



**Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) Activities Report
to the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
since June 2006**

This table is intended to provide Council with an overview of JPAC activities since the June 2006 Regular Session of Council to assist discussions during the annual joint Council/JPAC session in June 2007.

Please note that JPAC activities have been undertaken IN ACCORDANCE with Article 16(4) of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), which states that JPAC “may provide advice to Council on any matter within the scope of this agreement [...] and on the implementation and further elaboration of this agreement, and may perform such other functions as the Council may direct”; and with Article 16(5), which provides that JPAC “may provide relevant technical, scientific or other information to the Secretariat, including for purposes of developing a factual record under Article 15. The Secretariat shall forward to the Council copies of any such information.”

Please note the internal Council policy for producing responses to JPAC advice states that a response should be sent out **“within eight weeks of receiving the advice.”**

JPAC Activity and Context	Description	Status or Result
Advice to Council 06-01 On: Renewable Energy Alternatives: Bio-Fuels, Solar Energy and Wind Power <i>(Distributed on 29 November 2006)</i>	JPAC conducted a public workshop entitled: “Renewable Energy Alternatives: Bio-fuels, Solar Energy and Wind Power,” on Tuesday, 27 June 2006, in Washington, DC. Expert speakers from government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector provided an overview of the potential of these alternatives in North America. As a result JPAC formulated an advice to Council based largely on the recommendations from the stakeholders in attendance. JPAC recognizes the important work that the CEC is undertaking to promote the use of Renewable Energy in North America, and encourages the Council to work with each of their domestic governments to increase their procurement of renewable energy and to harmonize and/or coordinate their policies.	Council replied, expressing appreciation for JPAC’s recognition of the work undertaken by the CEC noting that some of the recommendations will be useful in the current design of the CEC Project “Promoting the North American Renewable Energy Market”. <i>(Response received on 12 June 2007)</i>
Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 06-03 15 September 2006 Montreal, Qc	The main objective of this session was to provide the public with an overview and opportunity to discuss the CEC Work Program. Key members of the CEC Secretariat presented the projects under each of the	The draft version of the operational Plan of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation 2007–2009 is posted on the CEC Website for a 30 day public consultation period.

	three priority areas: Information for Decision-making, Capacity Building, and Trade and Environment.	Taking into consideration the comments received from the public, JPAC to provide an Advice to Council (06-02)
Advice to Council 06-02 Re: Commission for Environmental Cooperation Operational Plan for 2007–2009 <i>(Distributed on 11 December 2006)</i>	After having conducted their meeting on 15 September; JPAC received the proposed CEC Operational Plan for 2007–2009 which was posted on the CEC Website for a 30 day public consultation period. JPAC formulates and Advice to Council largely based on the comments received at their session, and includes a summary with the recommendations received by the public during their consultation period. In its Advice, JPAC recommends the following: ▪ Reaching out to governmental institutions/agencies (including municipalities), academic institutions, and nongovernmental institutions within Canada, Mexico and the United States ▪ The importance of gauging in advance that a voluntary approach such as the CEP3 is better than a mandatory one such as the European RoHS Directive ▪ To ensure that CEC projects do not overlook public data and therefore avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and expense. ▪ To endeavour to set target dates and specific goals for each project. ▪ To make the document more concise and user friendly.	Council replied, and informed the JPAC that the recommendations and public comments were provided to the Secretariat, for their consideration during the implementation and further development of the cooperative activities. They also noted the importance of reaching out to multiple stakeholders and noted that they would be considering this in the refinement of a “CEC communication strategy”. Regarding the CEC’s Clean Electronics Pollution Prevention Partnership; they expressed support for JPAC’s recommendation and also clarified that one of the main objectives of the project is not only to reduce toxics in products, but to address energy efficiency and end-life management of products. They concur on the importance of the use of public data to avoid duplication, and will consider this as they move forward with the CEC information projects. <i>(Response received on 12 June 2007)</i>
Session 06-06 of the Alternates Representatives 17 October 2006 Montreal, Qc	The JPAC Chair, Carlos Sandoval, provided an update on JPAC activities, which included: ▪ Report on the JPAC 06-03 Montreal meeting ▪ JPAC Advice on the 2007-2009 Operational Plan, to be discussed and finalized with the JPAC members at	The US Alternate Representative mentioned that the US was interested in seeing a broader involvement of the public in CEC activities and that he would be seeking the advice of the US NAC and GAC on this issue. He suggested that JPAC foster a

