

Joint Expert Group

Report on the progress on drafting a guideline for contingency planning and crisis management in the context of transboundary waters



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Even a small amounts of hazardous substances released into water environment can cause huge environmental damages, as the impact is far-reaching and often transboundary...

The Joint Expert Group (JEG)



JEG was established under the “Water”- and the “Industrial Accidents”- Conventions to work on issues related to the prevention of accidental water pollution which is of interest to both Conventions.

Co-Chairmanship (HU,RO):

“Water”Convention + “Industrial Accident” Convention

Experts: Both Secretariats, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Sweden + Project consultant

Basis for current JEG activities

- **Mission of JEG**

- assistance in organising exercises, workshops, seminars and conferences
- drawing up training materials
- drafting specific guidelines on good practices and recommendations eg. pipeline safety, tailing management facilities (TMFs)

- **Current Strategy for the JEG**

- prepared by the co-chairmen of the JEG in consultation with the Bureaux of the Water Convention and of the Industrial Accidents Convention in June 2009
- endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes in Geneva, 10-12 November 2009

➤ **JEG: Re-Established: 31 May 2011.**

Current task of JEG

- To draw up a checklist/methodology for contingency planning in transboundary context for application to transboundary waters
- Requested by the countries, based on a questionnaire, approved by both bureaus!
- The checklist/methodology should be based on existing methodologies for elaboration of contingency plans and on good practices available as well as address common challenges.
- A 7 steps plan was drawn up and put into practice in order to a better coordination and time fitted work.
- Now we are in step 5 – finalization of the draft version for testing in a project.

The content of the guideline

1. Introduction
2. Principles for crisis management and contingency planning in the context of transboundary waters
3. Recommendations
 - 3.1. Recommendations to UNECE member countries
 - 3.2. Recommendations to competent authorities
 - 3.3. Recommendations to operators of hazardous activities
4. ANNEX

The timeframe for the finalization of the work

- 31 January 2013 - deadline for experts to provide their input
- February-March 2013 - consultant working on revising the draft
- Late March 2013 - meeting of the JEG members and identified technical experts hosted by Hungary (around 15 experts plus consultant and the secretariat)
- The document is build in the form of guidelines
- No case studies are included in the second part of the Guidelines
- A checklist might be included in the annex as an example

Lessons learnt/future work

- The composition of the Joint Expert Group is uneven.
- More active participation is required in the implementation of the future work and in the organization of the meetings.
- Continuous and active work is expected from participants!
- There is a need for a sound financial base to support eligible countries.



Seminar on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Sandoz Accident

(8-9 November 2011, Bonn, Germany)

Background and objectives

An accident at Sandoz agrochemical storehouse in Schweizerhalle, Basel, Switzerland on 1 November 1986 caused one of the most severe man-made environmental disasters in the history of Europe.

The 25 anniversary of the Sandoz accident is a good opportunity to take stock of the work carried out in this period in the prevention of accidental water pollution and to look for remaining challenges. For this occasion a seminar under the auspices of Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions was decided to be held. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety will kindly host the seminar.

The UNECE Water Convention Helsinki, 17 March 1992

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is intended to strengthen national measures for the protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters.

The Convention obliges Parties to prevent, control and reduce water pollution from point and non-point sources.

It also includes provisions for monitoring, research and development, consultations, warning and alarm systems, mutual assistance, institutional arrangements, and the exchange and protection of information, as well as public access to information.

The UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention Helsinki, 17 March 1992

The 1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents is designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents. The Convention aims to prevent accidents from occurring, or reducing their frequency and severity and mitigating their effects if required.

The Convention promotes active international cooperation between countries, before, during and after an industrial accident.

The Convention helps its Parties to prevent industrial accidents that can have transboundary effects and to prepare for, and respond to, accidents if they occur. The Convention also encourages its Parties to help each other in the event of an accident, to cooperate on research and development, and to share information and technology.

SEMINAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDOZ ACCIDENT

Organization of the seminar

- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
- Federal Environment Agency
- Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Technical organization of the seminar

- GfI Umwelt - Gesellschaft für Infrastruktur und Umwelt mbH
Königswinterer Straße 827
53227 Bonn
- Tel. +49-228-90 87 345
- E-mail: goebel@gfi-umwelt.de



UNECE Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents

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

SEMINAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDOZ ACCIDENT

8 - 9 November 2011
Bonn, Germany



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
und Reaktorsicherheit

Umwelt
Bundes
Amt



Seminar on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Sandoz Accident

(8-9 November 2011, Bonn, Germany)

- 75 experts
- 25 countries
- International River Commissions, NGOs, Research Institutions

Objectives of the seminar:

- Reflect on the work carried out and in progress achieved in the area of prevention of accidental water pollutions in the UNECE Region
- Examine existing deficits in prevention of water pollution by chemical substances, and formulate the way forward to address these deficiencies
- Reflects on the result to be presented by JEG with regard to the methodology for harmonised contingency planning

Seminar on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Sandos Accident

(8-9 November 2011, Bonn, Germany)

The accident triggered a wave of publicity and political attention
– resulting legislation, early warning, stringent control

Challenges:

1. Risks from shipping
2. Definition of pollution and new sources of risks
3. Communication technologies and information to the public
4. Risk of complacency in ensuring prevention and maintaining high level of safety
5. Inventory of risk sources, including abandoned sites
6. Enforcement of procedures and safety standards

Discussion on JEG activities.



Thank you for kind attention!