



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC - 5 2005

OFFICE OF  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ms. Jane Gardner  
JPAC Chair for 2005  
c/o Secretariat of the Commission for  
Environmental Cooperation  
393, rue St-Jacques ouest, bureau 200  
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1N9

Dear Ms. Gardner:

On behalf of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and the Alternate Representatives (Alt Reps), I would like to thank the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) for its letter to the Council regarding preparation of an Article 13 report on case studies on transboundary environmental impact assessment (TEIA).

The Council is very supportive of the process provided for in Article 13 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) concerning the preparation of reports on matters within the scope of the annual program or any other environmental matter related to the cooperative functions of the NAAEC. However, in this case, after carefully reviewing the Secretariat's notification regarding its proposal to prepare a report on TEIA, the Council concluded that the preparation of such a report would not represent the best use of CEC resources in light of the efforts underway among the three Parties to conclude an agreement on TEIA under the auspices of the Security and Prosperity Agenda (SPP). Therefore, the Council unanimously decided to not support the preparation of the report and signed Council Resolution 05-07 "*Decision Regarding the Proposal by the Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to Prepare an Article 13 Report on Case Studies on Transboundary Environmental Impact Statement*" (see attachment).

The Council greatly values the advice and input received from the JPAC. Thank you for your continuing participation in the mission of the CEC and we look forward to your future advice.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Ayres  
Assistant Administrator

**cc: José Manuel Bulás Montoro, Alternate Representative for Mexico  
David McGovern, Alternate Representative for Canada  
JPAC Members**