

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

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July 23, 2004

To: Michael Blackman, Cognizant Technical Officer
Office of Economic Restructuring and Energy (EREO)
U.S. Agency for International Development/Armenia

From: Glenn Schweitzer, Director, Office for Central Europe and Eurasia

Re: Quarterly Report on Cooperative Agreement #111-A-00-03-00080-00
Science and Technology in Armenia: Current Status and Future Prospects

As required under point A.5 of the above-mentioned Cooperative Agreement, we are hereby submitting our quarterly performance report for the period April 1 through June 30, 2004, on the project "Science and Technology in Armenia: Current Status and Future Prospects." The required financial report will be submitted separately by the Office of Budget and Financial Reporting of the National Academies.

Achievements During the Quarter

Project staff devoted considerable effort to editing sections of the final report contributed by each member of the study committee, gathering necessary statistical information and background documents, and drafting additional portions of the text. Staff also translated a document provided in Russian by the Armenian Academy of Sciences that outlines Armenian priorities for the development of the science and technology sector. This document, which according to the Armenian Academy has never before been released in English, will be included as an appendix in our report.

A first draft of the report was circulated to the committee in June. Based on their comments on this draft, substantial revisions were made and a second draft was circulated in preparation for a conference call to be held on July 19.

Obstacles Encountered and Addressed

A few minor difficulties were encountered in obtaining statistical information and documents from relevant institutions mentioned in the final report, but all eventually provided the data requested.

Having the report translated and published in Armenian will take longer than expected, since this process cannot begin until the final approved English version is available. Therefore, we have requested and received from USAID a no-cost extension on this project through February 28, 2005. However, we still remain committed to providing a pre-publication version of the report in English by the end of September, with the bound English and Armenian versions to follow.

Plans for Next Quarter

During the period from July through September 2004, plans call for the study committee to review the revised draft, discuss it during a conference call in mid-July, and approve the report text. Once the committee has approved the report, most likely in the last week of July, it will enter the National Academies process for institutional report review. This process requires the study committee and staff to respond to the comments and suggestions made by the expert reviewers, with these responses being evaluated by an independent review coordinator. Every effort is being made to complete this process by late September so that the report may be released in pre-publication form to the sponsor. In addition, staff will work with the selected translator in Armenia to make the necessary arrangements so that he can begin work just as soon as the English version is approved.

cc: USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse
Ms. Maria Longi, State Department EUR/ACE