



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 20 2018

Mr. Gustavo Alanis  
Chair, Joint Public Advisory Committee  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation  
393, Rue St-Jacques Ouest, Bureau 200  
Montreal QC H2Y IN9

Office of  
International and  
Tribal Affairs

Dear Mr. Alanis:

On behalf of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), I would like to thank the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) for your advice to Council No: 17-01: Advancing Sustainable Clean Energy Cooperation in North America.

We agree that Canada, Mexico and the United States should continue collaboration to achieve North American environmental and energy goals. Energy cooperation among the Parties is long-standing and covers numerous areas of mutual interest. Cooperation has evolved from separate and strong bilateral partnerships to an increasingly integrated trilateral approach to shared energy challenges and opportunities.

North American cooperation on energy is carried out by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Mexico's Ministry of Energy (SENER). At the North American Energy Ministerial on November 14, 2017, in Houston, Texas, the United States Secretary of Energy, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, and Mexico's Secretary of Energy recognized trilateral efforts that have improved transparency through the updated North American Cooperation on Energy Information (NACEI) website. The website consolidates energy-related data, maps, analyses, and references from the three countries in English, Spanish, and French. The website provides detailed data by energy source and country of origin with conversion factors, data units, and definitional cross references.

In order to continue to promote energy independence in North America, the ministers also discussed the development of North America's vast energy resources and innovation potential, the enhancement of energy trade and economic development among the three nations, and facilitation of cross-border infrastructure projects in order to achieve an increasingly integrated North American energy market.

North American energy ministers have regularly met since 2014, and have promoted key areas of trilateral cooperation including the development of unconventional oil and gas; carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS); electricity grid reliability, resilience, and security; and a North

American Renewable Integration Study. The ministers' leadership and joint day-to-day work of their teams have facilitated the tracking of progress in achieving common energy goals.

Nuclear power contributes nearly 20 percent of the electricity generated in the U.S. The United States has used nuclear power for more than 60 years to produce reliable, low-carbon energy and to support national defense activities. The U.S. Department of Energy works to advance nuclear power as a resource capable of making major contributions in meeting the U.S. energy supply. By focusing on the development of advanced nuclear technologies, we support the goals of providing domestic sources of secure energy, reducing greenhouse gases, and enhancing national security.

In Mexico, nuclear power, currently generating 3% of the total electricity generation, is considered as a clean energy technology, in support of the country's commitments to reduce GHG emissions.

Rural communities can benefit from energy efficiency and renewable energy. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency developed a guide (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Low-Income Communities: A Guide to EPA Programs) designed to help state and local governments connect with EPA programs that can help them expand or develop their own energy efficiency/renewable energy initiatives in ways that benefits low-income communities.

Mexico implements a Municipal Energy Efficiency Project (PRESEM), which promotes energy efficiency investments in selected municipal sectors, as well as through policy development and institutional strengthening. Additionally, Mexico is broadening the implementation of distributed generation with renewables in strategic regions, which can significantly contribute to foster universal energy access in the country and increase the participation of clean energies.

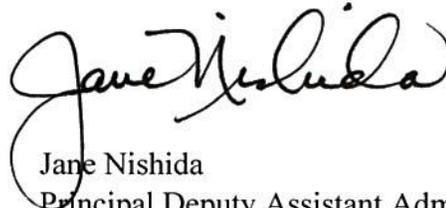
Through the Pan-Canadian Framework, the Government of Canada is working with provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, and industry to put a price on carbon pollution, reduce emissions in each sector of the economy, adapt to climate change, and support clean technologies, innovation and jobs. Under the Pan-Canadian Framework, Canada is developing a clean fuel standard which will support the use of ethanol, biodiesel, renewable natural gas, and other advanced biofuels, while spurring clean growth and innovation. Additionally, Canada has introduced regulations to reduce methane emissions from its oil and gas sector by 40-45 percent by 2025, and is accelerating the phase-out of coal-fired electricity by 2030. Canada is also working with international partners to advance progress on both of these fronts, through the Global Methane Initiative and the Powering Past Coal Alliance.

As recommended by JPAC, the ISO 50001 project was extended in the 2017-2019 CEC Operational Plan. Through this project, the CEC is building capacity to achieve energy efficiency and competitiveness in the industrial sector in North America through the implementation of the ISO 50001 energy efficiency standard in industrial supply chains. This pilot project targets both major multinational corporations and their suppliers in the manufacturing sector. We expect that

the participating facilities, most likely medium-sized suppliers, will report significant and measurable economic, energy, and greenhouse gas reduction benefits.

The Council appreciates JPAC's efforts in engaging with the North American public to bring their concerns and perspectives to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Nishida". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "N".

Jane Nishida  
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Alternate Representative for the United States

cc:

Isabelle Bérard, Alternate Representative for Canada  
Enrique Lendo, Alternate Representative for Mexico  
César Chávez, CEC Executive Director  
Marcela Orozco, JPAC Liaison Officer