

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents**

**UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes**

Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

**13th MEETING OF THE JOINT AD HOC EXPERT GROUP
ON WATER AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

20 May 2015
Kyiv, Ukraine

Meeting Minutes



UNECE 2015

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany), co-Chair of the Joint ad hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) from the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, who opened the meeting and welcomed the participants:

JEG members present:

Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (JEG co-Chair, Germany); Mr. Pavel Danihelka (Czech Republic); Mr. Serik Akhmetov (Kazakhstan); Ms. Gulfia Shabaeva (Kyrgyzstan), Ms. Natalia Racovet (Republic of Moldova) and Mr. Claes-Hakan Carlsson (Sweden).

JEG members absent:

The JEG members Mr. Peter Kovacs, JEG co-Chair from the Water Convention, Mr. Francisc Senzaconi (Romania) and Ms. Helena Nasslander (Sweden) were unable to participate.

Other participants

Mr. Adam Kovacs from the International Commission on the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and Mr. Zoltan Torok from the Research Center for Disaster Management of the Faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering in Cluj-Napoca (Romania) also attended the meeting. The UNECE secretariat serviced the meeting, represented by Ms. Claudia Kamke, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer to the Industrial Accidents Convention.

2. Checklist for tailings management facilities

The JEG co-Chair Mr. Winkelmann-Oei summarized the outcome and recommendations from the final workshop of the project on addressing risk management at tailings management facilities (TMFs) in Ukraine (Kyiv, 19–20 May 2015), held back-to-back with this meeting. JEG members, most of whom had also participated in the workshop, expressed their satisfaction with the methodology developed which they considered a useful tool for improving TMF safety and preventing accidental water pollution for all UNECE countries, not only those from countries with economies in transition. Participants also discussed that it would be useful to implement a follow-up project in another sub-region (the Caucasus, South-Eastern Europe or Central Asia). The JEG co-Chair Mr. Winkelmann-Oei informed that a follow-up project on TMF safety in Armenia and Georgia was planned, under Germany's leadership, for 2016-2017.

3. Checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters

Mr. Claes-Hakan Carlsson (Sweden) informed JEG members about the results of the testing of the application of the checklist within the project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta, including of the feedback on the checklist received from project participants of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. JEG members discussed the integration of those comments, made several adjustments and tasked the secretariat to finalize the checklist for submission to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Budapest, 17–19 November 2015). Mr. Carlsson also recalled that Sweden would publish the checklist thereafter, scheduled for 2016.

Mr. Adam Kovacs from the ICPDR secretariat also informed the participants that the checklist was presented at the last meeting of the ICPDR Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group (APC EG) in March 2015 and that the APC EG welcomed this initiative by UNECE, took note of the checklist and encouraged the Contracting Parties to make use of it as a useful tool for transboundary contingency planning.

4. Other possible activities by JEG in 2015–2016 and beyond

The secretariat recalled the mandate and workplan of the JEG for 2015-2016, agreed by the Conventions' Bureaux and endorsed by the Industrial Accidents Convention's Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 3-5 December 2014). In the absence of Mr. Peter Kovacs, JEG co-Chair from the Water Convention, the secretariat proposed on his behalf the idea to organize a side event on accidental water pollution at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention. The participants welcomed this idea and agreed to support the implementation of the side event, e.g. by leading its organization (Germany, in cooperation with Hungary) and acting as speakers (Germany, ICPDR and Sweden).

Participants further discussed ideas for future JEG activities, considering also the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Sandoz accident (Bonn, 8–9 November 2011).¹ The JEG proposed that future activities could focus on developing guidance on fire water retention strategies, in line with the recommendations from the 2011 Sandoz seminar, as well as on developing checklists on the basis of existing UNECE safety guidelines and good practices, such as for those on pipelines or oil terminals.

5. Any other business

The secretariat informed the participants that the safety guidelines and good practices for pipelines were currently being published and would be made available shortly on the Convention website.²

Mr. Carlsson informed JEG members that the next meeting be hosted by Sweden and suggested that it could be held in the first half 2016 in Stockholm. Participants welcomed this proposal.

6. Closing of the meeting

The JEG co-Chair Mr. Winkelmann-Oei thanked the secretariat for the preparation of the meeting and the JEG members for their active participation, before closing the meeting.

¹ Available from: www.unece.org/index.php?id=25376.

² Available from: www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/publications.html.