

Approved by:  
the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and  
Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus  
\_\_\_\_\_ I.M. Kachanovskiy

December "02" 2013

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### 1st National Coordination Committee (NCC) Meeting for the Republic of Belarus of the International Technical Assistance Project - Environmental Protection of International River Basins (Byelorussian Part) - with participation of Mr Timothy Turner (UK) - the Team Leader of International Project Experts

29 November 2013

Minsk

**Chairman:** Mr I.M. Kachanovskiy - the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus

**Participants:** (see Annex 1)

The session agenda: (see Annex 2)

**Speakers:** I.M. Kachanovskiy, S.V. Zavialov, T. Turner, A.P. Stankevich, O.V. Vasneva, A.V. Pakhomov, N.P. Schegoleva.

The session participants discussed issues pertaining to implementation of the international technical assistance project - Environmental Protection of International River Basins (referred hereinafter to as the Project), including the following ones:

- objectives of the Project, results of activities completed in 2012 - 2013 and the Action Plan for 2014;
- results of the Upper Dnieper river basin analysis and the field studies completed;
- results of field studies and assessments of groundwater status in the Dnieper basin;
- typology of water bodies in the Dnieper basin, production of GIS layers and maps of the Dnieper basin.

The assessment report on contemporary ecological status of the Dnieper river basin was developed with involvement of Byelorussian specialists from the Republican Centre of Radiation Control and Monitoring, the R&D Institute of Comprehensive Water Resources Use, the Republican Hydrometeorological Centre, the Byelorussian R&D Geological Survey Institute, and the Institute of Natural Resources Use of the National Acad. Sci. of Belarus. The Dnieper Basin Analysis Report was completed in April 2013. Results for Byelorussian and Ukrainian parts of the Dnieper basin and main environmental problems that adversely affect aquatic ecosystems of the Dnieper basin were discussed at a session of the Dnieper Basin Committee (Ukraine, Cherkassy, May 23-24, 2013).

A contract was awarded for production of a set of maps and GIS layers for the Dnieper basin, with assessment of ecological and chemical status of water bodies in the basin, identification and typology of water bodies at the base of hydromorphological criteria, etc.

In order to assess ecological and chemical status of the water bodies identified, the National Environmental Monitoring System provided monitoring data for surface waters and groundwater, including 33 natural water bodies (including 2 lakes) and 6 artificial surface water bodies.

The Chairman of the National Coordination Committee, Mr I.M. Kachanovskiy, noted that the Project budget does not provide for purchase of laboratory equipment - on a certain stage of the Project

implementation that might result in difficulties in the course of implementation of field studies and monitoring activities.

The Team Leader, Mr T. Turner, explained that such finance allocations really were not stipulated in the framework of the Project, so capacity of the Project donors should be used to the maximal possible extent. However, in the course of the Project implementation, experts seek to identify equipment needs in every country for preparing equipment purchase requests in a longer term.

Members of the National Coordination Committee submitted their proposals to the Team Leader (Mr T. Turner) with a tentative list of potential pilot projects including *inter alia* proposed development of Technical Regulations on sampling bottom sediments in water courses.

In the course of the discussion, Mr T. Turner recommended to amalgamate all the pilot projects proposed into a single project as all pilot projects are to be approved by Brussels (by the European Commission) and only one project from an individual county may be submitted. Planned finance allocations for implementation of pilot projects in every country (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) are set at the level of about € 80 thousand. To this end, beneficiary countries of the Project are expected to recommend an organisation in each country to be awarded a contract.

The session participants noted that, in addition to production of the necessary document for the Republic of Belarus, successful implementation of the Project would allow the involved specialists to acquire relevant international experience. All these factors predetermine high importance of successful implementation of the Project in our country.

Based on results of the discussions, the National Coordination Committee of the Project HAS DECIDED:

1. To assess Project implementation activities in 2012-2013 as satisfactory.
2. To approve the Action Plan for 2014.
3. To instruct the Republican Centre of Radiation Control and Monitoring (Mr A.P. Stankevich) to amalgamate all the submitted pilot projects into a single pilot project and to submit the latter project proposal to the Department of Regulation of Impacts on Ambient Air and Water Resources (Mr S.V. Zavialov) for further submission to the Project Office by 31.01.2014.
4. To recommend the R&D Institute of Comprehensive Water Resources Use to apply results of field studies and monitoring activities that were collected in the course of Project implementation activities for development of the Scheme of Comprehensive Water Use and Protection of the Dnieper River.

The Head of the Department of Regulation  
of Impacts on Atmospheric Air and Water Resources

S.V. Zavialov