

PD-ABU-575

112363

47863

Environmental Policy and Technology Project
Uzbekistan Water and Environmental Policy Project
Contract No. CCN-0003-Q-14-3165-00

Delivery Order 14

*QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1,
1997-MARCH 31, 1997*

Prepared by

Dr. Philip P. Micklin
Resident Advisor on Water Management and the Environment
to the Government of Uzbekistan
Environmental Policy and Technology Project
for the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union
A USAID Project Consortium led by CH2M-Hill

Prepared for

Central Asia Mission
U.S. Agency for International Development
Almaty, Kazakstan

Date: April 15, 1997

This quarterly report covers the period January 1, 1997 through March 31, 1997. It is organized by months with a separate section at the end on coordination with other implementers/donors.

JANUARY 1997

The RA continues to have no success in obtaining a useable office for him and his staff through Mr. Jalolov, deputy Minister of the new Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management (Minselvodkhoz). (The RA provided a 5 page, single spaced report to the Washington Office of EPT, as requested, on January 2 estimating the impacts of the delays in receiving an affiliation and office on implementation of his work). Mr. Jalolov seems not only disinterested but opposed to working with the RA.. During a meeting with him on January 8, he made it clear he didn't need any advice from the RA; remarking that Uzbekistan had a 6,000 year history of irrigation and was not some "banana republic" like Burkina-Faso in Africa. He admitted that Uzbekistan had some technical problems in irrigation to correct but that major policy reforms were unnecessary. He demanded to see the agreement that says the government of Uzbekistan would provide "free" office space as well as insisting that the RA hire his assistant as an "advisor".

Following discussions with David Mandel, USAID Country Representative, Jalolov dropped the demand for hiring his assistant and agreed to provide an office for the RA in the former Ministry of Water Management building. The RA and his staff were finally able to see the proposed office on January 27. It was a joke: small, water damaged (there was a fire in this part of the bldg.), without useable phone lines, and having damaged light fixtures which don't work. Jalolov subsequently suggested "to work together to repair the damage" (meaning our project should pay for the repairs). David Mandel wrote to the Cabinet of Ministers asking clarification as to what is supposed to be provided to the RA.

The RA also had more discussions early in early in January with Vladimer Konyukhov, Deputy Chairman of Goskompriroda, about affiliating with his organization and an office there. He was very positive about such arrangements and said we could probably have two rooms. This information was delivered to David Mandel who said he would talk with his contact in the Cabinet of Ministers (Mr. Mukhidov) about such an arrangement. However, the word from the Cabinet of Ministers was they preferred the RA affiliate with Minselvodkhoz and work with Mr. Jalolov.

Because of continuing problems of obtaining an office from the Uzbek government, David Mandel offered a furnished, renovated office for temporary use in his section of the Shark Bldg. The RA accepted his offer. The RA and his staff moved in on 14-15 January. Several days more were required to get things up and running as the two computers provided us from Almaty required repairs and upgrading to work properly. Another problem is that the copier that has been purchased from Rank-Xerox is languishing in a customs warehouse and will not be released to until CH2M-Hill completes all registration procedures in Uzbekistan.

Tom Higgins of CH2M-Hill was in Uzbekistan from January 14 until February 4 to work on DO12 subtask 2C5: *Follow-up on Policy Sustainability for Industrial Waste Minimization*. The RA is Task Manager for this subtask but the technical end is being conducted by Dr. Higgins who has expertise in the field. The RA and his staff provided logistical support (interpreter, car and driver, arranging meetings, document translation and preparation, email services, copying, etc.) before and during his visit and will provide follow-up afterward. The RA and his technical assistant, Stass Milov, also accompanied Tom Higgins on his site visits in Tashkent and other cities within Tashkent oblast. Higgin's is working with Dr. Konyukhov, Deputy Director of Goskompriroda, who arranged for his visits to selected industrial plants and meetings with district environmental protection officials and administrative leaders (Hokims).

