



13 October 2000

Ms. Regina Barba
Chair of the Joint Public Advisory Committee
Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Dear Ms. Barba:

In relation to Council Resolution 00-09 of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the interest that the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC), and you personally, have shown toward the process established by Articles 14 and 15 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC). As you are aware, the Parties, in accordance with the authority conferred by Articles 10 and 20 of the NAAEC, have held several meetings at which they exchanged views in an effort to improve the application of that process.

In accordance with paragraph 5(b) of Council Resolution 00-09 of the CEC “Matters Related to Articles 14 and 15 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation,” approved at the VIIth Regular Session of the Council on 13 June 2000 in Dallas, Texas, and in order to guide the JPAC in reviewing the public history of submissions made under Articles 14 and 15 of the NAAEC, including all actions taken to implement those articles, the Council requests that the JPAC conduct a review in consultation with each Party, the submitter and the Secretariat, of each submission for which the submission process has been completed.

This review should identify lessons learned related to the following issues:

- Sufficiency of information to allow the Secretariat to review a submission under Article 14(1)(c).
- Processes followed by the Secretariat in gathering information for the preparation of a factual record.
- Timing of the public release of non-confidential information.
- Designation of confidential or proprietary information in connection with the Articles 14-15 process.

As Council noted in its resolution, public participation in this review is important and we are encouraged by the public involvement to date. We look forward to seeing such involvement continue.

Sincerely,

William A. Nitze
Alternate Representative for the Government of the United States of America
Commission for Environmental Cooperation

José Luis Samaniego
Alternate Representative Government of the United Mexican States
Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Norine Smith
Alternate Representative for the Government of Canada
Commission for Environmental Cooperation