



**COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**  
**97-05 Meeting of the Joint Public Advisory Committee**  
**11 December 1997**

**Summary Record**

The members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) held their fifth regular session on 11 December 1997, in Tucson, Arizona (USA).

This summary record synthesizes the contents of the discussions held and the reports submitted, and briefly summarizes the decisions adopted unanimously by the members of the Committee. The full records of the discussions, advice from JPAC to Council and other documents pertaining to the Committee may be obtained from the JPAC Coordinator's office or through the CEC's Internet homepage at <http://www.cec.org> under the JPAC heading.

**1. Opening of meeting and welcoming remarks by the JPAC Chair**

The JPAC Chair thanked the public and the members of the JPAC for attending the meeting; she also referred to the involuntary absence of JPAC members Mike Apsey, Michael Cloghesy, Guillermo Barroso, Jorge Bustamante, Exequiel Ezcurra, Iván Restrepo and Jean Richardson who were unable to attend due to work commitments and health-related reasons. The two-part agenda was introduced: the first part addressing pending issues and information and the second dealing with JPAC strategic planning for 1998.

**2. Approval of the provisional agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted (*Annex 1*) and in connection with items 6 and 10 it was agreed that the Committee would hear presentations from Marc Paquin and Secretariat Director Greg Block, who would submit a report summarizing CEC activities carried out to date.

**3. Approval of the summary record of the 97-4 JPAC session**

The summary record of the 97-4 session was approved as submitted.

#### 4. Follow-up on JPAC pending issues for 1997

*a) Discussion on previous JPAC Resolutions of Advice to Council.*

There was some discussion about the wording of Resolution of Advice 97-2, which contains the views of the JPAC on public consultations. Jacques Gérin's draft had already been discussed and forwarded to the members of JPAC by the beginning of December. Some amendments to it were proposed by Jon Plaut, María Cristina Castro and Jacques Gérin prior to the advice being approved by all of the JPAC members. (*Annex 2*). It was agreed that the Chair would submit the document to the CEC Council.

As for integrating material into Resolution of Advice 97-3, which concerned the evaluation of the NAAEC, John Wirth, who had been responsible for the original draft, submitted a rough version of the additions whose contents were discussed. The two main issues addressed were: the implementation of CEC programs (follow-up and oversight) and the overall budget of the CEC (annual budget, NAFEC and project sustainability). It was moved that this advice be put in writing and that only the first three years of NAAEC's existence and CEC's operation be focused upon. In the end, Resolution of Advice 97-3 was drafted and unanimously approved. (*Annex 3*). It was agreed that the Chair would submit the document to the CEC Council.

*b) Evaluation of the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC).*

NAFEC coordinator, Janice Astbury, indicated that the final report on the evaluation of the NAAEC would be ready for final review by the JPAC and submission to the CEC Council by the end of December. This is a pending issue for the next meeting of the JPAC in early 1998.

The members of the JPAC had the opportunity to converse with the applicants of two NAFEC-funded projects: Margarita Morales (*El Colegio de Sonora/Border Ecology Project*) and Michael Wilson (*Drylands Institute*). Mr. Wilson spoke about the "Project for the Construction of Small Enterprises in the Wetlands of Naco, Sonora, Mexico" (*Naco-Constructed Wetlands Microenterprise Project*). The goal of the project is to utilize a wastewater treatment plant to develop alternate crops in the Naco wetlands. JPAC members wanted to know more about the process followed by these two projects to secure NAFEC funding. The two representatives indicated that the Fund requirements for project financing are reasonable, that it is possible to work together with the Fund, and that the selection process is democratic. They stressed, however, that there is still a great lack of widespread knowledge about the Fund and of the CEC itself.

*c) Revision of the guidelines for submissions regarding the effective enforcement of environmental law pursuant to Articles 14 and 15 of the NAAEC.*

Marc Paquin, the Council Secretary, indicated that during the last meeting of the Alternate Representatives (Session 97-10), the issue regarding the amendment of guidelines, currently under review by the Standing General Committee (SGC), was dealt with. The members of the JPAC agreed to wait for Council's official response on this topic before discussing such amendments at the Committee level. As soon as this document is received, the JPAC working group on Articles 14 and 15 of the NAAEC (Peter Berle, María Cristina Castro and Michael Cloghesy) will review it and submit a draft to the remaining members of the Committee.

## 5) Outcome of the JPAC meeting with Council

Marc Paquin referred to the Secretariat document, dated 1 December, that contains an analysis by the Executive Director of the eight issues arising from the Council's special session of 24 October 1997, as well as various implementation proposals. He also mentioned that the "1998 Annual Program and Budget" is almost ready in draft form and that it will be forwarded as soon as possible to the JPAC since it is to be reviewed by the Alternate Representatives at their next meeting, scheduled for 15–16 January 1998.

JPAC members made several remarks in this regard:

- JPAC should take a more active role in devising the CEC working program.
- Greater coordination between the Secretariat and the JPAC must be achieved and efforts be made in order for the essentials of the annual program to be known sufficiently in advance that JPAC input may actually enrich the document.
- The JPAC must review the program prior to the upcoming meeting of the Alternate Representatives on 15–16 January.

## 6. Report by the Executive Director of the CEC Secretariat

This item was dealt with by Greg Block, a Director of the Secretariat, during the second part of the agenda; see item 10.

## 7. JPAC Rules of Procedure

The Chair referred to the proposed amendments to the rules of procedure for the advisory body handed out to the JPAC members during the session. The contents of the proposed amendments were discussed during the meeting and some minor changes were made in order that consensus could be reached on the final wording. The proposal contains both amendments to the rules now in force and three new items which were embodied in the structure of the rules of procedure. It was agreed that this document be submitted to Council by the Chair as JPAC Resolution of Advice 97–4 (*Annex 4*).

## 8. Composition of JPAC

Under this item, the Chair submitted a summary outline of the activities performed by the Committee during 1997. In addition, two charts comparing the JPAC budget for the last three years, as well as a final analysis of public consultations convened in 1997 were submitted. The Committee members approved the documents and agreed to submit the final report to Council on the 1997 JPAC activities.

### a) *New Canadian JPAC member*

The Committee examined a letter from the JPAC Chair to Mr. Avrim Lazar, Canada's Alternate Representative, expressing the wish of the Committee to be advised of the appointment of the new Canadian member of JPAC to replace Louise Comeau, who resigned last July. The members

of the Committee approved the wording of the letter which will be forwarded to Mr. Lazar through the Secretariat.

b) *JPAC Chair for 1998*

The JPAC Chair disclosed the outcome of the secret vote taken within the Committee to elect the new JPAC Chair. She indicated that Mary Simon was elected and that she will be taking over as Committee Chair as of 1 January 1998. Upon concluding this item, the Chair handed the ballots of all members over to Marc Paquin so that they could be filed in the Secretariat's records. The participants extended their welcome to Mary Simon and thanked María Cristina Castro, the departing Chair, for her efforts and work.

## 9. Remarks by observers

Prior to the end of the first part of the JPAC 97-5 meeting, the observers had the opportunity to voice their viewpoints regarding the issues dealt with. Among the suggestions received were the following:

- Dan Torrez, a representative from the Office of the Texas Attorney General and an American member of JPAC, questioned the Committee's authority to amend the Rules of Procedure, particularly the one providing that members who fail to attend three consecutive committee meetings without sufficient explanation be requested to resign, arguing that amending the rules would amount to amending the NAAEC. In response to this argument, JPAC members stressed that the Council is indeed the body empowered with amending the rules (Art. 16. 3 of the NAAEC) and that the Committee has the ability to provide advice to Council and make proposals regarding any amendments which are deemed necessary (Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure now in force).
- Rita Cerutti, a representative from Environment Canada, indicated that efforts are being made to find a Canadian candidate to take Louise Comeau's place and that delays have been experienced due to the Canadian Government's intention to appoint only a committed and renowned individual. She also mentioned that several candidates are being considered and that both the Council and JPAC will be informed of the appointment as soon as possible. On the other hand, she asked JPAC members to voice their opinions on the document submitted by Víctor Lichtinger, Executive Director of the Secretariat, addressing the issues raised by Council.
- A member of the public made several remarks about NAFEC. She mentioned that project selection criteria ought to be clearly established and already-approved projects followed up; she also recommended that contact with the public be enhanced, along with more widespread dissemination, and that feedback mechanisms between the approved projects and the CEC pursued.

