

Montreal, 9 June 2010

Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment, Canada

Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency

Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada
Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Mexico

Dear Council members:

Hoping that this letter finds you well, I am writing, as directed by the members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) during a conference call held last week, to bring the following concerns to your attention.

- 1) Recalling the requirement in NAAEC Article 9(3) that the Council members meet at least once annually, we are very surprised and disappointed that, to date, the Council has not agreed on a date for the annual Council Session that normally takes place in June. Indeed, we note with concern that this is the first time ever that the Council Session has not been held in June. Although we understand the challenge in coordinating your schedules this year, we urge you to bear in mind that the lack of a date for the Council Session this late in the year presents considerable difficulties for the JPAC members and members of the public who wish to attend the Session. Typically, as you know, the logistics for the Council Session require months of advance planning. We are increasingly concerned about our ability to line up, on short notice, the distinguished experts we hope to invite. Given this situation, we respectfully yet urgently ask you to overcome whatever differences or difficulties are involved and, in the overriding interest of the North American environment, to fix a date for the Council Session as expeditiously as possible.
- 2) We are disappointed that we have received no response to our four Advices and the Effectiveness Review Report, which were sent to the Council since August 2009. This absence of communication surprises us, in that we discussed with you our concerns about the lack of Council responsiveness to JPAC communications during the joint meeting of the JPAC and the Council at the Regular Session in Denver in June 2009. On that occasion, you committed to work closely with us to improve communications between the Council and the JPAC. Unfortunately, we see no improvement in the situation. We hope we can revisit this topic at the upcoming Council Session and find a solution that will improve our communications.



Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)
Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)
Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

- 3) We are concerned that any further delay in producing a draft Strategic Plan will hinder the ability of JPAC and the public to participate in contributing to the direction of the CEC over the next five years. In order to allow for a meaningful period of time for public comment and for JPAC to provide you with advice on the draft plan in advance of the Council Session, we urge you to provide us with the draft Strategic Plan as soon as possible.

Thanking you in advance for your attention, we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Glen Wright
JPAC Chair for 2010

c.c.: Alternate representatives
Evan Lloyd, CEC Executive Director
GSC representatives
JPAC members