008 it was concluded: *"EPPR took note of Russias updated project proposal that was accepted as an EPPR project in 2007. It was concluded that this covers several levels of decision making were EPPR only covers the expertise part. Some delegated explained that they did not have the mandate to provide funding for this project, but explained the readiness to attend planned exercises.*
It was recommended that Russian should have a stepwise approach to make it easier for the EPPR representative to support the stepwise proposals. Russia will report back on progress so that EPPR can consider further practical activities."

Action requested: The SAOs are asked to adopt the Russian project Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while implementing infrastructural and other Economic Projects

2.1.5 Guidelines and Strategies for Oily Waste Management in the Arctic Regions

Canadian is the lead country for work with the guidelines.
The rationale for such guidelines is that waste management frequently is the weakest part of an oil spill contingency plan. No oily waste management manuals exist and shoreline oiling is to be expected and waste minimization or avoidance by *in situ* treatment techniques is a key part of the response decision process. The purpose of such guidelines is to develop a Decision Guide and Job Aids for waste management in the Arctic.
EPPR discussed the guidelines in the August meeting. The feedback from the different countries was very positive and the documents could also be very useful for IMO in their work with these questions. The project will be finalized within the end of 2008.

2.1.6 Project proposal "behavior of oil and other hazardous substances in Arctic Waters"

Norway has proposed a new project as a follow up of the Salekhard declaration were the Ministers stated among other things:

"Request the EPPR to gather and synthesize knowledge and expertise on the behavior of oil and other hazardous substances in Arctic Waters, and to promote the development and use of technologies and working methods that improve the capability to respond to accidents that involve such substances"

Based on this request, Norway initiated a process to develop the project proposal which should end up with a final proposal in the EPPR meeting in August. Norway has prepared the proposal in cooperation with the research institution SINTEF. The proposal was discussed in EPPR 2008.

The Conclusion from the discussions was: *"EPPR accepted the Norwegian draft proposal for the project. Canada and Sweden supported the project, but they needed a more detailed proposal included costs to fully consider their contribution. EPPR did not have objections for possible partly funding from the oil industry for this project."*

Based on this is the project is added to EPPRs work plan 2009 – 2011.

Action requested: The SAOs are asked to approve the Norwegian proposal as an Arctic Council project.

2.1.7 Project proposal on automated Preparedness Assessment model for evaluation of oil spill preparedness

US proposed in the EPPR meeting a project on the subordinate components of the assessment system which included private equipment, governmental equipment, capacity and contingency planning and training and exercises. The project will also cover the differences between US domestic regulatory values which are included in the assessment software as they differ from the domestic regulatory values of other nations on the EPPR Working Group. Lastly, the project will cover the possible application of the assessment system to local ports, regions and larger oil spill groupings.
EPPR concluded
"EPPR acknowledge the US offer to provide a demonstration of the automated system with

discussion of the software programming and system values at the next EPPR meeting and to then seek to partner with another EPPR nation to test the model internationally. From that effort will there be consideration of developing a standard model for assessment by the nations who are interested."

Action requested: The SAOs are asked to approve the US proposal as an Arctic Council project.

2.2 Radiological

USA and Russia are lead partners of all of the radiological projects.

2.2.1 Source Control Management

Phase III has been carried out at two facilities in the North West Region of Russia, related to nuclear powered vessels maintenance and nuclear submarine decommissioning activities. The objectives of phase III was verification and finalizing of the developed Risk Assessment Methodology at radiation and chemical hazardous facilities of the Industrial North of Russia and carrying out the risk assessment and developing the recommendations to reduce the risk at the selected hazardous facilities .
The English version of the project will be finalized in September this year and the complete project will be finalized in 2008.
IBRAE has asked for a follow up activity related to transport of radioactive sources. The Source Control project has been finalized.

2.2.2 Community Radiation Information Project

The main activities in this project has been:

- Information exercise in a pilot region to test existing emergency public information-systems
- Recommendations on public communications planning
- Training for emergency public information personnel in the pilot region

In addition booklets and brochures have been produced under this project. As the documents are prepared they will be made available on the EPPR web and are for general use. The Community Radiation Project has been finalized.

2.2.3 Development of Brochure on Far East region of Russia

A brochure on nuclear activities in the Far East region of Russia has been published and translated this summer. The project has been finalized.

2.2.4 Portable analysis capability

Portable analysis capability project is coming to conclusion.. Five portable systems for analysis of radiation situation (laptop based) have been developed and transferred to the following facilities:

* Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Mining and Chemical Combine" (FSUE MCC);

* FSUE "R&D Institute of Nuclear Reactors" (FSUE NIIAR);

FSUE "EE Zvezdochka";

* FSUE "DalRAO";

* FSUE SY "Zvezda"

Along with the system development, specialized user manuals are developed. System delivery and training will be conducted this year, and the project will be completed in November 2008.

2.2.5 Adaptation and Installation of the software "TRACE_WIN" and "NOSTRADAMUS"

The two software programs model airborne radiological dispersion and contamination for radiation hazardous facilities. "TRACE-WIN" uses simple Gaussian model for fast analysis in the immediate phases of an emergency. NOSTRADAMUS uses Lagrangian trajectory transport model to effectively forecast radiation situations with a release in aerosol and gaseous forms with subsequent precipitation.
The software have successfully been installed at thirteen radiation-hazardous facilities of Rosatom The project has been finalized.