The RA and his staff, particularly Janet Tashner the Training Coordinator, began work in mid-January on the first training seminar. It will be held on April 29 and 30, 1997. The seminar will be titled "The Development of Local, Self-governing Irrigation Systems in Uzbekistan: Policy Problems and Prospects." The purpose is to introduce Uzbek water managers and policy makers to the value of these organizations as means to improve agricultural productivity and water use efficiency by giving farmer-irrigators responsibility for and a stake in their work. Other goals are to promote local management of irrigation systems and the concept of water pricing (irrigation water is currently provided "free" to farmers in Uzbekistan) as a key tool to allocate water among competing users and to promote efficient use. The training seminars have gained more importance in the RA's work because of the difficulties in affiliating with a government entity and because of the allocation of \$140,000 for water policy work from DO12. On January 23, The RA and his Training coordinator drove to the TACIS supported Bulungur Farmers Association in Samarkand Oblast to learn about their operations and invite them to the April seminar.

A Draft Interim Report, *Sustainability of EPT Potable Water Projects in the Central Asian Republics*, has been completed by Dennis Wichelins and Tim VanEpp. The RA read the part of the report that applies to Uzbekistan and provided comments to Tim VanEpp. The RA's staff also setup appointments for Tim VanEpp with officials at the Ministry of Communal Services, State Committee for Nature Protection, State Committee for Forecasting and Statistics, and the World Bank. The RA and several of his staff accompanied Mr. VanEppTim on his visits to these agencies on January 31, 1997

FEBRUARY 1997

At the very end of January, Mr. Jalolov contacted the USAID office in Tashkent and stated that he wanted the RA to talk about his (the RA's) work before an unidentified group of "water experts" to be picked by Mr. Jalolov. This was to occur before the RA left for a home visit from February 7-21. The RA told USAID that he first needed to put together a summary of the work plan that Jalolov and his experts could read, followed by a meeting after the RA returned on February 22. The RA prepared a 7 page, single spaced summary, including the earlier prepared letter that was given to First Deputy Prime Minister Obidov in early December requesting formation of the *Advisory Council on Water and Environmental Management*

Policy. His technical assistant, Mr. Milov, translated the summary report into Russian and it was delivered to Mr. Jalolov on February 4.

Because of continuing difficulties in obtaining an office from and working with Mr. Jalolov, the RA has pursued other possible affiliations. This included more meetings with Mr. Konyukov and the suggestion of a joint affiliation with Goskompiroda and Minselvodkhoz. Unfortunately, nothing was able to be arranged because Mr. Kabibullayev, chairman of Goskompiroda maintained he could do nothing without official approval of such an arrangement from the Cabinet of Ministers (which has not happened).

The RA also met on February 5th with Mr. Timor Kamalov, new First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Water and Agriculture. The RA knows him from several years ago when he was head of the Water Facilities Operation and Repair Service in Karakalpakstan (Remvodstroy). The meeting, went very well and he seems interested in the RA's work and in cooperation. The RA gave him a copy of his summarized work plan and also an invitation to be one of the introductory speakers at the April seminar.

On February 2 and 3, The RA and his Training Coordinator flew to the city of Fergana to meet with the TACIS advisor to the Fergana Farmers' Association (Baktiar Lorot) and some of its membership. The purpose of the trip was to gain further acquaintance with farmer-irrigator associations in Uzbekistan and to invite representatives to our April Seminar.

After Dr. Higgins left on February 3, the RA and his technical assistant had a follow-up visit with Dr. Konyukov and the waste minimization training team established by Dr. Higgins to ensure they understood what needed to be done prior to the next visit of Dr. Higgins. Dr. Higgins has provided a trip report that spells out in detail his activities and what he hopes to accomplish.

Before leaving for his home visit (February 7-21), the RA discussed with his staff their activities during his two week absence. They were asked to continue preparations for the April seminar (preparation and distribution of invitations, finalizing a location for the seminar in Tashkent, etc.) and follow-up work with Dr. Konyukov related to Tom Higgin's waste minimization efforts.

Three excellent consultants from the southwestern U.S. (a water lawyer, a manger of an irrigation system, and a member of a governing board for an irrigation district have been identified as consultants for the April seminar. The RA has contacted each of them to ascertain their interest and availability. The RA has submitted "Staff Needs Requests" for each. When on home leave, he also collected written materials useful for the upcoming Seminar.

Upon his return from home leave, the RA learned that Dr. Konyukhov was gravely ill and would be away from work for a long-time. This is not only a personal tragedy for Dr. Konyukhov and his family but puts a serious crimp in the RA's efforts as Dr. Konyukhov has been the most helpful and supportive person with whom the

RA and his staff have had contact. Ms. Rijova, one of Konyukhov's assistants, has been appointed to carry on the work related to waste minimization.

On February 28, the RA and his Technical Assistant, Stas Milov, met with the waste minimization study people at Goskompriroda and with Tom Pluta, WEC (World Environment Center) representative, to discuss cooperation between WEC, Goskompriroda, and Tom Higgins in the conducting of a fall seminar in Tashkent on waste minimization issues. The RA sent a summary of the results of the meeting to Tom Higgins by email.

Near the end of February, the RA received comments on his Draft Work Plan, submitted on December 7, 1996, from Marshall Fischer, the Delivery Order COTR. He replied to these immediately and indicated that he would submit a revised Work Plan the first week of March (which he did).

MARCH 1997

From March 7 to March 9, the RA visited Almaty to meet with EPT Project Director (Jim Westfield) and Regional Director (Syed Mahmood) about problems, progress and future plans of Tashkent operations. The RA also met with Barry Primm, USAID Program Officer on these same matters. The RA was asked to prepare a proposal for a possible extension for DO14 which he did in Almaty. This was revised after his return to Tashkent and submitted to the Regional Office and Washington Office.

On March 10th, the RA and some of his staff had a long meeting with Mr. Kamalov, First Deputy Minister of Minselvodkhoz. He provided his views on the chief agricultural water management problems in Uzbekistan and Central Asia. He focused basically on technical issues but agreed reforms in agriculture are needed as are improvements in water use efficiency. He had not had time to read the RA's summarized work plan. At the end of the meeting, Victor Dukhovnyy, head of the Scientific Information Center of ICAS, arrived. He acted friendly, stated he had read the work plan summary, and suggested we could "work together" through the existing Advisory Council on Water which is part of Minselvodkhoz. He said that he had prepared a commentary on the work plan and would provide it to the RA. (The RA received the commentary on April 1; it supported some of the ideas in the RA's work plan but was basically an attempt to gain financial support for the Scientific Information Center rather than to work cooperatively on key water management policy issues).

By early March, the RA and his staff still had not been provided by the Uzbek Government, as they repeatedly promised, an adequate office in, nor an official affiliation with, a government agency. Since January 14, 1997, office space has been provided by USAID. However, this is temporary space and needed by TDY personnel. Therefore, with permission of the EPT regional office in Almaty, the USAID regional mission in Almaty, EPT headquarters, Washington, and USAID, Washington, the RA rented an apartment on March 14, 1997, to be used as a permanent office until the end of the project on September 30, 1997.

However, on March 25, the RA learned that a *Protocol between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and USAID on providing technical assistance to the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the area of Water Resources Management* had been signed on March 13, 1997. The Protocol had been prepared some weeks earlier by David Mandel, USAID Country Representative for Uzbekistan, as another in a long series of attempts dating from November 7, 1996, to get action out of the government on implementing their obligations related to DO14. The Protocol is based on a summary of the Draft Work Plan for DO14 (and for task 2C1 of DO12), prepared by the RA. It affirms that the Government of Uzbekistan will do the following.

