

Future Priorities

The Kizner CW storage facility (Udmurt Republic) currently stores 5,680 tonnes of nerve agents in some 2 million munitions and is being evaluated as a target for Canadian funding once Canada's work at the Shchuch'ye CWDF is completed. In March 2006, a delegation of Canadian and U.K. representatives visited the site of the future Kizner CWDF and met with local officials to obtain additional information on the destruction plans and timelines.

"I was particularly heartened by the progress being made at the Shchuch'ye chemical weapons destruction facility. Part of the success of this project is due to the close cooperation between the MoD, Russia, the U.S., Canada and many other partners."

— Rt. Hon. Adam Ingram, U.K. Minister for the Armed Forces

Dismantlement of Nuclear Submarines

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, nearly 200 decommissioned NPS from Russia's Northern and Pacific fleets required dismantlement. Fifteen years later, dozens remain, and about half still have nuclear fuel on board. Due to poor maintenance and inadequate protection, the large quantities of highly radioactive materials within each submarine, or stored in shipyards, offer a

target for theft or sabotage. They also pose serious environmental risks to the Arctic or Pacific oceans. Addressing these risks is neither a simple nor an inexpensive process. Dismantling a nuclear submarine involves 13 stages, including extensive preparations, transportation, defuelling, dismantlement, on-site handling of highly radioactive materials, safe storage of reactor compartments and transfer of spent nuclear fuel to final storage. Without international assistance, Russia could not address this problem in a timely way. Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway, the U.K. and the U.S. are consequently helping Russia to tackle this problem.

Under its bilateral agreement with Russia, Canada has committed to the dismantlement of 12 decommissioned NPS by 2008. Canada has focused on Russia's Northern fleet and its \$120 million commitment represents a significant contribution to addressing the problem. The Canadian project is being implemented in cooperation with the Federal State Unitary Enterprise Engineering Plant (FSUE EP) – known as the "Zvezdochka Shipyard" – at Severodvinsk, in the Arkhangelsk Oblast.

Canada completed work under its first implementing arrangement with the Zvezdochka Shipyard on September 30, 2005, successfully defuelling and dismantling three NPS. Canada has begun work under its second implementing arrangement, a \$32 million undertaking. Under the terms of this arrangement, Canada has completely dismantled one and defuelled two submarines. Concurrent with carrying out works under these two implementing arrangements, Canada negotiated a third agreement, valued \$23.7 million. Work under this arrangement will be undertaken during 2006 and 2007.



Victor Class submarine under tow to dismantling shipyard



Submarines awaiting defuelling



Nuclear-powered submarine in floating dry dock