



18 April 2001

Ms. Liette Vasseur
Chair of the Joint Public Advisory Committee
Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Dear Ms. Vasseur:

On behalf of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), I wish to thank the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) for its letter dated October 30, 2000 transmitting a letter from Ms. Martha Kostuch, Vice-President of the Friends of the Oldman River.

Please note that the issues raised by Ms. Kostuch were brought directly before, and addressed by, the Council as part of the public portion of the June 2000 ministerial. Furthermore, the JPAC has not yet had an opportunity to conduct its review and provide the Council with a report on the lessons learned as mandated under Council Resolution No. 00-09. In the context of this mandate, we believe it would be inappropriate at this time for the Council to address individual comments sent to the JPAC. We are confident that once Council has reviewed the report on the lessons learned, it will be prepared to determine which of the issues identified by various stakeholders and brought forward by the JPAC should be referred to a public consultation.

We appreciate the interest and commitment the JPAC has brought to the review process. We look forward to receiving your lessons learned report in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

(Original signed)

Isabel Studer Noguez
Alternate Representative for Mexico
Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Cc: Alan D. Hecht, Alternate Representative of the Council of the CEC for the U.S.
Norine Smith, Alternate Representative of the Council of the CEC for Canada
Janine Ferretti, Executive Director of the CEC