



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

19 March 2009

Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment, Canada

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

Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Council members:

On behalf of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC), I am writing in relation to the simultaneous expiration of the terms of all the Canadian members on 31 December 2008. We have been informed by Environment Canada that none of the previous members will be reappointed, and that none may act as interim members while awaiting the appointment of the new Canadian JPAC members.

This is the third letter we have written on this matter (the first, signed by then-JPAC Chair Jane Gardner of the United States, was dated 24 November 2008, while the second was dated 16 January 2009) but we have not yet had a favorable response.

Since according to the JPAC rules, a quorum requires the presence of three members from each of the Parties, it is mandatory that we have Canadian representatives on the JPAC. We were very surprised and disappointed that even though it was well known that the term of the Canadian JPAC members was set to expire on December 31, not only were the corresponding decisions not made in a timely manner, but they have not been made as of this writing.

This unprecedented situation has affected the operational and decision-making capacity of the main advisory body of the CEC to the extent that we have been forced to cancel the meeting planned for Monterrey, Mexico, on 15–16 April 2009. Furthermore, our ability to contact and communicate with the public has been undermined—a situation contrary to the spirit of the NAAEC with its emphasis on transparency and public participation.

We therefore see the need to reiterate respectfully yet vehemently our request that the missing members of JPAC be appointed without delay.



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Sincerely,

Adriana Nelly Correa Sandoval
JPAC Chair for 2009

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