	their next meeting in Cancún. - JPAC workshop on “Roundtable on Conservation and Trade”, to take place in Cancún, Quintana Roo (7-8 Nov. 06) - JPAC first 2007 meeting in conjunction with the CEC Green Building International Symposium, to be held in Seattle, Washington, on 1 and 2 May.	greater involvement of the private sector in their activities given that the engagement of the private sector could lead to the leveraging of CEC resources.
US NAC & GAC Meeting 19 October 2006 El Paso, Texas	The JPAC Chair, Carlos Sandoval, provided an update on JPAC activities, which included: - Report on the JPAC 06-03 Montreal meeting which objective was to provide the public with an overview and opportunity to discuss the CEC Work Program - Announcement of the first meeting for 2007 in conjunction with the Article 13 symposium on Green Building in North America, which will take place in the month of May in Seattle, Washington - JPAC to provide an Advice to Council on the 2007-2009 Operation Plan. This would take into account the comments received on behalf of the public at the Montreal meeting, as well as those expected to be received during the 30 day public consultation period - Last JPAC meeting for 2006; a roundtable on “Trade in North America: Opportunities and Challenges for Conservation.	<i>On going</i>
Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 06-04 7–8 November 2006 “Roundtable on Conservation and Trade” Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico	JPAC held its last session for 2006 in coordination with the CEC Biodiversity Program. The roundtable was entitled “Trade in North America: Opportunities and Challenges for Conservation” The main objective of this roundtable was to better understand the challenges and opportunities for conservation within the context of trade and environment links between the three countries.	The JPAC Members agree to formulate an Advice to Council based on the recommendations received by the experts and on the public comments. (07-01)

Advice to Council 07-01 Re: Roundtable on Conservation and Trade <i>(Distributed on 11 June 2007)</i>	This Advice to Council resulted from the commentary and recommendations that were received during the JPAC Session 06-04 that was held in Cancun, Mexico. It provides specific recommendations for Council consideration, under the three program priorities, to further enhance conservation efforts in North America.	<i>No response to date</i>
Session 07-01 of the Alternate Representatives 31 January 2007 Conference call	The JPAC Chair, Irene Henriques, participated in the teleconference, which had as a main objective the approval of use of pre-2006 surplus funds for 2007 budget expenses.	The Alternate Representatives voted in favor of draft Council Resolution 07-01 which approves the use of surplus funds from pre-2006 financial years for 2007 budget expenses. This resolution supersedes Council Resolution 06-13 signed on 19 December 2006. The Canadian representative took the opportunity to convey that their department was working steadfastly with the new Canadian Environment Minister to obtain CEC funding for 2007.
Session 07-02 of the Alternate Representatives 7 February 2007 Conference call	The JPAC Chair, Irene Henriques, participated in the teleconference which focused exclusively on the approval of the 2007-2009 Operational Plan document, including the overall budget of the CEC for 2007.	The Alternate Representatives expressed unanimous support and approved the final draft 2007-2009 Operational Plan and the corresponding budget for 2007. Regarding next year's Operational Plan, the US Alternate Representative noted that he looked forward to an operational plan which would allow an even more strategic alignment of CEC priorities in 2008.
Session 07-03 of the Alternate Representatives 7 March 2007 Conference call	The JPAC Chair, Irene Henriques, participated in the teleconference and provided an update on JPAC Activities which included: ▪ The Symposium on Green Buildings to be held in Seattle, 1-2 May 2007. She explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on green buildings and prepare a report to be submitted to the Secretariat based	The US Alternate Representative welcomed the JPAC Chair to the upcoming meetings to be held in Washington (in March with indigenous communities and in April with the US NAC/GAC). He also welcomed the opportunity to meet with her privately and also offered to arrange meetings with other officials. The JPAC Chair accepts his invitation to meet with him during her visit.

	on the public consultation. ▪ She also noted she would be participating in a meeting with indigenous communities in Washington at the end of March and would be facilitating a meeting with indigenous representatives in Winnipeg in the fall. ▪ Regarding the 2007 Council Session, she reported that JPAC was interested in fostering the participation of municipalities and cities in an effort to reach out to a wider range of stakeholders. ▪ The JPAC Chair shared three concerns requiring action by the Parties. The first concern related to the fact that Canada has not yet appointed a fifth JPAC member (a position left vacant since the departure of Dan Christmas). She suggested that consideration be given to appointing an indigenous representative. Her second concern related to the fact that there is currently no Canadian National Advisory Committee. She shared that the public had expressed disappointment in this regard. Thirdly, she indicated that JPAC was pleased with the publication of the Ontario Logging factual record but that JPAC remained concerned by the pending SEM issues. She urged Council to take necessary action on the pending SEM votes.	Regarding the appointment of the fifth Canadian JPAC member and the formation of the Canadian NAC, Jenna Mackay-Alie explained that her office was endeavouring to bring this issue to the attention of Minister Baird and that she was hopeful that appointments could be announced in the coming months. The Mexican Alternate Representative shared that he had been reviewing the agenda for the symposium and that Mexico was very supportive of the agenda and impressed with the list of invited speakers, which were all recognized leaders in the field
Pre-planning meeting for the North American Indigenous Environmental Health Assembly 27-28 March 2007 Washington, D.C.	The JPAC Chair, Irene Henriques, and JPAC Liaison Officer, Marcela Orozco, attend the North American Indigenous Environmental Health Assembly Pre-Planning Meeting. The objectives of the Pre-Planning Meeting were: to solicit interest in a North American Indigenous Peoples Environmental Health Assembly in 2008; for indigenous representatives and elders to provide advice on the direction and vision of the conference; and, to establish a planning committee and strategy for implementation.	The Assembly will take place sometime between January and March 2008. It was also agreed that a location in Mexico would likely be the best option for the Assembly. The second option will be Canada. The U.S. was not seen as a likely location due to Visa requirements for Mexican visitors. It was agreed that all three countries would have an equal number of participants (50 per country). It

