



Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)

Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

10 September 2002

Ms. Judith E. Ayres  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of International Affairs  
US Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Olga Ojeda Cárdenas  
Titular de la Unidad Coordinadora de Asuntos Internacionales  
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Ms. Norine Smith  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Policy and Communications  
Environment Canada

**Re: Follow-up of JPAC's Letter and Advice to Council following the 2002 June Council Session**

Dear Alternate Representatives:

Following the June 2002 Council Session and the Joint Public Advisory Committee's (JPAC) Regular Session 02-02 where a good dialogue was initiated between Council and JPAC as well as with the Alternate Representatives, we provided two Advice to Council, one on Capacity Building and Education Opportunities within the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) Program and a second on the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Chapter 11.

In addition, on 4 July 2002, I wrote to Council expressing JPAC's support for further exploration of options for monitoring and follow-up on Articles 14 and 15 factual records. In that same letter, Council was requested to reconsider its decision to delay a public review on the matter of limiting the scope of factual records and authorize such a review without delay including reference to how the Parties intend to conduct the review and operation of Council Resolution 00-09. Finally, information was requested on the nature of the process related to the Tenth Anniversary of NAFTA.

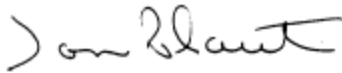
We would also appreciate receiving Council's response to the JPAC recommendation in our Lessons Learned report on Articles 14 and 15 on the issue of confidentiality in light of the recent updates made to the Report on Public Access to Government-held Environmental Information.

May I also take this opportunity to respectfully remind Council a commitment was made to the public, during the Council public session in June, that while time did not permit a full response to each of the

interveners a record of each comment was kept and responses would be forthcoming. As stated by the Council Chair, this overture was made in the spirit of improving the public portion of the Council sessions and JPAC applauds the initiative.

I am not aware of any meetings of the Alternate Representatives in the near future. As you know, JPAC is holding its next meetings on 3-4 October 2002 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in conjunction with a Public Workshop on Freshwater Issues in North America. I would hope to be in a position to report on these important matters, including responses and progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Plaut".

Jon Plaut  
JPAC Chair 2002

cc: CEC Acting Executive Director  
NAC/GAC Chairs  
JPAC Members