## 10. JPAC Strategic Planning for 1998

### a) 1998 budget

Marc Paquin submitted a report on JPAC budgetary outflows for public consultations and the Committee's operating expenses during 1997. The Secretariat will submit as soon as possible the final JPAC financial report for 1997, inclusive through 31 December.

As of the date of this writing, the final figures, including any expenses related to the 97-5 meeting, are as follows:

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>Allocated budget</i>	<i>Executed budget as of 5/12/97</i>	<i>Current balance</i>
Public consultations	US\$200,000	US\$134,399	US\$65,601
JPAC operating expenses	US\$100,000	US\$88,093	US\$11,907

Considering CEC budgetary constraints, the JPAC members agreed to propose to Council that the budget allocated to JPAC for 1998 be the same as that of 1997. In addition, it was agreed that the remaining 1997 balance be incorporated into JPAC's 1998 budget so that those resources could assist in carrying out the duties assigned by Council.

### b) Priorities

Under this item, Greg Block, a Director of the CEC Secretariat, outlined the CEC's Annual Program and Budget for 1998. This will be submitted as soon as possible to JPAC, given that its contents are to be discussed during the next meeting of the Alternate Representatives, scheduled for 15-16 January 1998.

The Committee members expressed concern over this matter for, due to time constraints, it will not be possible to review and suggest modifications to the Program before that meeting. The JPAC members discussed the various priorities entailed in the Program according to three different short and medium-term categories:

1. **Priorities for 1998:** Environment and trade; mercury-related studies; continental pollutant pathways; transportation and commitments arising from the Kyoto conference on climatic change.
2. **Priorities for the 1999-2000 biennium:** effective law enforcement (NAAEC Articles 13, 14 and 15); chemical substances; reporting of toxic releases in North America; health; capacity building; water; air; and ozone.
3. **Priorities for JPAC (internal work):** long-term strategic planning; public participation; information dissemination; CEC's annual program and budget; equity criteria.

Greg Block proposed that a joint meeting of JPAC and the Secretariat be held in order to assess follow-up on the Annual Program and Budget of the CEC. Concerning this, the members of the Committee made several remarks:

- A strategic meeting must be convened to set priorities for the 1999–2000 biennium.
- There are many instances where the Committee has had an impact: 1) The mechanisms relating to the filing of submissions; 2) The operation of NAFEC; 3) The fostering of priority programs; and 4) The linkage between trade and the environment. Now the Committee must exert its influence on four topics: 1) Mercury, 2) Transportation, 3) The Kyoto Conference; and 4) Health.
- Due consideration must be given to JPAC in CEC schedules and timetables so that processes do not exceed expectations; long-term thinking is a must.
- It was proposed that some of the priorities set for 1998 be considered as public consultation topics.

Finally, it was agreed that a working group charged with analyzing the CEC’s 1998 Annual Program and Budget be set up. This working group is made up of Mary Simon, María Cristina Castro and John Wirth.

*c) Schedule*

The proposed schedule for 1998 JPAC regular meetings is as follows:

<b>1998 JPAC schedule</b>		
<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>
First regular meeting	Third week of January (20–25 January)	Montreal, Canada
Second regular meeting and first public consultation	First week of May	El Paso, Texas, U.S.A. and Ciudad Juárez, Chih., Mexico
Third regular meeting and Council’s annual session	24–25 June	Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico
Fourth regular meeting and second public consultation	Fourth week of September	Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
Fifth regular meeting and third public consultation	First week of December	Canada (place to be determined, probably the West Coast)

**11. Other issues**

Under this item, several matters were dealt with:

- a) The document entitled, *NAFTA’s Institutions: The Environmental Potential and Performance of the NAFTA Free Trade Commission and Related Bodies* contains erroneous information regarding the Mexican National Advisory Committee and the National Advisory Committee

on Sustainable Development. The Mexican Alternate Representative, Mr. José Luis Samaniego, addressed a letter of disapproval to the Secretariat's Executive Director. Greg Block took note of the concern voiced and stressed that efforts would be undertaken to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

- b)* The Chair informed the members of the Committee about a call addressed to the North American public inviting the submission of opinions regarding the process leading to the evaluation of the NAAEC and the CEC. The deadline for the receipt of public comments is 31 January 1998.
- c)* Finally, the issue pertaining to the preparation of "Guidelines for Public Consultations" was dealt with. The Chair of JPAC and the Executive Director of the Secretariat had discussed ways of clarifying this situation in light of the importance of this issue for the operation of the Committee, since these guidelines will apply to future public consultations coordinated by JPAC.

## **12. Adjournment of meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on 11 December 1997.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

*(first part from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)*

1. Opening of session and welcoming remarks by the JPAC Chair
2. Approval of the provisional agenda
3. Approval of the JPAC 97-4 session Summary Record
4. Follow-up on JPAC pending issues for 1997
  - a) JPAC Resolutions of Advice 97-2 and 97-3 to Council
  - b) Evaluation of the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC)
  - c) Review of the Guidelines applying to the presentation of submissions regarding the effective enforcement of environmental law pursuant to NAAEC Articles 14 and 15
5. Outcome of the JPAC meeting with Council
6. Report from the Executive Director of the CEC Secretariat
7. Rules of Procedure of JPAC
8. Composition of JPAC
  - a) New Canadian member of JPAC
  - b) JPAC Chair for 1998
9. Remarks by observers

LUNCH *(from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.)*

WORKING SESSION OF THE JPAC MEMBERS *(from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.)*

10. JPAC strategic planning for 1998
  - a) 1998 budget
  - b) Priorities
  - c) Schedule
11. Other issues
12. Final remarks and adjournment of session



## **List of participants**

### **Members:**

#### **Canada**

Jacques Gérin

Mary Simon

#### **Mexico**

María Cristina Castro (Chair)

#### **United States**

Peter Berle

Jonathan Plaut

John Wirth

#### **Observers**

Susan Casey-Lefkowitz

Environmental Law Institute

Rita Cerrutti

Environment Canada

José Luis Funes

Consultant

Margarita Morales

*El Colegio de Sonora/* Border Ecology Project

Dan Torrez

Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas

Mireya Vega

Secretariat of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries

Michael Wilson

Drylands Institute

#### **CEC Secretariat staff members:**

Greg Block

María de la Luz García

Marc Paquin

Manon Pepin



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**JPAC RESOLUTION OF ADVICE TO COUNCIL No. 97-02**

**Views regarding CEC Public Consultations**

According to Article 16 of the NAAEC and to the Vision Statement of JPAC signed in Washington on 26 July 1994, the three fundamental responsibilities of JPAC are to act as a CEC public liaison mechanism, advise the Council and provide technical and scientific information to the Secretariat.

The Council has requested that JPAC explore various public liaison mechanisms, of which the public consultations are the most relevant. This responsibility is set forth clearly in the Vision Statement of JPAC:

Our vision is to promote continental cooperation in ecosystem protection and sustainable economic development, and **to ensure active public participation** and transparency in the actions of the full Commission.

During the initial three years of the CEC, JPAC, with the support of the Secretariat and at the Council's request, organized and held a number of public consultations on subjects of interest to the CEC.

Based on this experience, JPAC hereby wishes to assess the situation as regards the public consultations held by the Committee and to advise the Council on future directions.

It should be acknowledged that JPAC, at the Council's request, has played a central role in creating links between the North American public and the CEC, and that public consultations have served as an important tool to this effect. The JPAC accepted this responsibility enthusiastically, including the duty to advise the Council on any issue covered by NAAEC as stipulated in paragraph 16 (4) of NAAEC. Nevertheless, JPAC has not had the opportunity to exercise its full role as set forth in paragraph 16 (5) of NAAEC, which stipulates that JPAC may provide the Secretariat with all relevant scientific or other information, particularly for establishing a factual record under Article 15.

We believe that the public consultation process is well underway and that it constitutes an essential component of the CEC's functions of communicating with and informing the public. The JPAC wishes to continue to participate in the public consultations.

In view of the foregoing, JPAC recommends to the Council that:

1. public consultations be more integrated into the CEC's programs and that additional efforts be made to ensure wider distribution of information on the CEC's role;
2. that JPAC continue to provide Council with proposals for the themes to be discussed during the public consultations and that these themes be concerned with subjects related to the CEC's work program;
3. that the CEC continue to promote public participation in general and, more specifically, participation by organizations with a local mission, particularly by continuing to offer financial assistance to individuals and nongovernmental organizations;
4. that public consultations be spread throughout the year rather than concentrated in a short period, with procedures and adequate time for JPAC to report to the Council on such consultations;
5. that the national advisory committees be invited to participate in the public consultations and that they be given a specific role;
6. that, at the same time, JPAC give its advice to the Council on all questions covered by NAAEC, including the strategic planning related to the CEC's work program, and provide the Secretariat with information that is relevant to the work of the CEC.