		was agreed that elders, youth, government officials, community people/grassroots organizations interested in environmental health issues, political territorial organizations/tribal organizations (i.e. AFN), spiritual leaders, traditional practitioners, community/national/international organizations with an interest in environmental health issues, tribal leadership/governments, and media would be amongst those invited. Budget: All participants at the Pre-Planning Meeting would seek funding from various sources – government, indigenous organizations, private sector and funding foundations, An International Steering Committee of two Indigenous representatives from each country was established.
US NAC & GAC Meeting 18-19 April, 2007 Alexandria, Virginia	The JPAC Chair, Irene Henriques, provided an update on JPAC activities, which included: ▪ JPAC's first meeting for 2007 in conjunction with the symposium on green building in North America, to take place in May in Seattle, Washington ▪ JPAC to provide a report to the Secretariat on the meeting's outcome, in accordance to its mandate ▪ JPAC working towards the participation of Indigenous Communities in the work of the CEC (mentioned the North American Indigenous Environmental Health Forum: Pre-Planning Meeting) ▪ JPAC's public workshop in conjunction with the Council Session entitled: "Environmental Facts, Trends and Scenarios in North America".	<i>On going</i>

Session 07-04 of the Alternate Representatives meeting 26 April 2007 Cuernavaca, Mexico	The JPAC Chair, Irene Henriques, provided an update on JPAC activities, which included: ▪ Up date on the Symposium on Green Building. ▪ JPAC's public workshop in conjunction with the Council Session. She reported that keynote speakers had been invited to present their views on emerging environmental trends in North America. She also indicated that a special feature would be a discussion on the plight of the monarch butterfly, followed by a video on their journey across North America. She noted that speakers will be invited to present sustainable forestry practices in the three countries which can be used to protect the monarch butterfly. Given that JPAC was still at the planning stage of the workshop she welcomed comments from the Alternate Representatives. ▪ She confirmed that an indigenous networking meeting will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on the 25 & 26 September 2007 and indicated that JPAC was interested in developing a network of indigenous communities in order to share information and success stories related to sustainable environmental practices.	The Mexican Alternate Representative commended the JPAC Chair for the numerous ideas put forward by JPAC. He noted that these ideas were in line with the CEC work program and was hopeful that synergies could be built in this regard. He conveyed that the government of Mexico thought very highly of the work carried out by JPAC in recent years and considered JPAC of great assistance in fulfilling Mexico's commitment to public participation. The Canadian representative noted that Winnipeg was a particularly appropriate location for the indigenous networking meeting given its large aboriginal community. She encouraged JPAC to pursue topics which were in line with CEC's work and expressed support for a potential role for the CEC in the indigenous health and environment conference. Turning to JPAC's public workshop prior to the Council Session, she commented that the topic was prescient given that an inquiry into emerging trends would likely be carried out by the CEC in the next year. The US Alternate Representative acknowledged that the relationship among the Secretariat, JPAC and Council had been strained in past years but that this had now faded away and given place to solid cooperation, an open dialogue and transparency. Referring to the symposium on green building, he expressed certainty that a terrific report was being developed and acknowledged the good relationship between the Parties and the Secretariat throughout the process. Regarding JPAC's workshop planned for 26 June, he indicated he looked forward to the presentations and video on monarch butterflies
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		and asked that JPAC also consider what has been learned in this area which could be replicated to other critical species in North America. He noted that, in terms of the linkage between forestry and monarch protection, the states of Chiapas and Wisconsin had been partnering and sharing experiences in recent years. Turning to the conference with indigenous communities, he stressed the potential contribution of indigenous tribes to tackling environmental issues in North America. He noted that this conference represented yet another example of how the catalytic nature of the CEC could be put to profit and how this offered a model to be replicated in the western hemisphere.
Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 07-01 1-2 May 2007 Green Building: Opportunities and Challenges in Canada, Mexico and the United States Seattle, Washington	On 1–2 May 2007, the CEC held a second public meeting in Seattle, Washington, to discuss draft background papers on the four topics to be addressed in the final report. On May 1, authors of the background papers presented their preliminary findings to an audience that included the CEC Advisory Group on Green Building, the CEC Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC), and the public. Each presentation was followed by questions, comments, and discussion. On May 2, JPAC held a public forum to continue discussion of the paper topics.	JPAC provides the Secretariat with a report: Green Building in North America: International Symposium Summary of Public Comments and Discussion. <i>(Distributed on 12 June 2007)</i>