1. Provide the RA and his staff as well as short-term consultants with sufficient furnished office space, in usable condition, and in an appropriate location.
2. Nominate appropriate officials in organizations such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Goskompriroda, and Cabinet of Ministers to serve as counterparts to the Advisor and to aid the advisor in identifying an appropriate advisory group on water and environmental management policy with which he can work.
3. Ensure that the Advisor and short term consultants receive the full cooperation of all ministries and other state bodies and are provided with access to all information on all laws, regulations, resolutions, decrees, procedures, and practices of the government of Uzbekistan which they require to fulfill the objectives of the assistance and access to all necessary water resources and related data.

The RA had seen and reviewed the content of the protocol before it was sent to Mr. Akram Mukhidov, Chief of the Department on Coordination of Foreign Economic Activity of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Patricia Buckles, Director, USAID Mission to Central Asia, signed for USAID and Mr. Mukhidov for the Government of Uzbekistan. At the request of the Cabinet of Ministers, the RA, his assistant, and David Mandel's assistant, Alexander Kalashnikov, met one more time with Mr. Jalalov, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Water Management, on 3/31/97. Mr. Jalalov was friendly but his approach and position had not changed from earlier visits. He told us that U.S. water management experience is not really relevant for Uzbekistan and argued that any radical changes in how agriculture is managed in Uzbekistan could create large-scale unemployment in rural areas and posed the question, "What would be done with these people?"

He especially disliked the theme of the first seminar (Self-governing Irrigation Systems in Uzbekistan). He asked to see the detailed schedule of our seminar and we promised to provide it to him (we have done this as well as inviting him to attend as an observer). He invited the RA to meet with him and other "water management experts" of his choosing for discussions. The RA agreed but said not until after the April 29-30 seminar as he (the RA) would not have a chance to prepare for these "discussions" until after it was finished.

Mr. Jalolov offered another office in the former Ministry of Water Management building. The RA and his staff visited it the next morning. The office turned out to be as bad or even worse than the first office proffered in January. It had suffered water damage, was too small for four of us, had no furniture, and the lights

didn't work. After discussion with David Mandel, it was mutually agreed the best approach was to politely turn down the offer, noting that "the office is too small".

The RA's opinion is that further attempts to work through Mr. Jalolov as a means of influencing water management policy in Uzbekistan are next to useless and a waste of time. He not only has little interest in meaningful water management policy reform in Uzbekistan but seems to clearly oppose it. The RA, therefore, will attempt to work through Mr. Timor Kamalov, First Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Water Management.

In March, preparation work for the April seminar continued. A list of 30 participants (who will have active involvement in the seminar) and 50 observers (who will have passive involvement) has been prepared. Invitations will be sent to these people in early April. A conference hall has also been rented in Tashkent. Arrangements for the participation of two consultants (a western water lawyer and author and the general manager of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District) have been completed. A third consultant had to cancel his participation because of other pressing business.

The RA and his staff are coordinating their seminar efforts with three TACIS programs (Pilot Integrated Development Project = PIDP, Food and Agricultural Policy Unit = FAPU, and Water Resources Management and Agricultural Production = WARMAP). Representatives from each of these organizations will participate as participants or observers. Visits have been completed to two farmer/irrigator groups supported by the PIDP program and indigenous representatives of these will be participants in the seminar. The RA and his staff also located and visited a truly independent, grass-roots farmer/irrigator organization near Chirchik (not far from Tashkent) and representatives from it will participate in the seminar. Key Uzbek government water management and agricultural officials will be invited to be observers at the seminar.

Determined efforts are also proceeding to publicize the seminar and its outcomes. This will include an article to appear in the newspaper *Peoples Word* written by one of the newspaper's reporters as well as another article that the RA and his Training Coordinator prepared which will be published in *Business Partner of Uzbekistan*. A follow-up piece will be prepared and published in *Business Partner of Uzbekistan* immediately after the seminar. This newspaper provides useful information to private farmers and business people in Uzbekistan. It is supported by a USAID grant through the Eurasia Foundation and has a circulation of 10,000. Other Tashkent media (television and newspapers) will be invited to the seminar and, hopefully, will report on it. Timor Kamalov, the new First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water has agreed to give some opening remarks and the U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Stanley Escudero, has been invited to do the same.

