



## COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

### Joint Public Advisory Committee Session 96-02 June 20, 1996

#### Summary Record

Members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) held a regular session on June 20, 1996 in Montreal, Canada. The agenda and list of participants can be found in Annex A and B respectively.

#### REPORT BY THE JPAC CHAIR

In his report, the Chair told JPAC members that two regional public meetings were being organized in preparation for the regular session of the Council scheduled for August 1 and 2, 1996 in Toronto. The regional public meetings will be held on June 21st in Montreal and July 19th in San Diego.

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR SESSION 96-02 (June 20, 1996)

The agenda was amended. The Chair informed JPAC members that an in-camera session would be held from 12:30 to 1:30 pm to discuss the Cozumel case. He said that the Commission's 1997 program and budget would be discussed at the next regular JPAC session on July 18th in San Diego.

#### APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF SESSION 96-01 (March 7-8, 1996)

The record of Session 96-1 was approved on April 18th through a memorandum sent to JPAC members on April 4th.

#### REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In his report, the Executive Director of the CEC Secretariat told JPAC members about the principal matters on which the Commission was working:

- Preparations for the regular session of Council on August 1 and 2 in Toronto. The Executive Director invited JPAC members to submit any recommendations they might have for the content of the Ministerial program.
- Implementation of the projects in the 1996 program.

- The strong public interest in the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC). In this regard, the Executive Director reminded those present that the organizations which will receive grants will be chosen by members of the NAFEC Selection Committee and that the Secretariat is not involved in the decision-making process.
- The Secretariat's proposal to the Parties for the 1997 program and budget is being prepared. The Secretariat is awaiting suggestions in this regard from the three governments. As soon as the document is ready, the Secretariat will send JPAC a copy to obtain its views.

**Action: Parties / Secretariat**

## **PLANS FOR THE PREPARATORY PUBLIC SESSIONS ORGANIZED BY JPAC**

The Chair gave a report on the planning and organization of the public regional meetings in Montreal and San Diego, and noted that he would be chairing them. Following these meetings and the Council's public meeting in Toronto, JPAC will prepare a final report which will be submitted to Council and released to the public. It was noted that a budget of US \$15,000 has been allocated to help non-government organizations (NGOs) attend the meetings. Organizations designated by the three governments recommend which NGOs will receive financial aid.

The project managers involved in preparing discussion papers on the four topics to be discussed at the regional public meetings, presented this material to JPAC members.

With respect to reducing the human health risks of environmental contamination in North America, Committee members recommended focusing specifically on the issue of air pollution and its impact on human health other related issues were discussed, including dose-receptor relationships and endocrine disruptors.

Regarding the conservation of North American biodiversity, it was suggested that the efforts of NAFTA's three member-countries be underscored and the emphasis placed on regional cooperation. Equally important are the issues related to migratory birds, the regions that have to be integrated into a biogeographic system, the maps of the ecoregions, as well as the cooperation in the areas of marine ecosystems and land distribution.

Concerning the matter of strengthening environmental and economic ties in North America, it was pointed out that studies on this matter have already been conducted elsewhere around the world, and that their findings are valid and applicable to North America.

As for the presentation on public participation in CEC activities, it will emphasize the CEC's desire to get the public interested in development of the work program, as well as in the necessity of establishing parameters for the use of this type of approach.

It is understood that the documentation is intended to serve as a basis for discussion rather than to impose the views of JPAC members or the Commission. The purpose of the discussions with the public is to focus on opportunities for cooperation among NAFTA's three member-countries and to define clearly what the CEC's mandate is.

Finally, the Chair informed members that the Alternate Representatives have approved a total budget of US \$111,900 for the regional public meetings, which will be provided by the Council.

## **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 1996 ANNUAL PROGRAM**

CEC Secretariat project managers gave JPAC members progress reports on some of their work.

Regarding the project on the environmental impact of NAFTA, the Secretariat reported on the meeting of experts held in La Jolla, California, last April. A report on the meeting is being prepared and will be sent to JPAC members upon publication. It was suggested that the content of the report emphasize NAFTA's long-term objectives while taking into consideration the economic development of the three countries.

The issue of capacity building is common to three projects: environmental education and training; environmental management capacity building; and cooperation in the area of pollution prevention.