2.2.6 IBRAE. Technical Crisis Center support on the EMERCOM Crisis Situation Management Center.

EMERCOM crisis center support - is on-going project to provide technical and scientific information and support to the National Crisis Situation Management Center (NCSMS) of EMERCOM of Russia by the Russian Nuclear Safety Institute, IBRAE. In 2008, training of the duty officers will be conducted, and specialized databases and information related to protection of population and territories will be developed for NCSMS. The project will be completed in 2009.

2.2.7 IAEA's Response Assistance Network (RANET)

The International Atomic Energy Agency has established RANET to facilitate response to a radiological emergency. EPPR countries are encouraged to register radiological response assets under RANET. The project will be finalized in 2008.

2.2.8 Conduct of radiation emergency exercise

An emergency exercise was conducted July 30 – August 1, 2008. The goal of the exercise was to improve the on site emergency response capabilities and test plans, procedures, and communication systems. The exercise was held at FSUE "Zvezdochka" (Center of Shipbuilding "Zvezdochka") which is located in Severodvinsk town, Arkhangelsk Region. The facility is one of the key enterprises of the North West Region that take an active part in nuclear submarine decommissioning. There were participants from many Russian organizations and from 4 of the EPPR countries.
It was concluded to continue the exercise program and conduct a radiation exercise in 2009-2010.

Action requested: The SAOs should approve conduct of an exercise in 2009-2010 as an Arctic Council project.

2.2.9 Source Control prevention related to transportation

The background for this proposal is described in the project Source Control Management Phase III which will be finalized in 2008.
The US delegation has proposed to continue this project with a focus on source control related to transportation of radiological material.
EPPR accepted the source control prevention project that will continue with analysis of transportation of radiation hazardous materials at the State Scientific Center of Russian Federation Research Institute of Atomic Reactors the in Dimitrovgrad, Russia. The project will include application of the Risk Assessment methodology. The project will be conducted through 2010.

Action requested: The SAOs are asked to approve the transportation project as Arctic Council projects.

2.3 Natural disasters

2.3.1 Creation of a warning and information system regarding catastrophic flooding on Northern Rivers (Project between EPPR and Northern Forum)

EPPR and Northern Forum share information on this project.

2.3.2 Managing the cold conditions – a systematic approach

The purpose of the project, which is under lead of Finland, is to build up the capacity for cold protection as a part of the regional and interregional Emergency and Rescue Services in Barents Region.
The focus points are for the National work packages (WP) are pilot projects for regional capacity building and good practices. The International WP are development towards joint action model, agreements and methods.
The test fields for the project will be national trainings and Barents Rescue 2009 and 2011 (Barents Joint Committee for Emergency and Rescue Services).

2.4 Other issues

2.4.1 Updating the EPPR Web Site

The EPPR Secretariat is to continue work to refine the web site. As a part of this task has the Arctic Guide for Emergency, Preparedness, Prevention and Response been updated. This is the first update since 2004.

The EPPR secretariat is investigating the possibilities to find another host for the web page. The aim for this is to improve the web page and make it easier to update and improve the web page.

2.4.2 EPPR Chairmanship and Secretariat

As a result that the previous EPPR Chair left his position in Norwegian Coastal Administration, we experienced that the Operating Guidelines for EPPR did not covered how to handle a situation like this.
Based on this it was decided to add a new text to EPPRs Operating Guidelines. EPPR decided use of the same text as AMAP if the chair should fall vacant. The text below should be added to the text in EPPRs Operating Guidelines chapter 2.1: *"Should the Chair fall vacant, the Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair until a successor is elected".*

Action requested: The SAOs are asked to approve the proposed changes in EPPRs Operating Guidelines.

2.4.3 Update the Strategic Plan of EPPR

EPPR has started a process for updating the Strategic Plan (SP). As a part of this process it was among other things discussed implementation of SAR, co-operation with industry, possible agreement for mutual response, results from AMSA and OGA and the structure of the SP. Based on the discussions, it was agreed to continue the process and to finalise this with the EPPR meeting in late March 2009.

Action requested: The SAOs should take note of the ongoing process with EPPRs strategic Plan.

3. Future Activities and Plans

The future activities and Plans are described in other parts of the report.

4. Cooperation with other Arctic Councils working Groups and others

4.1 Other Arctic Council Working Groups

AMAP and CAFF
The EPPR Secretariat has worked close together with these two working groups in the possible future work on how spatial information could be managed within the Arctic Council and how this could be conducted in co-operation with external parties.

PAME

EPPR has prepared text to the AMSA report chapter 7.5 and participated in PAME WG meetings.

SDWG (Sustainable Development Working Group)
No specific co-operation

ACAP (The Arctic Contaminants Action Program)
No specific co-operation

4.2 With Other Organizations outside the Arctic Council

Northern Forum
See project “to create a prevention system concerning catastrophic flooding on northern rivers”.

Bonn agreement
Information about EPPRs activities has been given to Bonn agreement working group (OTSOPA)

5. Questions to SAOs

See questions below each subchapter.