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Enabling transboundary co-operation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin

Starting meeting on the research of current state of tailings management facilities in the Dniester River Basin

Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

July 2, 2018

MEETING REPORT

Introduction

1. The starting meeting on the research of current state of tailings management facilities in the Dniester River Basin took place in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine on July 2, 2018. The meeting objectives were as follows:
 - presentation of the GEF project goals, main components and expected results;
 - discussion of topical issues on the safety of tailings management facilities (TMFs) located on the territory of the Dniester River Basin;
 - proposals consideration on the formation of action programs (plans) for the Dniester River Basin Management Plan;
 - logistics coordination for further project activities.Annex 1 to this report includes the meeting agenda.
2. The 34 representatives of the parties responsible for the TMFs operation attended the meeting, including the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine (MENR), the Dniester Basin Water Resources Management Department (Dniester BWRMD), regional state administrations, TMFs operators, as well as scientists and the GEF project team. Annex 2 provides the list of participants.
3. Ms. Maria Savka, First Deputy Chairman of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration, welcomed all the participants. She pointed out the urgency of the TMFs safety issue in the Dniester River Basin, on which the environmental situation in the region depends.
4. Mr. Volodymyr Bilokon, Project manager for sustainable use of water resources, Reform Support Team, MENR, made a presentation on the introduction of integrated water resources management, describing the new policy aspects of governance, environmental issues related to mining waste, and the need to establish the proper monitoring and supervision of TMFs operation.
5. Head of the Dniester BWRMD, Mr. Roman Mykhailiuk, presented in detail the new aspects of water resources management, which include reforming the structure of water management organizations, surface water conservation and reproduction, implementation of measures for water management development, formation of a River Basin Management Plan and establishment of Basin Councils.
6. Ms. Tamara Kutonova, Regional Coordinator of the GEF project/ OSCE, informed the participants about the GEF project goals, components and key expected results. Talking about a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), that includes a research on TMFs current state in the Dniester River basin, she emphasized the main responsibility of not only the international funds but also local and national institutions.

7. Ms. Iryna Nikolaieva, OSCE consultant, the head of expert group on research of TMFs current state in the Dniester River Basin, presented the legislative basis, methodological diagnostic tools and planned activities that will include the identification and inventory of the TMFs in the Dniester River Basin. TMFs identification in close cooperation with local experts (state authorities, enterprises, scientists) will update the information on objects quantity and location. Under the TMFs inventory, the GEF project expert team will visit the enterprises for visual inspection of the facilities, document review and interviewing the staff.
8. Prof. Hrygorii Shmatkov, Director of the Centre of Environment Audit and Clean Technologies LLC, made a presentation on the relevance of the TMFs management issue in Ukraine. He underlined the high environmental hazard of these objects, both for the environment and for human health.
9. Mr. Andrii Plikhtiak, Deputy Head of the Ecology and Natural Resources Department of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration, reported on the Ivano-Frankivsk industrial enterprises, owning the TMFs:
 - Seperate Division “Burshtynska TPP” of PJSC “DTEK Zakhidenergo” (Burshtyn town) – 3 ash dumps and sludge storage;
 - OJSC “Oriana” (Kalush town) – 2 TMFs and sludge storage;
 - PJSC “Naftokhimik Prykarpattia” (Nadvirna town) – 2 sludge storages;
 - Karpatnaftokhim Ltd. (Kalush town) – 2 sludge storages.
10. Mr. Maksym Vasylyshyn, Deputy Director of the Ecology and Natural Resources Department of the Lviv Regional State Administration, presented the TMFs safety situation in his region. In particular, the following TMFs are located on the territory of the Lviv region within the Dniester river basin:
 - PJSC “Stebnyk Mining and Chemical Enterprise “Polimineral” (Stebnyk town) – 1 TMF;
 - Rozdil State Mining and Chemical Enterprise “Sirka” (Novyi Rozdil town) – 3 TMFs, as well as a sulfur warehouse, dumps of Hungarian tar and dump of solid waste;
 - PJSC “Oil refining complex “Halychyna” (Drohobych town) – sludge storages.
11. The representatives of Chernivtsi, Vinnytsia and Khmelnytsk regions reported on the absence of TMFs on the territory of their regions, noting other issues of water bodies’ pollution due to the old wastewater treatment facilities and accumulation of unsuitable plant protection chemical products.
12. The representatives of industrial enterprises – TMF operators made brief reports on the specifics of TMFs operation and proposals to improve their safety.
13. Prof. Eduard Kuzmenko, Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas, informed the participants about groundwater pollution in the Kalush Mining Region and its hydrological impact on the Dniester River Basin. He noted that not only the TMFs present the hazard for the Dniester River, but also the activities of the entire Kalush mining complex on the extraction and processing of potash and rock salt.
14. Mr. Ivan Zozulia, Institute of JSC “GIRKHIPROM”, talked in his presentation "TMFs of Mining Chemistry Enterprises in the Dniester River Basin" about the area and volumes of TMFs’ waste in Novyi Rozdil, Stebnyk and Kalush.