With respect to the first project on environmental education and training, the initial phase involved releasing a report to the public in the fall. The report will stress the demand for this type of service among transformation industries in Mexico and share information on environmental education in North America. It will also deal with the problem posed by the accreditation and professional recognition of environmental experts in Mexico.

The main objectives of the second project on management capacity building in the State of Guanajuato are to encourage participation by the local population, as well as the active involvement of NGOs in programs designed to improve the quality and management of environmental services at the state level in Mexico. The project also aims to find financial mechanisms for the clean-up of Río Turbio.

The third project on cooperation in the area of pollution prevention is intended to promote the adoption of pollution-prevention techniques, technologies and programs by small and medium-sized businesses in the three countries. In April 1996, the CEC organized a satellite training course for 400 Mexican personnel from small and medium sized industries. A Memorandum of Agreement to create a fund designed to promote the establishment of financial mechanisms for supporting pollution-prevention efforts by small and medium-sized businesses will be proposed at the regular session of Council in August. The experience gained in the pilot project in Mexico will be used to establish similar activities in the United States and Canada.

Atmospheric issues were discussed within the context of the project on modeling and evaluating air quality in North America. The main objective of this project is to develop cooperative long term air quality monitoring and assessment programs in North America through 1) promoting the correction and exchange of appropriate data and 2) the development and application of appropriate models.

Finally, the project on the sound management of chemical products uses Resolution 95-5 adopted by Council last year, which includes PCBs, DDT, chlordane and mercury for which a regional action plan must be submitted to Council by December 15, 1996.

### **PLANS FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL**

The Committee briefly discussed the draft program and the agenda for the Council session to be held on August 1 and 2 in Toronto, Canada.

It was noted that the CEC's 1997 program and budget would be discussed at the Ministerial in-camera session on August 2, so that the Ministers could take into consideration the comments made at the public meeting on August 1.

The Secretariat informed JPAC members that the issue of cooperation in enforcing environmental legislation is on the agenda for the Ministerial session and that three intergovernmental groups (a work group on Enforcement Cooperation, a task force on the annual report and a task force on wildlife and flora) are presently developing joint initiatives in this regard.

The Chair noted that he expects to participate in the in-camera session on August 2nd when the Ministers discuss items 8 and 9, namely "Public Participation: Preliminary Conclusions and Follow-Up" and "1997 Program and Budget".

**Action: JPAC**

### **FACTUAL RECORD ON THE COZUMEL CASE**

The JPAC and CEC Secretariat discussed in-camera the Secretariat opinion letter to the Environment Ministers that a factual record be prepared in response to a petition from citizens alleging a failure to effectively enforce environmental legislation during the process for approving a plan for port facilities at Cozumel, Mexico.

The decision to hold this session in-camera is pursuant to Article 2 of Annex A: Standards of Conduct, Confidentiality and Travel of JPAC's Rules of Procedure, which states that "JPAC members shall safeguard from public disclosure any information received in their official capacity from a Party, the Council, the Secretariat, or a member of the public, where the information is designated by that entity as confidential or proprietary."

**Action: Council**

## **NORTH AMERICAN FUND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**

The Coordinator of the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC) informed JPAC members that the NAFEC has received over 400 applications for grants. The Selection Committee is now about to decide which applicants should submit a full proposal.

JPAC members emphasized the need to ensure that each subsidized project has sufficient resources to proceed to a final evaluation. They noted that JPAC has a mandate to assess the Fund's performance during its first two years of operation.

In closing, it was noted that the NAFEC may solicit and accept additional funding to increase its capital — an activity for which some of the Fund's administrators and the Secretariat were already preparing.

**Action: NAFEC**

## **PLANNING FOR THE MEETING WITH THE BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION**

JPAC members approved the following draft agenda for the informal meeting on July 18th in San Diego with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC):

- Welcome and opening remarks by JPAC Chair Jonathan Plaut.
- Presentation by BECC representative Jorge Bustamante.
- Presentation by the Co-Chairs of the BECC Advisory Council, Sandra Ferniza and Oscar Romo.
- Summary of BECC projects underway.
- Summary of CEC projects underway.
- Discussion by participants.