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERS OF JPAC

11 December 1997



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**JPAC ADVICE TO COUNCIL 97-3**

**“Assessment of the First Three Years of the Agreement”**

**THE JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**C O N S I D E R I N G**

- That Article 10, paragraph 1, subparagraph b of the NAAEC establishes that: “...the Council shall, within four years after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, review its operation and effectiveness in the light of experience”;
- That through Council Resolution 97-6, dated 12 June 1997, the Council asked JPAC to provide advice on the implementation and further elaboration of the NAAEC in the light of experience, and provide comments to the Council and the Review Committee by the end of 1997;
- That JPAC has actively participated throughout the year in the evaluation process: on the occasion of the NAAEC evaluation meeting held in Montreal on 18-19 April; at the special Council meeting convened on 24 October; and by asserting its vision of the CEC through JPAC Resolution of Advice 97-1 to Council;
- That the month of December was the deadline set by Council for JPAC to provide its views on the operation of the NAAEC;
- That, further to JPAC’s involvement in this assessment and participation in the meetings of the Experts’ Group chaired by Maurice Strong, we share the conclusion of this Committee and specifically endorse its recommendations;

JPAC summarizes the situation after three years as follows:

The CEC is an innovative institution; it is both maturing and deepening; and it is adding value in the sense that a range of environment problems are being addressed for the first time from a Continental perspective. These are significant achievements. At the same time, as a practical working agreement of cooperation across a continent, it is a model for the future management and development of a North American Community. However, the CEC is still fragile. It must receive a continuing and increased level of support and advocacy from the parties.

JPAC advises that four essentials must be fulfilled for the organization to continue to be as useful and effective as possible:

1. Its program of work should continue to focus on a few major themes and the achievement of concrete results, with a core interest in the trade-economy-environment relationship.
2. The Parties should demonstrate sustained, continued attention on issues and problems of implementation, now that several programs are “up and running.”
3. The Parties should commit themselves to achieve the level of funding initially agreed upon (US\$5 million/year from each party), given that the tendency to add new programs on a shrinking funding base is not advisable.
4. Strong advocacy and public commitment from the Parties (at the political and official level) to the goals and achievements of the Commission is necessary, so that the good work and practical problem-solving now going on is given due recognition.

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERS OF JPAC

11 December 1997



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**JPAC ADVICE TO COUNCIL 97-4**

**THE JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE,**

**C O N S I D E R I N G**

- That Article 10, paragraph 1(b) of the NAAEC provides that it is the Council's duty "...within four years after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, to review its operation and effectiveness in the light of experience;"
- That in connection with this process, in which JPAC has been involved, we have decided to include an analysis of the operation of the Committee itself;
- That Article 16, paragraph 4 of the NAAEC establishes that "...the Joint Public Advisory Committee may provide advice to the Council on any matter within the scope of this Agreement...";
- That Article 16, paragraph 2, states that "the Council shall establish the rules of procedure for the Joint Public Advisory Committee..."; and
- That Rule of Procedure 11 of JPAC establishes that the Rules may be amended by Council upon taking into account advice provided by the Committee.

Given all of the above, JPAC advises the CEC Council to amend the wording of the Rules of Procedure in order to adapt and adjust the operation of JPAC as follows:

**Rule: Proposed wording**

- 2.4 In regard to the appointment of Committee members, the term of office of each member shall be for three years and may be extended for additional periods of one, two or three years as may be deemed convenient by each Party. The termination date shall coincide with the annual regular session of the Council. Where no successor has been appointed, the member whose term has expired shall continue performing his duties until such time as a successor is appointed. A member who does not attend three consecutive meetings of JPAC, without an appropriate explanation being provided, shall be asked to resign.

