

## Abstract

of paper proposed for the

Commission for Environmental Cooperation's  
**North American Symposium on Understanding  
the Linkages between Trade and Environment**

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### **Relationship between Wastewater Treatment and NAFTA**

by the Arizona Center for Law and Public Interest (USA)

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This paper will have two focuses. First, it will focus on wastewater treatment plant violations before and after NAFTA was established. Second, it will focus on whether NAFTA has facilitated the dissemination of important information relating to water quality issues along the border. Both of these issues are an integral part of assessing NAFTA's effect on the environment, and predicting the future of environmental quality in the border region.

In a research paper, I will seek to apply the *Final Analytic Framework Assessing the Environmental Effects of NAFTA* to determine the impact of NAFTA on the major wastewater treatment facilities in Southern Arizona and Northern Sonora, Mexico. Utilizing the Water Indicators described in section V, B of the *Framework*, I will analyze the effect that NAFTA has had on the major wastewater treatment facilities within 100 kilometers on both sides of the Arizona-Mexico border area. My analysis will incorporate data recording the number and type of violations prior to NAFTA, and the same, post-NAFTA. In addition, this paper will further analyze the effect NAFTA-established agencies, such as the NADBank, have had on the wastewater infrastructure (including construction, upgrades, and overall users) along the Arizona-Mexico border area.

Research for this project will require assistance from government agencies on both sides of the border. As a result, I will apply the *Framework* and determine whether NAFTA's goals of open records and cooperation among agencies are being met.