

Dear Sir/Madam

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE STRATEGIC MASTERPLAN –**  
**NORTH WEST RUSSIA**

Public consultations are being conducted within the framework of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Strategic Master Plan (Masterplan). The Draft SEA report will be made publicly available for inspection and comment for a period of 120 days.

The Masterplan is being developed by the Energy Safety Analysis Centre of IBRAE, under the leadership of Academician Sarkisov, supported by experts from IBRAE, the Kurchatov Institute and NIKIET. It has developed proposals for decommissioning nuclear-powered submarines which have been withdrawn from active service, nuclear-powered surface ships, technical support vessels and land-based nuclear fuel and radioactive waste storage facilities in North West Russia.

The Assembly of Contributors decided that the SMP should be complemented by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Policy of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), who is managing the funding provided by the donors. The Bank has appointed NNC from the United Kingdom to carry out the SEA and Rosatom is the Russian sponsor for its successful completion.

The draft SEA report contains an analysis of the Masterplan Strategies and has identified a number of measures to mitigate potential negative impacts on the environment as well as priorities based on environmental benefits. The draft SEA report has now been made available for review and comment. An essential aspect of an SEA is to consult all those that have a stake in the outcome of the projects that are proposed. The first stage of the consultation was a series of scoping meetings, which took place in November 2004.

A series of stakeholder meetings will be held between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June in Murmansk, Severodvinsk and Moscow in accordance with the attached schedule. The main objective of the meetings will be to understand the views of the public and stakeholders with regard to the conducted assessment and proposed measures. It is likely that each meeting will start with a brief presentation by the project sponsor summarising the programme and the main conclusions of the draft SEA, and identifying issues on which public and stakeholder input is particularly needed. The usual plenary question and answer session will be followed, if it seems appropriate, by an 'experts fair' where participants can talk informally to the various specialists that will be present. Each meeting is expected to last for no more than four hours. Each meeting will be chaired or moderated by two experts: NNC's Project Manager or his representative and an independent local expert.

The preliminary draft SEA report, the Executive Summary of the report and the Public Consultation and Disclosure Plan are temporarily available for downloading from the following website:

<http://www.ebrd.com/enviro/eias/index.htm>

The final draft SEA report will be released shortly on a website which is currently being designed by the EBRD. The address for this site will be provided to you shortly.

Additionally, an electronic version of the report on a CD-ROM or a hard copy can be provided on request.

In addition, we are keen for you to express your views or raise any questions prior to the consultations by e-mail to [SEA.consultations@nnc.co.uk](mailto:SEA.consultations@nnc.co.uk) or, alternatively, please phone Mark Gerchikov, who is coordinating this project (+1 416 592 3315).

Comments are, however, very welcome throughout the 120-day consultation and I would encourage you to submit these via our email address:


[SEA.consultations@nnc.co.uk](mailto:SEA.consultations@nnc.co.uk)

Comments submitted before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 will be used to update the SEA as necessary and the section covering the results of the consultation will be extended to summarise the results from the full set of consultation activities. Copies of the final SEA report will be placed in the same locations as the draft SEA for public inspection and electronic copies will be made available on request. I very much hope that you will be able to participate.

Please advise if you require a Russian visa by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2005 so that an invitation letter can be arranged by Rosatom in time for you to obtain it. It is also necessary, in the case of Severodvinsk, to provide at least 3 weeks advance notice to the Russian authorities of their visit, as it is a Closed Administrative Town. If you intend to attend the Severodvinsk Public Meeting please advise me by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2005 so that the required clearance can be achieved.

Please let me know which, if any, of the Consultations meetings you would attend by the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Gerchikov  
International Project Coordinator

## **Information Pack**

The following information is included in the information pack, which can be downloaded from the SEA website:

- Brief summary and the full report on Strategic Environmental Assessment: Executive Summary of the SEA report and the SEA report itself.
- Outline programme and key dates - see the Public Consultation Plan
- Proposed public meeting arrangements – see this letter and Public Consultation Plan
- References to background documentation – see the draft SEA report
- Instructions for making comments on the draft SEA report – see the Public Consultation Plan

## **Consultation Schedule**

### **Murmansk**

7th June (Tuesday): 9 am: Murmansk,  
ul Sofiperovskoi 3 2nd floor  
(ул. Софиперовской 3, 2-й этаж)

### **Severodvinsk**

8th June (Wednesday): 9 am  
Severodvinsk Culture Palace FGUP GMP Zvezdochka,  
Mira 11  
(164509, г. Северодвинск  
Дворец Культуры ФГУП ГМП "Звездочка"  
ул. Мира, дом 11)

### **Moscow**

10th June ( Friday): 9am.  
Moscow, Independent Press Centre  
Tverskoi Bulvar, 20  
(Независимый пресс центр, Тверской бульвар 20)