

PROTOCOL

of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Tailings Safety and Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan

February 11, 2022

Nur-sultan city

The first meeting of the Working Group on the tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan (*hereinafter referred to as the Working Group*) was held on February 11, 2022 via videoconference. The meeting was attended by representatives of interested state bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan, experts from public and international organizations, operators and scientific institutions (*according to the list in Appendix 1*).

Opening speeches were given by Mr. Erik Kurumbaev, Head of the Department of State Supervision in the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the Committee of Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Yerbolat Kozhikov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Chief of the Transboundary Cooperation Section of the Environment Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (*hereinafter - UNECE*).

According to the agenda (*see Appendix 2*), the following presentations were made:

- on the Working Group on tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan (goals and main objectives, provision, composition), Mr. Eric Kurumbaev, Head of the Department of State Supervision in the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the Committee of Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan

- on challenges and measures to ensure industrial safety and safe management of tailings in Kazakhstan, Mr. Yerkin Duisenbaev, Chief Expert of the Department of State Supervision in the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the Committee of Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

- on challenges and measures to prevent and reduce the risks of water pollution from industrial accidents, in particular tailings in Kazakhstan, Mr. Yerbolat Kozhikov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

- on UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Convention, Ms. Ksenia Nechunaeva, Environmental Affairs Consultant, UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents;

- on the application of UNECE tools, guidelines and best practices to prevent accidental water pollution from TMFs in Kazakhstan, including live demonstration of an interactive map of TMFs, Ms. Claudia Kamke, Project Manager, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and Ms. Oleksandra Riedl, UNECE Consultant;
- on the recommendations of the UNECE Environmental Performance Review on improving the tailings safety in Kazakhstan, Mr. Talaibek Makeev, Expert at Public Fund “Water Initiatives Center”;
- on regional project on prevention of accidental water pollution in the Syrdarya Basin, Ms. Zhanar Mautanova, Deputy Director of the International Water Assessment Centre;
- on OECD Preliminary study of tailings in EECCA countries until 2021, Mr. Matthew Griffiths, Senior Programme Manager, Environment Directorate, OECD, and Ms. Iryna Nikolaieva, PhD, Expert on Environmental Safety, OECD Independent Consultant;
- on the Global Industry Standard on tailings management, Mr. David Cooling, Principal Coordinator for UNEP and the Principles for Responsible Investment (*PRI*).

In addition, the participants of the meeting agreed on the following key points:

- cooperation and regular exchange of information between the authorities responsible for the safety of tailings and the prevention of accidental water pollution, operators, non-governmental organizations and academia, as well as between riparian countries is an important element in ensuring industrial safety, as well as in preventing accidental pollution of water resources.
- Kazakhstan, like other Central Asian countries, is prone to so-called Natech accidents, i.e. man-made accidents caused by natural disasters (for example, floods, landslides or earthquakes). This must be taken into account when ensuring the safety of tailings and preventing accidental water pollution.
- To ensure comprehensive discussions, it is necessary to invite representatives of local and regional authorities and tailings operators to participate in the activities of the Working Group on tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan.
- At the next meeting of the Working Group it is important to review and report progress on the EPR action plan, as well as the self-assessment and action plan for the implementation of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,
- Ensuring the safety of tailings and preventing accidental water pollution is a continuous process.

- It is important to combine efforts and cooperation between experts in the field of water pollution and industrial safety, for the joint management of the risks of industrial accidents and accidental water pollution.
- Environmental solutions may be one way to reduce water pollution from abandoned tailings in Central Asia.
- This meeting of the Working Group on tailings safety and prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan is an important step to improve industrial safety not only in Kazakhstan, but also beyond.

The participants of the meeting, having listened to the speeches of the speakers, and having discussed the issues included in the agenda, decided the following:

1. Take into account the presentations by the speakers on the agenda of the meeting;
2. Approve the draft Work Plan of the Working Group for 2022, taking into account the proposals outlined (*see Appendix 3*);
3. Recommend the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, together with the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to consider involving the UNECE, other international organizations, operators, non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions in the implementation of the activities of the Work Plan of the Working Group.
4. Recommend the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, together with the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to consider the possibility of holding the second meeting of the Working Group in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Appendix 1

СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	РУССКИЙ	ENGLISH
Государственные органы Республики Казахстан/ Governmental Agencies of the Republic of Kazakhstan		
1	Эрик Курумбаев Руководитель управления государственного надзора в горно-металлургической промышленности Комитета промышленной безопасности Министерства по чрезвычайным ситуациям Республики Казахстан	Eric Kurumbaev Head of the Department of State Supervision in the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the Committee of Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan
2	Ерболат Кожиков Заместитель председателя Комитета экологического регулирования и контроля Министерства экологии, геологии и природных ресурсов Республики Казахстан	Yerbolat Kozhikov Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of ecology, geology and natural resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
3	Еркин Дуйсенбаев Главный эксперт управления государственного надзора в горно-металлургической промышленности Комитета промышленной безопасности Министерства по чрезвычайным ситуациям Республики Казахстан	Yerkin Duisenbaev Chief Expert of the Department of State Supervision in the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the Committee of Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan
4	Алтай Мырзабаев Заместитель начальника Департамента предупреждения чрезвычайных ситуаций Министерства по чрезвычайным ситуациям Республики Казахстан	Altai Myrzabaev Deputy Head of the Department of Emergency Situations Prevention of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan
5	Рауан Мусаева Главный эксперт Комитета экологического регулирования и контроля Министерства экологии, геологии и природных ресурсов Республики Казахстан	Rauan Musaeva Chief Expert of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of ecology, geology and natural resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
6	Асель Касенова Руководитель управления промышленных отходов Департамента государственной политики в управлении отходами Министерства экологии, геологии и природных ресурсов Республики Казахстан	Assel Kasenova Head of the Industrial Waste Department of the Department of State Policy in Waste Management of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
7	Сауле Катаева Главный эксперт Управления государственного контроля в области использования и охраны водного фонда Комитета по водным ресурсам Министерства экологии, геологии и природных ресурсов Республики Казахстан	Saule Kataeva Chief Expert of the Department of State Control in the Field of Use and Protection of the Water Fund of the Committee on Water Resources of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Операторы / Operators		

8	Трент Коллинз Начальник отдела дамб и хвостохранилищ, KAZ Minerals	Trent Collins Head of Dams and Tailings Storage Facilities, KAZ Minerals
Эксперты / Experts		
9	Ербол Елекеев Национальный эксперт Казахстана по проекту «Разработка совместных мер по предупреждению и реагированию на загрязнение водных ресурсов р. Сырдарья»	Erbol Elekeev National expert of Kazakhstan on the project "Development of joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution of the Syrdarya river in emergency situations"
Научные организации /Scientific Organizations		
10	Брендан Дюпри Директор Казахстанского научно-исследовательского института устойчивого развития, доцент кафедры устойчивого развития Университета Нархоз	Brendan Duprey Director, Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute, Associate Professor, Sustainable Development, Narxoz University
Общественные организации / Non-Governmental Organizations		
11	Арайлым Алимусина Менеджер Общественного фонда «Центр водных инициатив»	Arailym Alimusina Manager at Public Fund “Water Initiatives Center”
12	Талайбек Макеев Эксперт Общественного фонда «Центр водных инициатив»	Talaibek Makeev Expert at Public Fund “Water Initiatives Center”
13	Жанар Маутанова Заместитель директора Международного центра оценки вод	Zhanar Mautanova Deputy Director of the International Water Assessment Centre
14	Линдси Ньюанд Боукер Исполнительный директор World Mine Tailings Failures	Lindsay Newand Bowker Executive Director of the World Mine Tailings Failures
15	Кайша Атаханова Директор региональных программ Ассоциации Развития Гражданского Общества «АРГО»	Kaisha Atakhanova Director of regional programs of the Civil Society Development Association ARGO
16	Майя Савина Главный специалист ТОО "ЭКО Астана НР"	Maya Savina Chief Specialist of ECO Astana NR LLP
Международные организации/International Organizations		
17	Франческа Бернардини Начальник отдела трансграничного сотрудничества Отдела окружающей среды ЕЭК ООН	Francesca Bernardini Chief of the Transboundary Cooperation Section, UNECE Environment Division
18	Франциска Хирш Секретарь Конвенции о трансграничном воздействии промышленных аварий, Отдел окружающей среды ЕЭК ООН	Franziska Hirsch Secretary, Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, UNECE Environment Division
19	Клаудиа Камке Руководитель проекта, сотрудник по вопросам окружающей среды, Конвенция ЕЭК ООН о трансграничном воздействии	Claudia Kamke Project Manager, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

	промышленных аварий	
20	Ксения Нечунаева Консультант по вопросам окружающей среды, Конвенция ЕЭК ООН о трансграничном воздействии промышленных аварий	Ksenia Nechunaeva Environmental Affairs Consultant, UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
21	Олександра Ридл Консультант ЕЭК ООН	Oleksandra Riedl UNECE Consultant
22	Дмитрий Рудаков Консультант ЕЭК ООН	Dmitry Rudakov UNECE Consultant
23	Ирина Николаева Кандидат наук, эксперт по экологической безопасности, Независимый эксперт ОЭСР	Iryna Nikolaieva PhD, Expert on Environmental Safety, OECD Independent Consultant
24	Мэтью Гриффитс Старший руководитель программы, Отдел по охране окружающей среды, ОЭСР	Matthew Griffiths Senior Programme Manager, Environment Directorate, OECD
25	Такаёси Като Политический аналитик, Отдел зеленого роста и глобальных отношений, Отдел по охране окружающей среды, ОЭСР	Takayoshi Kato Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate, OECD
26	Дэвид Кулинг Главный координатор ЮНЕП и Принципов ответственного инвестирования (ПОИ) по реализации Глобальных отраслевых стандартов управления хвостохранилищами	David Cooling Principal coordinator for UNEP and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) of the follow-up to the Global Industry Standards on Tailings Management
27	Ерлен Бадыхан Национальный специалист по экономике и окружающей среде, Программный офис ОБСЕ в Нур-Султане	Yerlen Badykhan National economic and environmental officer, OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan

Appendix 2

Agenda

Moderator: Mr. Eric Kurumbaev, Head of the Department of State Supervision in the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the Committee of Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan

14:00 - 14:30	Connection of participants
Opening session	
14:30 - 14:45	<p>Welcome speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Eric Kurumbaev, Head of the Department of State Supervision in the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the Committee of Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> - <i>Mr. Yerbolat Kozhikov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> - <i>Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Chief of the Transboundary Cooperation Section, UNECE Environment Division</i> <p>Adoption of the agenda</p>
Session 1. Ensure Safe Management of Tailings and Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan	
14:45 – 15:30	<p>The Working Group on Tailings Safety and Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan (goals and main objectives, provision, composition), Mr. Eric Kurumbaev, Head of the Department of State Supervision in the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the Committee of Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Challenges and Measures to Ensure Industrial Safety and Safe Management of Tailings in Kazakhstan, Mr. Yerkin Duisenbaev, Chief Expert of the Department of State Supervision in the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the Committee of Industrial Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Challenges and Measures to Prevent and Reduce the Risks of Water Pollution from Industrial Accidents, in particular Tailings in Kazakhstan, Mr. Yerbolat Kozhikov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Q&A, discussion</p>
Session 2. Best Practices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on the Safe Management of Tailings and their Application in Kazakhstan	
15:30 – 16:15	The UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Convention (Safety guidelines and good practices for TMFs and Online Toolkit and Training for Strengthening Mine Tailings Safety), Ms. Ksenia

	<p><i>Nechunaeva, Environmental Affairs Consultant, UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents</i></p> <p><u>Background information:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety guidelines and good practices for tailings management facilities - Online Toolkit and Training for Strengthening Mine Tailings Safety - Decision 2020/1 on Strengthening Mine Tailings Safety - Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents - Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes <p>Application of UNECE tools, guidelines and best practices to prevent accidental water pollution from TMFs in Kazakhstan, including live demonstration of an interactive map of TMFs, Ms. Claudia Kamke, Project Manager, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and Ms. Oleksandra Riedl, UNECE Consultant</p> <p><u>Background information:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive map for TMFs in Kazakhstan - Pilot project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities (TMFs), in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia - Project on supporting countries of Central Asia in strengthening the safety of mine tailings <p>Q&A, discussion</p>
16:15 – 16:30	Technical break
Session 3. Ensure cooperation on safe management of tailings and prevention of accidental water pollution in Kazakhstan	
16:30 – 16:40	<p>The recommendations of the UNECE Environmental Performance Review on improving the tailings safety in Kazakhstan, Mr. Talaibek Makeev, Expert at Public Fund “Water Initiatives Center”</p> <p>Q&A, discussion</p>
Session 4. Best practices for improving the tailings safety and review of international projects	
16:40 – 17:10	<p>Regional Project on Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in the Syrdarya Basin, Ms. Zhanar Mautanova, Deputy Director of the International Water Assessment Centre</p> <p>OECD Preliminary study of tailings in EECCA countries until 2021, Mr. Matthew Griffiths, Senior Programme Manager, Environment Directorate, OECD, and Ms. Iryna Nikolaieva, PhD, Expert on Environmental Safety, OECD Independent Consultant</p> <p>The Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management, Mr. David Cooling, Principal Coordinator for UNEP and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)</p>

	Q&A, discussion
Closing session	
17:10 – 17:40	Discussion of the draft Work Plan of the Working Group on Tailings Safety and Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan for 2022 Wrap-up and closure

Appendix 3

draft

WORK PLAN **of the Working Group on Tailings Safety and Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution in Kazakhstan for 2022**

№	Events	Deadlines	Responsible bodies
1	Update the self-assessment of compliance with the requirements of the Industrial Accidents Convention	June	MES, MEGNR*
2	Organize and hold a workshop to study the guidance documents of the Industrial Accidents Convention, namely the online toolkit for strengthening TMF safety and the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Ensuring the Operational Safety of Tailings	July	MES, MEGNR Supported by the Secretariat of the Convention
3	Review and update of the inventory and map of tailings in Kazakhstan, including additional and inactive tailings	July	MES, MEGNR Supported by the Secretariat of the Convention
4	Development of proposals for conducting case studies on the tailings safety and prevention of accidental pollution of water bodies in Kazakhstan	July	MES, MEGNR
5	Update of the draft action plan for the implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention in Kazakhstan	August	MES, MEGNR
6	Update of proposals for the implementation of the recommendations of the Environmental Performance Review of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe regarding the tailings safety and prevention of accidental pollution of water bodies in Kazakhstan, in particular with the integration of Natech risks (natural hazards triggering technological disasters)	September	MES, MEGNR
7	Hold the second meeting of the Working Group	4th quarter of 2022	MES, MEGNR

*MES – Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan

MEGNR – Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan