

Prevention of accidental water pollution - Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) activities carried out since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

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29 November - 01 December 2022

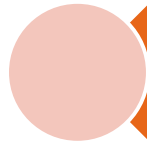
JEG activities: 2021-2022 (Industrial Accidents Convention) and 2022-2024 (Water Convention) workplan items



Follow-up to 2019 contingency planning seminar



Promotion and translation of guidance developed by the JEG



JEG meeting (Meeting 2022 / teleconference 4th quarter 2021)



Development of a catalogue/web page for accidental pollution events and good



Organization of a workshop on good practices for preventing accidental water pollution

Strengthen cooperation with River Basin Organizations

JEG activities: 2021

- ▶ Nomination process for JEG members - lasted until the end of 2021
- ▶ Contributing to core activities of Convention - Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships:
 - ▶ March 2021 - JEG Co-chair participated at UNECE Global Workshop on Building Climate-resilience through improving water management and sanitation at national and transboundary levels, Session 3: Disaster risk reduction through transboundary cooperation;
 - ▶ 29 September - 01 October 2021 - JEG Co-chairs participated at 9th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention.
- ▶ Key decisions of the 9th Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention (1/2):
 - ▶ Welcomed the publication of the Safety guidelines and good practices for the management and retention of firefighting water;
 - ▶ Recognized the importance of joint prevention and management approaches to mine tailings safety and the prevention of related water pollution;
 - ▶ Welcomed Decision 2020/1 on Strengthening mine tailings safety in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents at its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 7-9 December 2020) and invited countries to use this decision in their efforts to strengthen mine tailings safety

JEG activities: 2021

- ▶ Key decisions of the 9th Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention (2/2):
 - ▶ Recalled the Safety guidelines and good practices for tailings management facilities developed by the JEG and recommended that countries that extract mineral resources use them and the Methodology for improving TMF safety to identify, map and improve the safe management of tailings management facilities, including of those bearing transboundary risks;
 - ▶ Welcomed the Online Toolkit and Training for Strengthening Mine Tailings Safety and invited countries and joint bodies to use it;
 - ▶ Thanked countries for providing nominations to JEG for 2021-2022 and invited additional nominations by 31 October 2021, especially from Parties from the Caucasus, Central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa;
 - ▶ Encouraged joint bodies to cooperate with JEG with regards to knowledge sharing and capacity building for preventing accidental water pollution in transboundary basins;
 - ▶ Thanked the current co-Chairs (Hungary and Serbia) as well as the previous Co-Chair of JEG (Germany) for their leadership in this area of work;
 - ▶ Decided to include “Activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents” in the programme of work for 2022-2024.

JEG activities: 2022

- ▶ February 2022 - JEG teleconference
 - ▶ co-led by the co-chairs (from Hungary and Serbia);
 - ▶ active involvement of newly nominated JEG members;
 - ▶ discussion of JEG work items as adopted by the COP (of the Industrial Accidents Convention) and the MOP (of the Water Convention);
 - ▶ planning of a JEG seminar and meeting.
- ▶ Contributing to core activities of Convention - Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships:
 - ▶ April 2022 - JEG Co-chair participated at side event on “Partnerships to address climate change, extreme events and disaster risk reduction towards SDGs” of Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, organized by UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, WMO Regional Office for Europe, in co-leadership with UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and with contributions from UNECE and others;
 - ▶ The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) provided the opportunity for JEG members to share their expertise and feedback on the developing technical guidance document (or bulletin) on the design and managements of tailings management facilities.

JEG activities: 2022

- ▶ 5th of October 2022 - JEG seminar on emerging risks in accidental water pollution: focus on natural hazard-triggered accidents
 - ▶ Organized by Hungary, with the support of Secretariat and financed by Germany, in Budapest and online;
 - ▶ The main objective of the seminar was to further strengthen accidental water pollution risk in transboundary river basins;
 - ▶ Seminar aimed to provide a forum to discuss how natural hazard-triggered industrial accidents (Natech) can be better understood, as well as to identify good practices and innovative approaches;
 - ▶ Seminar covered the following challenges:
 - ▶ Challenge 1 - Understanding and preventing accidental water pollution as a result of natural hazards (Natech): lessons learned
 - ▶ Challenge 2 - Prevention by design: safe industrial installations in a changing climate
 - ▶ Challenge 3 - Innovative approaches to limit the consequences of accidental water pollution events
 - ▶ Findings of the seminar were presented at Agenda item 5. Natech seminar of 12th Conference of the Parties
 - ▶ Detailed information and presentations are available at [Emerging risks in accidental water pollution: focus on Natural hazard-triggered accidents | UNECE](#)

JEG activities: 2022

- ▶ 6th of October 2022 - JEG meeting
 - ▶ Organized by Hungary, with the support of Secretariat and financed by Germany, in Budapest and online;
 - ▶ JEG members evaluated JEG seminar and shared impressions regarding possible follow-up actions that may be supported by JEG;
 - ▶ Ongoing policy developments were reviewed;
 - ▶ JEG activities in the biennium 2021-2022 were reported;
 - ▶ Feedback was given on several topics, including:
 - ▶ Organization of JEG seminar and JEG meeting;
 - ▶ Strengthening of cooperation with River Basin Commissions, including follow-up to the seminar on contingency planning, early warning and mitigation;
 - ▶ Promotion and translation into national languages of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents' developed guidance and good industry practices;
 - ▶ Project on improving the safety of tailings management facilities (TMFs) in Kyrgyzstan - training and legislative options;
 - ▶ JEG members also discussed on proposed JEG activities in the biennium 2023-2024, their lead partner, funding and planning.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

More information can be found on the [Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents | UNECE](#)