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WORLD ENVIRONMENT CENTER

TRIP REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

While on a WEC visit to the Slovak Republic to begin a waste minimization demonstration project, Mr. Thomas J. McGrath, WEC staff, visited Romania to follow-up on previous meetings and to discuss the possibility of conducting waste minimization demonstration projects at two facilities.

Tuesday, March 2

Met with Liviu Ionescu. Reviewed itinerary, explained the long-term WEC program for Romania and requested that he work full-time for WEC as its coordinator. He agreed and we set a April 1 starting date.

ARPECHIM

Wednesday, March 3

Mr. Richard Hough, USAID Representative and Ms. Gianina Moncea, Project Management Assistant, USAID, met Mr. Ionescu and I and transported us to Pitesti for a meeting at Arpechim.

The representatives from Arpechim were:

Mr. Andrei Grigorescu, President and Chief Executive

Mr. Ion Cojocaru, Research and Development Director

Mr. Gheorghe Florea, Technical Department

Also in attendance was Mrs. Aldvanca-Lucia, Director of the Regional Environmental Protection Ministry.

Tom McGrath, World Environment Center, presented the WEC program for a waste minimization demonstration project. He emphasized the need for a strong commitment from the senior management for the project in order for it to be successful. He stressed the importance of the waste minimization committee stating that waste minimization is a philosophy of operating a business that seeks every possible way to prevent the generation of pollution at the source. He said that Arpechim would have to agree to have open and frank discussions and interchange of information among various department heads and that the involvement of factory workers would also be required.

Mr. Grigorescu agreed with the concept and implementation of waste minimization and pledged his full cooperation.

Mr. McGrath suggested that a demonstration project begin March 21 and Mr. Grigorescu agreed.

ARO

The USAID/WEC delegation then traveled to Cimpulung for a meeting at the Aro four wheel drive car factory. We met with Mr. Mario Milata, Technical Manager and members of his staff. Mrs. Aldvanca-Lucia was also in attendance.

Mr. McGrath explained the WEC waste minimization demonstration program. Mr. Milata stated Aro's commitment to the environment. He referred to the information he had which was presented by WEC on its previous visit. He said that he had completed the WEC questionnaire and gave a copy to Mr. Ionescu who will translate it into English and send it to WEC.

The results of our discussion was agreement with Mr. Milata's suggestion that WEC send one of its specialists on a two-week assessment of Aro to identify processes which would be suitable for a waste minimization demonstration project. He said that unlike American car manufacturers, which are assembly factories, Aro makes all of its own equipment and, therefore, generates sludge which contains HCN from its galvanization process. It also has residues from its painting operations.

Mr. Milata said that he would appreciate WEC's consideration to include it as one of the selected enterprises for the waste minimization. He concluded by saying that he intended to organize a waste minimization committee.

Mr. McGrath replied that he will seek an appropriate specialist for the assessment.

MINISTRY OF WATERS, FORESTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Messrs. Ionescu and McGrath met with Messrs. Valentine Alexandrescu, Head of Service and Ioan Jeleu, State Secretary, Ministry of Waters, Forestry and Environmental Protection.

Mr. McGrath was presented with a report, "Romania, Environmental Strategy and a List of Projects To Be Taken Into Account for Inclusion in the EC Project Preparation Facility".

Messrs. Alexandrescu and Jeleu discussed their visit with Mr. Ronald J. Greenberg, Chief, Bureau for Europe, Agency for International Development. He offered AID assistance for Zlatna which is one of the 14 projects that the Ministry of Water, Forestry and Environmental Protection was submitting to the EC. They expressed their appreciation to USAID for this assistance and said it would be noted in the document. Therefore, the EC will now have to

consider 13 instead of 14.

Mr. McGrath briefed them on his visit with Mr. Hough to Pitesti and Cimpulung and they were pleased to hear that WEC will begin a waste minimization project at Arpechim in two weeks. Also, that Messrs. Ionescu and McGrath will travel to Zlatna during the week of March 20 to assess the area. They said that they did not have much information to give us. They could only provide information about Apelum in Zlatna which is contained in the report to the EC.

Mr. McGrath advised that the WEC team will visit Messrs. Alexandrescu and Jelev on Friday, March 26, to report on Arpechim and Zlatna.

Thursday, March 4

Mr. McGrath departed to re-join the WEC team conducting a waste minimization visit at Chemko Strazske in the Slovak Republic.

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