



Joint Public Advisory Committee
Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto
Comité consultatif public mixte

13 December 2001

The Honorable David Anderson
Minister of the Environment (Canada)

Licenciado Victor Lichtinger
Secretary, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Semarnat)

Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Council members:

Following the Symposium on the Environmental Challenges and Opportunities of the Evolving North American Electricity Market organized by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) on 29-30 November 2001 in San Diego, the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) believes that the CEC can contribute to the establishment of a clean, reliable and sustainable supply and distribution of electricity in North America by:

1. Furthering the adoption of transboundary environmental impact assessment (TEIA) as contemplated in Article 10(7) of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC); including recognition of the need for public participation supported by adequate and accessible information and advance notice;
2. Assisting in the establishment of a North American carbon trading mechanism;
3. Establishing an agreement for requiring the adoption of:
 - emissions control systems (including CO₂, SO₂, NO_x and particulates) with the best available technology for all new thermoelectric projects;
 - “zero balance” in atmospheric emissions for new thermoelectric plants, using emissions offset mechanisms; and
 - dry cooling systems for water conservation.
4. Promoting the adoption of similar criteria by the NAFTA parties for defining green power; and
5. Advising on appropriate adjustments to policy and regulatory frameworks for reducing emissions.

JPAC will provide an advice to Council in March 2002 relating to the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Board to the Article 13 Study of Electricity and the Environment.

Sincerely,

Liette Vasseur
JPAC Chair for 2001

c.c. CEC Alternate Representatives
CEC Executive Director
CEC Electricity Advisory Board Members
JPAC members