After the presentations, the participants of starting meeting moved on to discuss the topical issues of TMFs safety, to consider proposals on the formation of action programs (plans) for the Dniester River Basin Management Plan, and to agree on logistical issues for further project activities on research of TMFs current state in the Dniester River Basin.

Discussion

15. The TDA of the Dniester River Basin will identify the main transboundary environmental issues of the river basin and their impact on the ecosystem. The project developments on TMFs inventory will be included in item 2 "Anthropogenic impacts" of the Dniester River Basin Management Plan.

16. The Guidance document No. 3 to implement the WFD “Analysis of Pressures and Impacts” will be used as methodology to conduct the research of TMFs current state in the Dniester River Basin. When analyzing the TMFs pressures and impacts on water resources, the analytical scheme DPSIR¹ will be applied.
17. During the discussions of the existing legislative acts on the TMFs safety, participants emphasized the need to develop requirements covering the entire life cycle of TMFs, especially closure and rehabilitation.
18. Representatives of industrial enterprises – TMF operators informed about the difficult socio-economic situation related to tax financial burden on the bankrupt enterprises:
 - payments of preferential pensions to former employees and rent only increase the debts of the enterprises;
 - lack of funds for self-sustained rehabilitation of closed facilities;
 - among the solutions it was suggested to exempt "dead lands" from tax, and give the investor preferential tax years.
19. The solution of environmental issues of the Dniester River Basin pollution requires a joint effort of the government, businesses and the public. Given the local budget deficit, other financing sources should be considered, such as polluting enterprises, international funds, territorial communities, while creating the attractiveness of enterprises for investors.
20. Each participant of the starting meeting was provided with the Form for comments and suggestions (Feedback Form). In total, 8 completed forms were received. The submitted proposals are indicated below:
 - based on the research results, to consider the possibility of including environmental measures in environmental programs, as well as the possibility of using an environmental fund for the development of specific projects and their implementation;
 - given the state owns all potentially hazardous facilities, to hold a tender on the development of project design solutions on the remedial actions of the impact of these facilities on the environment, that will assess the financial capabilities of potential investors;
 - in order to solve complex industry-related and environmental issues of the Dniester River Basin it is proposed to develop a comprehensive program for each enterprise with the assigning responsibilities of the enterprise, region, central authorities;
 - the proposed measures to improve the environmental situation in the region should acquire a national status;
 - the measures should include the solution of environmental and debt obligations of enterprises, waste inventory, recommendations, development of project design documentation, state expertise, approval by the Cabinet of Ministers, and funding allocation from various sources, incl. state budget;
 - it is proposed to solve the issue of granting benefits to TMFs’ investors at the governmental level: on land leasing and income taxes;
 - to develop a model for granting credits for addressing the environmental issues at minimum rates (2 ÷ 5%) per annum to investors and enterprises.

Conclusions

21. The inventory of TMFs in the Dniester River Basin will result in the short-, mid- and long-term measures development for the safe and economically feasible TMFs operation. These measures will be included in the Dniester River Basin Management Plan (item 2 "Anthropogenic impacts").