The RA was Task Manager for DO12, task 2C5 (Follow-up on Policy Sustainability for Industrial Waste Minimization). However, on March 12, 1997, this responsibility was transferred to Tom Higgins of CH2M-Hill. Nevertheless, the RA and his staff continue to provide local support for this work. In March, this included further meetings with people from Goskompiroda and the waste minimization study

team organized by Tom Higgins and providing information (via email) to Tom Higgins as to how their work is progressing.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER IMPLEMENTERS/DONORS

During the second quarter of his activities, the RA has made a concerted effort to coordinate his activities with other implementers/donors. A list of the more important activities in this regard follows.

1. Meeting with Vladimer Konyukhov, Deputy Chairman of Goskompriroda, about possible affiliation of RA with Goskompriroda. (January 6, 1997)
2. Meeting with Mr. Jalolov, Deputy Minister of Minselkhoz, about provision of office and affiliation for RA. (January 8, 1997)
3. Series of meetings, in company of Tom Higgins, with Konyukhov and other people from Goskompriroda and its affiliates as well as with local environmental officials, plant managers, and Hokims connected with the waste minimization task of DO12. (January 14-February 3, 1997).
4. Discussions with Mike Jones, Team Leader for the TACIS Project, "Training and Education of Farmers and Allied Personnel," about the our April seminar on self-governing irrigation systems. (January 21, 1997)
5. Meeting with Barry Green, Environmental Programme Officer, and Mark Anstay, Biodiversity Specialist, from UNDP about their work and relationship to that of RA's efforts. (January 22, 1997)
6. Meeting with Dale Henry, irrigation engineer and local representative of Research Exchange International, about the RA's upcoming training seminar. (January 22, 1997).
7. Meeting with Andre Heller, Advisor for the Pilot Integrated Development Project of TACIS in Bulungur, Samarkand Oblast, and the local project manager, Nadzhigat Nishanov about their activities and our April seminar.
8. Meeting with Rick McQuady, Regional Director Farmer-to-Farmer Program CIS of the Winrock Foundation to discuss the RA's upcoming seminar.
9. Meeting with Peter Whitford, Head of World Bank Aral Sea Program, to discuss mutual interests and concerns of our two programs. (January 30, 1997)
10. Accompanied Tim VanEpp, Manager for the "Sustainability and Cost Recovery" subtask of DO12, to his meetings with Mr. Mironenkov of Goskompronostat and with Mr. Joldasov, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Communal Services. (January 31, 1997).
11. Meeting with Mr. Baktiar Lorot, Team Leader and Agro-economist, "Support Service to Private Farmers Project," TACIS Project, in Fergana, Uzbekistan, about their work and our upcoming seminar. (February 2, 1997).
12. Gave a paper titled "*The History of the Aral Sea Problem: Critical Principles and Lessons for Sustainable Development*," at the Sustainable development Roundtable, sponsored by UNDP. I wrote the paper in English, my assistant, Stass, translated it into Russian, and I read the paper in Russian. I received a number of favorable comments on it afterwards and requests for copies. (February 4, 1997)
13. Meeting with Derek Baker, Agricultural Economist, and Sandjar Djalalov, Economic Analyst, Food and Agricultural Policy Advisory Unit (FAPU), TACIS Project, to discuss mutual interests and our April seminar. (February 5, 1997)