- 3.1 The members of JPAC shall choose a Chairperson from among themselves to be appointed for a one-year term. The Chair shall rotate consecutively among the appointees of each Party, according to the following order: Canada, the United States and Mexico. A member who has previously been elected Chair may serve again in this capacity.
- 3.3 The Committee shall have an assistant to provide adequate technical support to the Chair. The appointment shall be made by the Chair in office and the appointee's salary shall be paid out of the budget allocated for the Committee's operating expenses.
- 4.1 JPAC shall convene at the time of the regular session of the Council and at least three times a year. Additional meetings may be convened at such other times as the Council or the Chair of JPAC, with the consent of a majority of its members, may decide. The members of JPAC may attend the meeting either in person or through electronic means.
- 4.3 The JPAC Chair shall ensure that minutes of the meetings are kept. The members of the JPAC shall have an opportunity to make corrections to the minutes prior to their being approved.
- 5.3 The JPAC shall ensure the active participation of the North American community, through the establishment of various public contact mechanisms, the most important of which are the public consultations in the three countries, which shall be held on a yearly basis.
- 8.1 After consulting with the members of the JPAC, the Chair shall prepare the provisional agenda for the meetings. The Secretariat shall circulate the provisional agenda in advance, together with the supporting documents, which shall be received by the members of JPAC at their places of origin at least eight days before each meeting.
- A comparative table containing the current and proposed wording of the Rules of Procedure is attached to this advice.

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERS OF JPAC:

11 December 1997.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

### Rules of Procedure of the JPAC

<i>Rule</i>	<i>Current wording</i>	<i>Proposed wording</i>
3.1	JPAC shall choose a Chair from among its members for a one-year term, renewable by JPAC for no more than two additional one-year terms. The Chair shall rotate consecutively among the appointees of each Party.	JPAC shall choose a Chair from among its members for a one-year term. The Chair shall rotate consecutively among the appointees of each Party, according to the following order: Canada, the United States and Mexico. A member who has previously been elected Chair may serve again in this capacity.
4.1	JPAC shall convene at least once a year at the time of the regular session of the Council and at such other times as the Council, or the JPAC chair, with the consent of a majority of the members, may decide. The members of JPAC may participate either in person or through electronic means.	JPAC shall convene at the time of the regular session of the Council and at least three times a year. Additional meetings may be convened at such other times as the Council or the Chair of JPAC, with the consent of a majority of its members, may decide. The members of JPAC may attend the meeting either in person or through electronic means.
4.3	JPAC shall choose one of its members at each meeting to keep the minutes. The members of JPAC shall have an opportunity to make corrections to the minutes before they are finalized.	The JPAC Chair shall ensure that minutes of the meetings are kept. The members of JPAC shall have an opportunity to make corrections to the minutes prior to their being approved.
8.1	The Chair, in consultation with the members of JPAC, shall prepare the provisional agenda for a meeting. The Executive Director shall distribute the provisional agenda, together with supporting documents, to the Council and to JPAC members 15 days before each meeting.	After consulting with the members of JPAC, the Chair shall prepare the provisional agenda for the meetings. The Secretariat shall circulate in advance the provisional agenda, together with the supporting documents, which shall be received by the members of JPAC at their places of origin at least eight days before each meeting.



**Rules of Procedure of the JPAC (continued)**

<i>Rule</i>	<i>Current wording</i>	<i>Proposed wording</i>
NEW	<p><i>Background:</i> JPAC Resolution of Advice 96-7 to Council, “Term of Office for the members of the JPAC”</p> <p><i>Proposed location:</i> Rule 2: Structure. (rule 2.4)</p>	<p>In regard to the appointment of Committee members, the term of office of each member shall be of three years and may be extended for additional periods of one, two or three years as may be deemed convenient by each Party. The termination date shall coincide with the annual regular session of the Council. Where no successor has been appointed, the member whose term has expired shall continue performing his duties until such time when a successor is appointed. A member who does not attend three consecutive meetings of JPAC, without an appropriate explanation being provided, shall be asked to resign.</p>
NEW	<p><i>Background:</i> JPAC Vision Statement (August 1994)</p> <p><i>Proposed location:</i> Rule 5: Duties. (rule 5.3)</p>	<p>JPAC shall ensure the active participation of the North American community, through the establishment of various public contact mechanisms, the most important of which is the public consultation meetings in the three countries, which shall be held on a yearly basis.</p>
NEW	<p><i>Proposed location:</i> Rule 3: Chair (rule 3.3)</p>	<p>The Committee shall have an assistant to provide adequate technical support to the Chair. The appointment shall be made by the Chair in office and the appointee’s salary shall be paid out of the budget allocated for the Committee’s operating expenses.</p>