

In October 2006, Canada hosted the IAEA Contact Expert Group. The mandate of this group is to promote cooperation between all countries and international organizations interested in contributing to projects to enhance the security and safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management in the Russian Federation. Within this mandate, the Contact Expert Group has provided a leading forum for coordination of the full spectrum of work related to submarine dismantlement. International delegates toured Canadian facilities to gain a better understanding of Western waste-management practices.

THE NORTHERN DIMENSION ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT FUND OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

The NDEP Support Fund was established in 2001 to respond to problems associated with the large quantities of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive wastes that were produced by the operations of Russia's Northern Fleet. Funds assigned to the "nuclear window" of the NDEP Support Fund are used for nuclear-related security and environmental projects in northwestern Russia.

Canada contributed \$32 million to this program in March 2004 as a logical complement to the submarine dismantlement project. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) manages the NDEP Support Fund on behalf of donors (including Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the U.K. and the EU). While there were delays in implementing work under this fund in the early stages, the EBRD has initiated several projects during the past year, including one to establish a radiological monitoring system for northwestern Russia. Canada works with the international group of donors to review and approve projects and monitor progress.



YAGRI ISLAND ORPHANAGE PROJECT – CANADIANS VOLUNTEERING IN RUSSIA

In May 2005, the Yagri Island Orphanage (adjacent to FSUE Zvezdochka) solicited assistance from Canada's project management team. The dentist clinic at the orphanage was in need of supplies and equipment.

During their monitoring visits to the shipyard, members of the Canadian team devoted their personal time to this need. Initially they provided the orphanage with consumable dental supplies such as toothbrushes and toothpaste. In Autumn 2005, the team partnered with the Canadian Forces Dental Service to provide the orphanage with surplus supplies, including various hand instruments and an ultrasonic sterilizer. The team also used private donations to allow a small Canadian Forces dental team to travel to the orphanage in March/April 2006. At present, the interdepartmental team is engaged with the orphanage's clinic to donate a surplus dental chair, replacing the pulley-operated chair currently in use.

This project will have an important impact on the health and wellbeing to the children of the orphanage. Thanks to those who have become personally involved, Canada is making a difference.



Victor I being dismantled in floating dock



Reactor section



Nuclear-powered submarine dismantlement management team