**Action: JPAC**

## **PRESENTATION BY THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE**

Tyrus Fain, Assistant Commissioner for Federal Relations with the Texas General Land Office, gave JPAC members a presentation on the Transborder Resource Inventory Project (TRIP). This project is a regionally based initiative which seeks to have the shared resources of the United States-Mexico border region measured, mapped, and made available through the Internet on a Geographic Information System (GIS). Special attention is being paid to natural resources such as airsheds, aquifers, surface water, hydrocarbons, ecosystems, and renewable resources. Aerial photography, a digitized base map, and a GIS encompass significant transboundary resources, ecosystems, and areas of intense cross-border interaction, pertaining to public health, transportation, population movements, and economic activity.

Following the presentation, the necessity of making atmospheric data compatible in order to effectively assess air quality on each side of the border was raised.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

To facilitate the flow of information between JPAC members and the Secretariat, at the next regular JPAC session the Secretariat will submit recommendations for effectively transmitting and monitoring communication between the two organizations.

In closing, the Chair informed JPAC members that the CEC's 1995 Annual Report should be available shortly.

**Action: Secretariat**

**NEXT SESSIONS**

The schedule for the next public sessions of JPAC is as follows:

- JPAC regular session: July 18 in San Diego
- Preparatory regional session: July 19 in San Diego
- Council public session: August 1 in Toronto
- JPAC regular session: August 2 in Toronto

**ADJOURNMENT**

The session adjourned at 4 pm on June 20, 1996.

Prepared by Manon Pepin  
July 1, 1996

**JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE SESSION N° 96-02**

**Thursday, June 20, 1996 in Montreal**

CEC Secretariat (Council Room)  
393 St Jacques West, Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
Phone: (514) 350-4300 Fax: (514) 350-4314  
E-mail: [www.ccemtl.org](http://www.ccemtl.org)

**Agenda**

- 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Overview by the Chair
- 8:45 a.m. Agenda Approval  
Approval of the Summary Record of Session N° 96-01 (March 7-8, 1996)
- 9:00 a.m. Executive Director's Report
- 9:15 a.m. Planning: JPAC Public Preparatory Meetings
- Discussion Papers Presentations: Project Managers
  - Meetings Procedure
  - Budget
- 10:00 a.m. 1996 Annual Program Follow-up
- NAFTA Environment Effects: Sarah Richardson
  - Capacity Building: Hernando Guerrero
  - Air & Sound Management of Chemicals Issues: Lisa Nichols
- 11:00 a.m. Planning: Council Regular Session
- Council Session Program
  - Provisional Annotated Agenda Presentation: Janine Ferretti
- 12:00 p.m. In-camera Session: Factual Record on the Cozumel Case
- 1:00 p.m. Luncheon & CICEANA Video Presentation  
JPAC Room
- 2:00 p.m. North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation
- Presentation: Janice Astbury
- 2:30 p.m. Planning: Meeting with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission
- Agenda / Contents
- 3:00 p.m. Presentation by Tyrus Fain: Texas Transboundary Resource Inventory Project
- 3:15 p.m. Others Matters
- 3:30 p.m. End of the Regular Session

**JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE SESSION N° 96-02**

**Thursday, June 20, 1996 in Montreal**

**List of Participants**

**Members:**

**Canada**

Michael Cloghesy  
Louise Comeau

**Mexico**

Francisco Barnes  
Guillermo Barroso  
Jorge Bustamante  
Maria Cristina Castro  
Ivan Restrepo

**The United States**

Peter Berle  
Jon Plaut (Chair)  
Jean Richardson  
John Wirth

**CEC Secretariat Staff:**

Victor Lichtinger  
Janine Ferretti  
Greg Block  
Janice Astbury  
Hernando Guerrero  
Manon Pepin  
Marc Paquin  
Irene Pisanty  
Lisa Nichols  
Sarah Richardson  
Rachel Vincent

**Observers:**

Rita Cerutti	Environment Canada
Abby Curkett	Consultant
Raul Deju	US National Advisory Committee Member
Tyrus Fain	Texas General Land Office
Adam Greene	United States Council for International Business
Lena Nirk	US EPA
Dan Torrez	Office of Dan Morales