

Morelia, 27 June 2007

COUNCIL RESOLUTION: 07-14

Reporting on the state of the environment in North America

THE COUNCIL:

REAFFIRMING the provisions of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, notably for the Secretariat to periodically report on the state of the environment in the territories of the Parties;

RECOGNIZING the importance to the Council of the highest quality scientific information for the purposes of decision making as stewards of the environment within their respective territories and collectively as the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC);

NOTING the utility of an appraisal of current North American environmental conditions to inform and stimulate the Council's deliberations on cooperative activities, to inform the CEC's next strategic plan, and to aid in the development of the cooperative work program; and

FURTHER NOTING as well the continuing cooperation of our officials in support of the above activities;

HEREBY:

AUTHORIZES and DIRECTS that an amount not to exceed C\$80,000 from the CEC General Fund be allocated in financial year 2007 to prepare briefing papers on major North American environmental themes to be presented to the Council at our 2008 regular session; and

FURTHER DIRECTS the Secretariat to undertake the activities assigned to it as outlined in the document attached as Annex 1 to this Resolution.

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL:

John Baird
Government of Canada

Juan Elvira Quesada
Government of the United Mexican States

Stephen L. Johnson
Government of the United States of America

Annex 1 to Council Resolution 07-14

Commission for Environmental Cooperation Reporting on the State of the North American Environment

Summary Work Plan

Concept

The purpose of this activity is to:

1. identify key environmental themes with relevance at the North American scale;
2. inform and stimulate the Council's deliberations on cooperative activities;
3. provide a North American view of environmental issues and themes rather than comparing the performance of Parties or specific jurisdictions;
4. provide insight into continental conditions and issues, not merely summarize existing national reports;
5. track environmental issues and themes over time on a continental scale to allow decision makers to assess trends;
6. complement international processes in which the Parties participate; and
7. inform the development of the CEC's 2010–2015 strategic plan.

The CEC Secretariat will work with a Party-designated advisory group to complete this activity. This advisory group has recommended an acceleration of the work plan for this activity, requiring supplemental funding for 2007 tasks.

Supplemental costs in 2007 are estimated to be approximately C\$80,000 to research and write briefing papers that would describe approximately 15 major North American environmental themes. These briefing papers would be completed by the end of 2007 to allow time for editing, expert and party review, and clearance before presentation to the Council in 2008.

The information synthesized as a consequence of this activity will inform the development of the CEC's cooperative work plan and the Commission's 2010–2015 strategic plan.

Stages

May 2007	First scoping meeting with Party experts—completed
June 2007	Approval of additional budget to prepare issue papers—requested
June 2007	State of the Environment (SOE) Advisory Group (SOEAG) formation—completed
July 2007	Approval of SOEAG Terms of Reference—in progress
June–July 2007	Review of/revisions to Proposed Approach—in progress
June–July 2007	Development of Terms of Reference for consultants who will write briefing papers—in progress
July–Aug. 2007	Development of lists of key information sources for SOE topics

July–Aug. 2007	Development of contracts for research and writing briefing papers
–+Sept. 2007	Second scoping meeting to finalize topics and process
Sept.–Dec. 2007	Contracts in effect for writing briefing papers
Dec. 2007	Delivery of draft briefing papers
Jan.–Mar 2008	Editing and review of briefing papers
Mar.–May 2008	Party review of briefing papers
June 2008	Report to Council on issue papers and recommendations for continuation of activity