

Commission for Environmental Cooperation
Submissions on Enforcement Matters

Help bring the facts to light

Commission for Environmental Cooperation
of North America





How and when to file a submission

Before you begin putting together your submission, you should consider the following questions:

- 1 Can I identify the specific statute or regulation, and explain how it is not being enforced?

- 2 Have I communicated with the agency responsible for enforcing the environmental law in question?

- 3 Do I have any documentation to support my claim?

Increase transparency and awareness of environmental issues in your community

All over North America, engaged citizens are improving the environmental well-being of their communities. These citizens are supported by environmental laws that help protect air, water, species and land.

To create an open line of communication with North Americans about how environmental law is enforced, the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States take part in a transparent procedure called the [Submissions on Enforcement Matters \(SEM\)](#) process.

If you believe that an environmental law is not being enforced in your community, filing a submission with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Secretariat may shed light on how and whether environmental laws are working for you.

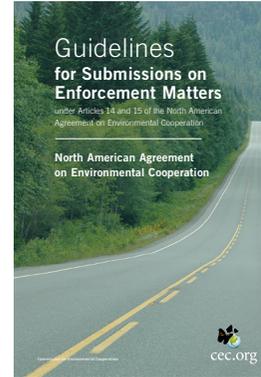
A submission can be made by a citizen or group from [Canada](#), [Mexico](#) or [the US](#), and ultimately can lead to the development of a detailed report, called a factual record, researched and written by independent experts.

How can filing a submission create an impact?

As soon as you file a submission, [you alert senior government environmental officials that an environmental issue is of concern](#) to your community or organization.

The CEC Secretariat uses press releases and social media to announce the progress of submissions. [Filing a submission can increase awareness](#) in society at large about the environmental law you believe is not being enforced.

Past CEC submissions have resulted in improved environmental protection, law and policy changes, and increased budgets for enforcement.

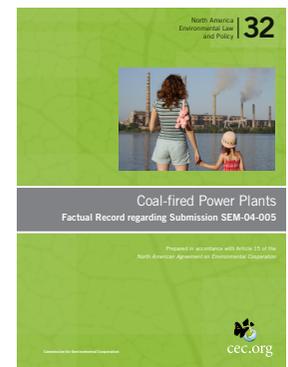


For more details on the process and on what you need to know before filing a submission, consult the CEC's [Guidelines for Submissions on Enforcement Matters](#): www.cec.org/guidelines.

Visit the CEC's Submissions on Enforcement Matters online portal to guide you step-by-step as you file your submission: www.cec.org/SEMPortal. You can also send a submission by mail, e-mail or fax.

The SEM process has several stages. Submissions that reach the final stage can result in the publication of a factual record.

By filing a submission with the CEC Secretariat you will have participated in a unique and empowering process that facilitates public participation, supports government transparency, and [promotes the effective enforcement of environmental law in North America](#).





cec.org

Contacts and resources

If you have any questions about the Submissions on Enforcement Matters process, contact the SEM Unit at the CEC Secretariat:

393 Saint-Jacques Street West, Suite 200
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9
T. 514-340-4300 F. 514-350-4314
SEM@cec.org www.cec.org/submissions

You are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant Party point of contact from Canada, Mexico or the United States. The CEC Secretariat can provide current contact information.

About the CEC and the NAAEC

The SEM process is an international fact-finding process that has been administered for more than 20 years by the Secretariat of the **Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America**, located in Montreal, Canada. The institution was created and the process put in place by the **North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC)**, a side-agreement to the 1994 **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**.