14. Meeting with Dr. Nadzhim Khamrayev, Director of the new Uzbek Scientific-Production Center of Agriculture, attached to the Cabinet of Ministers, to discuss his organization and the RA's work. (February 5, 1997)
15. Meeting with Timor Kamalov, new First Deputy Minister of Minselvodhoz, to discuss his work and work of RA. (February 5, 1997)
16. Meeting with Vladimer Konyukhov, Deputy Chairman of Goskompriroda, and members of his "waste minimization" team about needed follow-up work to visit of Tom Higgins. (February 6, 1997)
17. Meetings with Barbara Britton, Task Manager for DO8, Syed Mahmood, Regional Director for EPT, Project, Almaty, and Barry, Primm, USAID Program Officer, Almaty, to discuss matters of mutual concern and coordination of DO8 and DO14 efforts. (February 25-26, 1997),
18. Participated, along with Barbara Britton, Syed Mahmood, and Barry Primm, in Meeting with WARMAP Project (TACIS) representatives to discuss ways and means for cooperation between WARMAP and EPT in carrying out regional water management/policy activities. It was agreed that cooperation/coordination would be mutually beneficial and that regular coordination meetings should be held. (February 25, 1997)
19. Meeting with expatriate advisors (from Barents Group USAID Project) to State Tax Committee who were seeking help/advice on concept of "natural resource taxation". The RA and his staff located some useful information for them through the services of the USIS Internet connection. (February 28, 1997)
20. Met with waste minimization study people from Goskompriroda and Tom Pluta, representative from WEC (World Environment Center) to discuss cooperation between WEC and Tom Higgins in carrying out fall seminar on waste minimization. (February 28, 1997).
21. Meeting with Mr. Khabibullayev, Chairman of Goskompriroda, about affiliation with his organization and obtaining office space from Goskompriroda. Results of meeting were not encouraging. (March 4, 1997)
22. Meeting with State Tax Committee arranged by Barents Advisors. Committee representatives sought my advice about how we tax resources in the U.S. I told them what I knew about this matter. (March 4, 1997)
23. Meeting with representatives of "waste minimization" study team set up by Tom Higgins and Konyukhov. They gave a brief verbal account of their activities about which I subsequently sent an email to Tom Higgins. (March 5, 1997)
24. Meeting with Anatoliy Krutov, water management specialist for the World Bank, to discuss what was happening with ICAS (Interstate Council for the Aral Sea). (March 5, 1997).
25. Visit to Almaty to discuss RA's work with Jim Westfield, Syed Mahmood and Barry Primm. (March 7-9, 1997).
26. Meeting with Timor Kamalov, new First Deputy Minister of Minselvodhoz, to follow-up on earlier visit (February 5) and to invite him to participate in the April seminar. (March 10, 1997)
27. Meeting with writer from newspaper *Business Partner of Uzbekistan* to talk about the April seminar and discuss article to be published about seminar. (March 11, 1997)
28. Meeting with Derek Baker, Agricultural Economist, Food and Agricultural Policy Advisory Unit (FAPU), TACIS Project, for further discussions of the April seminar. (March 14, 1997)

29. Meeting with Mr. Khosilov, President of the Board for Zamindor Farmers Association, about visiting their operation and the participation of their group in the April seminar on self-governing irrigation systems. (March 17, 1997)
30. Meeting with Mr. Ishanov, assistant to Timor Kamalov, concerning help in inviting participants to our April seminar. (March 18, 1997)
31. Meeting with TACIS advisor to Farmers' Association in Syr Dar'ya Oblast (Jean Macabiau) about workings of that organization. (March 20, 1997)
32. Meeting with Sandjar Djalalov, Economic Analyst, Food and Agricultural Policy Advisory Unit (FAPU), TACIS Project, for further discussions of our April seminar. (March 20, 1997)
33. Meeting with Dr. Peter C. Block, representative for the Consortium for Applied Research on Market Access. This group is implementing a 5-year USAID funded project known by the acronym BASIS (Broadening Access and Strengthening Input Market Systems Project). Uzbekistan is one of five countries around the world selected as pilots for the project. The program includes a focus on land and water policy issues, and, thus, has a close relationship to the efforts going on under DO 14. Dr. Block and I agreed to stay in contact about mutual areas of interest.
34. Meeting with Mr. Khosilov, President of the Board for Zamindor Farmers Association, who was seeking our help in obtaining funding for implementing a new (for his organization) system to grow potatoes using plastic film and water holding gels. (March 31, 1997)
35. Meeting with Mr. Jalolov about an office and other matters. (March 31, 1997)