



Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)
Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)
Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

11 July 2003

Mr. Jeffrey R. Holmstead
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Chair of the North American Air Working Group

RE: Follow-up to the Public Workshop on CEC Assessments of Transboundary Air Issues

Dear Mr. Holmstead:

On behalf of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC), I would like to thank the North American Air Working Group (NAAWG) for participating in our public workshop on CEC Assessments of Transboundary Air Issues, held on 24 June 2003, in Washington, DC.

We understand that you are in the very preliminary stages of developing a strategic plan for this area of work, having met for the first time as a group on 23 June. JPAC attaches a very high priority to air issues and we were very pleased to learn of your desire to work collaboratively with JPAC and the public in the development and implementation of this strategic plan.

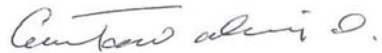
At this preliminary stage, we offer the following comments, based on our initial discussion and the input received during the public workshop. We would suggest that you:

- Recall Article 3 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, which states that: “[R]ecognizing the right of each Party to establish its own levels of domestic environmental protection and environmental development policies and priorities, and to adopt or modify accordingly its environmental laws and regulations, each Party shall ensure that its laws and regulations provide for high levels of environmental protection and shall strive to continue to improve those laws and regulations”;
- Retain a focus on the original mandate issued by Council that attached this work to activities following up the *Article 13 Report on Environmental Challenges and Opportunities of the Evolving North American Electricity Market*;
- Pay special attention to pollution prevention, including energy efficiency, new technologies and alternative energy;
- Include education and outreach aimed at providing the general population and affected communities with up-to-date and reliable information on air quality; and
- Take into account and build on bilateral agreements including progress on developing emissions trading systems that might be applied on a continental basis.

Please take note that a summary record of the session will be available to you and the public in the near future for a full overview of the points raised during the workshop.

We welcome Council's request that JPAC stay actively involved in your work and we look forward to our next joint public meeting on the draft strategic plan. Please be assured of JPAC's assistance in developing appropriate means for meaningful public consultation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gustavo Alanís-Ortega".

Gustavo Alanís-Ortega
JPAC Chair for 2003

cc: NAAWG Members
CEC Alternate Representatives
CEC Acting Executive Director
CEC Air Program Manager
JPAC Members