



**Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) Activity Report
to the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
since June 2009**

This table is intended to provide Council with an overview of JPAC activities since the June 2009 Regular Session of Council to assist discussions during the annual joint Council/JPAC session in August 2010.

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
Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 09-01 22–23 June 2009 “JPAC Workshop on Climate Policy Coherence in North America” Denver, Colorado	The main objective of the meeting was to examine the prospects for Canada, Mexico and the United States to enhance national efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to our changing climate through cooperation at a North American level. The focus of the session was on joint solutions and cooperative measures, including policy and technical responses.	During the portion of the JPAC Regular Session, the members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice: Advice 09-01: JPAC Workshop on Climate Policy Coherence in North America
Advice to Council 09-01 Re: JPAC Workshop on Climate Policy Coherence in North America <i>(Distributed on 13 August 2009)</i>	After having had the opportunity to analyze the implications of climate change in the North American region during their workshop, as well as hearing the opinions from citizens, businessmen and experts; JPAC submitted a series of recommendations for Council’s consideration, on how the three nations could establish a North American climate change agenda or regime.	Council replied that the JPAC Advice had been considered during the government trilateral consultations for the development of the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan, specifically under Council priority: Climate Change–Low-Carbon Economy. <i>(Response received on 17 June 2010)</i>
Meeting of the JPAC Working Group on Effectiveness 24–25 August 2009 Montreal, Quebec	The JPAC Chair, Adriana Nelly Correa, along with Glen Wright, Gustavo Alanis and Ralph Marquez, met in Montreal to discuss the prospects for enhancing the effectiveness of JPAC and, by association, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of which JPAC is one component.	As a result of the meeting, the JPAC members commissioned the “Joint Public Advisory Committee Effectiveness Review Report”

<p>Session 09-01 of the Alternate Representatives 28 August 2009 Conference call</p>	<p>The JPAC chair mentioned JPAC's recent advice to Council that followed the Denver workshop on Climate Policy Coherence in North America, noting that many of the climate policy challenges can be met successfully through increased cooperation, and that she hoped that the information provided would contribute in Council's deliberations.</p> <p>She also referred to a JPAC Working Group meeting that had been held recently in Montreal (24–25 August) to discuss ways to enhance JPAC's mandate. She indicated that a report had been commissioned and would be submitted to the Parties for their consideration in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Finally, she mentioned that a private working meeting would be held at the CEC Secretariat headquarters on 24–25 September to discuss JPAC priorities for the remainder of 2009 and for 2010. She expressed JPAC's desire to be engaged in the discussion of the development of the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan under the three new priorities, and communicated that the last JPAC meeting of 2009 would be held in Baja California at the end of November or early December.</p>	<p>The Canadian Alternate Representative emphasized how Minister Prentice valued JPAC's advice and that the committee's recommendations on efficiency would provide timely information to the Parties.</p> <p>The US representative indicated that they were in the process of naming new JPAC members and asked whether the dates for their next private working meeting were flexible. The JPAC chair responded that the purpose of holding the meeting at the end of September was to ensure JPAC's timeliness in providing comments on the first draft 2010 Operational Plan.</p> <p>The Mexican Alternate Representative acknowledged the importance of JPAC's contribution to the development of the next strategic plan, adding that this was in line with what the ministers had agreed upon in Denver. In relation to the latest JPAC advice, he reported that processes were underway at the North American level on climate policy matters. He also indicated that he looked forward to participating in the JPAC meetings and to receiving JPAC's advice on intra-CEC efficiency.</p>
<p>JPAC Meeting with the CEC Secretariat Program Staff 24–25 September 2009 CEC Secretariat headquarters</p>	<p>JPAC members met with program staff to discuss the preliminary draft project proposals for the 2010 Operational Plan, as well as the current status of the work under the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>As a result of the meeting, the members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice:</p> <p>Advice 09-02: The 2010 CEC Operational Plan, the CEC 2010–2015 Strategic Plan and CEC Governance</p>
<p>ENVIRO-PRO Environmental Congress 29 September 2009 Mexico City, Mexico</p>	<p>The JPAC chair for 2009, Adriana Nelly Correa, participated in the 17th edition of the ENVIRO-PRO Environmental Congress. She provided an overview of the CEC, as well as a report on the results of the "JPAC</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>