¹Driving force – Pressure – State – Impact – Response

22. As long-term measures it is proposed:
 - a legislative framework development for waste from extractive industries:
 - Industrial Waste Management Plans;
 - Investment funds of enterprises;
 - Environmental insurance;
 - reducing the financial burden on the bankrupt enterprises;
 - recycling of waste as secondary raw materials – search for technology, attract investment, use in agriculture or construction;
 - use of abandoned/ closed TMFs as waste disposal sites for existing enterprises.
23. All TMFs should be divided into objects with recoverable resources, and objects subject to closure and rehabilitation.
24. The Ukrainian TMF Database will be updated under the GEF project according to the actual Registers of waste disposal sites (requested from the MENR), as well as information from local authorities (regional state administrations).
25. Information on the current state of the TMFs located in the Dniester River Basin will be presented to the central executive authorities, including MENR, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. Representatives of the relevant ministries are invited to a dialogue on searching the ways of economically feasible TMFs' operation.
26. The participants agreed the following schedule of site-visits by the GEF project team:
 - from 3 to 5 July, 2018 – Ivano-Frankivsk region, PJSC “Naftokhimik Prykarpattia”, Seperate Division “Burshtynska TPP” of PJSC “DTEK Zakhidenergo”, OJSC “Oriana”;
 - from 17 to 19 July, 2018 – Lviv region, PJSC “Stebnyk Mining and Chemical Enterprise “Polimineral”, Rozdil State Mining and Chemical Enterprise “Sirka”.
27. Within the framework of the GEF project, the team prepares an information and educational video report on the TMFs operation in Ukraine. The video materials will contain the current state of the TMFs located in the Dniester River Basin. It is planned to shoot the thematic interviews with the representatives of MENR, regional state administrations, Dniester BWRMD and industrial enterprises.

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AGENDA

- 09:30 – 10:00** Participants registration
- 10:00 – 10:10** Welcoming speech of the Chairman
- 10:10 – 10:20** Introduction of integrated water resources management
- Mr. Volodymyr Bilokon, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
- 10:20 – 10:30** Presentation by the Head of the Dniester Basin Water Resources Management Department
- Mr. Roman Mykhailiuk
- 10:30 – 10:45** Presentation of the project on transboundary cooperation in the Dniester River Basin
- Ms. Tamara Kutonova, OSCE
- 10:45 – 11:00** Research of the current state of TMFs in the Dniester River Basin
- Ms. Iryna Nikolaieva, OSCE
- 11:00 – 11:15** The relevance of the TMFs management issue in Ukraine and their potential environmental impact in a transboundary context
- Prof. Hrygorii Shmatkov, the Centre of Environment Audit and Clean Technologies LLC
- 11:15 – 11:25** Questions & Answers
- 11:25 – 11:30** Group photo of the starting meeting participants
- 11:30 – 12:00** **Coffee break**
- 12:00 – 12:10** Current situation on TMFs safety in Ivano-Frankivsk region
- Mr. Andrii Plikhtiak, Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration
- 12:10 – 12:20** The TMFs safety situation on the territory of the Lviv region within the Dniester river basin
- Mr. Maksym Vasylyshyn, Lviv Regional State Administration
- 12:20 – 13:00** Current situation on TMFs safety in regions
- Representatives of regional state administrations, *presentations up to 5 min.*
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 14:50** Specifics of TMFs operation and proposals to improve their safety
- Representatives of industrial enterprises – TMF operators, *presentations up to 10 min.*
- 14:50 – 15:00** The state of groundwater pollution in the Kalush Mining Region and its hydrological impact on the Dniester River Basin
- Prof. Eduard Kuzmenko, Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas
- 15:00 – 15:10** TMFs of Mining Chemistry Enterprises in the Dniester River Basin
- Mr. Ivan Zozulia, Institute of JSC “GIRKHIMPROM”

- 15:10 – 15:30** Consideration of the proposals on the short-, mid- and long-term measures for the Dniester River Basin Management Plan
- 15:30 – 16:00** **Coffee break**
- 16:00 – 16:30** Consideration of the proposals on the short-, mid- and long-term measures for the Dniester River Basin Management Plan (continued)
- 16:30 – 16:50** Coordination of logistical issues for further project activities on research of the TMFs current state in the Dniester River Basin
- 16:50 – 17:00** **Conclusions**
- 18:00 – 20:00** **Friendly dinner**

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