

TECHNICAL REVIEW

1 Country of Origin

Azerbaijan.

2 Project Title

Halon Management and Banking National Recovery and Recycling Centre.

3 Sector, Sub-sector

Halon Sector, Fire Protection.

4 Relationship to Country Programme

The proposal covers necessary initial steps in implementing a Country Programme.

5 Technology

5.1 A programme of work is proposed to initiate implementation of a Country Programme which will encourage an orderly transition away from halon use - which is in any case small - while ensuring that necessary Critical Uses are supported from existing stocks to avoid compromising fire safety levels. The plan envisages three steps: (a) establishment of a national recycling and banking scheme for the two halons commonly used in Azerbaijan, 1211 and 2402; (b) provision of a training programme to initiate awareness of the alternative technologies available to replace halon; and (c) a survey of the existing installed base of halons, to determine (i) its size, (ii) which market sectors it is currently found in, and (iii) how great is the continuing demand for agent to meet Critical Use needs.

5.2 Two concerns underlie this area, and a careful balance needs to be maintained where they may conflict: one is to encourage a rapid and orderly transition away from technologies reliant on ozone depleting substances where appropriate; the other is to ensure that acceptable fire safety is maintained. Government action already taken to ban import and export of halons is good in that it forces the pace of change away from technologies reliant on ozone depleting substances, but it seems (see "Sector Background") that it may have had a deleterious effect in leading to deterioration in the level of fire safety provision: if so, the balance between these two considerations may need adjustment.

5.3 The proposal suggests (see "Sector Background") that it may be necessary for a one time acquisition of halon from an external source to prime the bank. An alternative approach worth considering (if the installed base would support it) might be to devote the funding which would pay for this acquisition instead to facilitate conversion of suitable non-Critical installations to one or more of the new alternatives, releasing halon from the existing base to form the initial bank stocks. If viable, this would have the additional benefit of avoiding the need for extra production of halon to fulfil this need. This approach may be particularly attractive in the case of halon 2402, where there is substantially no international bank and of which Essential Use manufacture has proven necessary in Russia, and less so for halon 1211, which is in surplus in many non-Article 5 countries and should therefore be obtainable at modest cost and without additional new manufacture.

5.4 The purpose of the proposed halon recycling facility is to ensure that Critical Use needs can continue to be met without the necessity for further production or import, which is a valid aim and a necessary part of the phaseout process for any country. Until the magnitude of these Critical Uses is defined as part of the proposed survey, it is not clear how the quantitative requirement for recycling can be assessed, and how it can be established that the proposed national facility will have sufficient but not excessive capacity to meet the anticipated demand.

5.5 It is rightly stated (see "National Halon Recovery/Recycling Centre") that cross-contaminated halons are likely to be encountered: but no explicit provision is made for facilities for separate storage of these materials or for their repurification or destruction.

6 Environmental Impact

Provided that good advice is made available on the selection of appropriate technologies when, in due course, they come to be used to replace halons, and provided that good engineering standards are applied to the construction and handling of the proposed bank and storage facilities, the proposed activities should have substantially no environmental impact.

7 Project Costs

The items listed are judged to be necessary for implementation of the proposed approach. The costs assigned are judged to be reasonable.

8 Implementation Timeframe

It is this reviewer's opinion that the timescales set out for implementation are realistic and appropriately demanding.

9 Recommendations

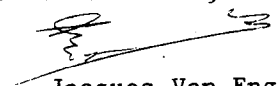
The proposal as outlined, possibly with modifications as suggested in 5.3 - 5.5 above, is strongly recommended for approval.

David Ball
25.1.98



Note from UNDP:

Both comments 5.3 and 5.5 will be taken into account during project implementation. Additional costs that may result from 5.5 would be born by the Government, not by the GEF (if needed).



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