	Workshop on Climate Policy Coherence in North America” that had recently been held in Denver.	
US NAC & GAC Meeting 14 October 2009 Burlington, Vermont	<p>On behalf of JPAC Chair Adriana Nelly Correa, US JPAC member Dinker Desai provided a report on JPAC activities since the last US NAC & GAC meeting, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The most recent Advice to Council, which resulted from JPAC's Denver "Workshop on Climate Policy Coherence in North America"; ▪ The meeting of the JPAC Working Group on Effectiveness in late August in Montreal, that had as a main objective to discuss the CEC's overall effectiveness; ▪ The JPAC meeting with the CEC Secretariat program staff to discuss the draft project proposals for the 2010 Operational Plan and the current status of work on the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan; ▪ Announcing that JPAC's last meeting of the year, to take place in Baja California, would be entitled: "Roundtable Discussion on the CEC's Priorities for 2010 and Beyond." 	<i>Ongoing</i>
CEC's Workshop on Environmental Compliance 9–10 November 2009 Monterrey, Nuevo León	<p>In representing the JPAC members, Gustavo Alanís participated in the CEC's Workshop on Environmental Compliance, held in Monterrey, Nuevo León, on 9–10 November.</p> <p>During the later JPAC meeting in Baja California, he provided a report on his participation at the Monterrey Workshop, in which he had reiterated the importance of trilateral cooperation on environmental compliance. He mentioned other important issues that were raised in the Monterrey meeting, including compliance incentives and enforcement opportunities, monitoring and tracking hazardous waste across borders, broader outreach to civil society, among others.</p>	<i>Ongoing</i>

<p>The right of petition on Environmental Matters 24 November 2009 Mexico City, Mexico</p>	<p>JPAC Chair for 2009, Adriana Nelly Correa, participated in the seminar on the right of petition on environmental matters that was organized by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat) with the assistance of CEC.</p> <p>She provided an update on JPAC activities; in particular, on the upcoming JPAC session in Baja California. She mentioned that JPAC was looking at expanding its outreach efforts by utilizing the latest web-based and internet technologies, and that their next meeting would be webcast live in its entirety. In addition, she also encouraged participants to join the discussion on Facebook on the three new Council priorities, and informed the audience that JPAC expected to provide an Advice to Council based on the outcome of the meeting, as well as on the discussion in the virtual forums.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>
<p>Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 09-03 1 December 2010 “Roundtable Discussion on the CEC's Priorities for 2010 and Beyond” Los Cabos, Mexico</p>	<p>The main objective of the meeting was to develop a common vision around the new priorities outlined by the CEC's Council of Ministers in June 2009 and to identify potential key elements to be included in the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>Based on the discussion at the meeting and comments received on Facebook, JPAC members agreed to formulate an Advice to Council:</p> <p>Advice 10-01: Roundtable Discussion on the CEC's Priorities for 2010 and Beyond</p>
<p>Advice to Council 09-02 Re: The 2010 CEC Operational Plan, the CEC 2010–2015 Strategic Plan and CEC Governance (Distributed on 10 December 2009)</p>	<p>As a result of the discussion held with the Secretariat Program Staff in September 2009, the review of the 2009 Project Analysis distributed on 23 October and a first draft of the Operational Plan distributed on 20 November; the JPAC members agreed to provide Council with a series of recommendations under four main areas. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Governance and Efficiency of Operations</u>: JPAC encourages the three main bodies of the CEC to work together to establish an evaluation process of the functional, operative and thematic structure of the commission; 	<p>Council provided a response to the recommendations under each of the four main areas, which included:</p> <p>Council will be considering the integration of a performance measurement structure as part of the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan; multi-year budgeting is in line with the Parties' current thinking; Council is interested in promoting multi-stakeholder participation through the community grants program and is exploring opportunities to successfully dedicate resources to community-based initiatives; Council will consider actions to improve and modernize the SEM</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>The CEC 2010 Operational Plan and 2010–2015 Strategic Plan</u>: JPAC expressed support for conclusion of existing work and believes new project proposals should be postponed until the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan is defined by Council; JPAC encourages the adoption of multi-year budgeting and fully supports the community grants proposal. ▪ <u>Submissions on Enforcement Matters</u>: An in-depth analysis of the SEM process should be conducted, aimed at strengthening the Secretariat's structure and capacity. ▪ <u>The need to establish a CEC communications strategy</u>: This is needed to enhance stakeholder involvement in the activities of the CEC. 	<p>process and make it more efficient in a manner consistent with the NAAEC; among others.</p> <p><i>(Response received on 17 June 2010)</i></p>
<p>The Joint Public Advisory Committee Effectiveness Review Report (Distributed on 18 February 2010)</p>	<p>The report offers JPAC's advice on the prospects for enhancing the effectiveness of JPAC and, by association, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).</p> <p>JPAC submitted for Council's consideration a series of recommendations that included: the need for JPAC to establish periodic access to Council so that it can offer relevant advice that meets Council's needs; integrate JPAC strategic planning activity with the strategic planning process of the CEC Secretariat; expand public outreach and increase the effectiveness of JPAC's interactions with the public and its stakeholders; and clarify and coordinate the roles of the three CEC components and establish guiding principles for communications among them and all partner organizations; among others.</p>	<p><i>No response to date</i></p>
<p>CEC Workshop on Mapping the Road to a Sustainable Future 11–12 February 2010 College Station, Texas</p>	<p>In representation of JPAC and as a member of the Advisory Group on Sustainable Freight Transportation in North America; Glen Wright JPAC Chair for 2010, participated in the CEC Workshop on Mapping the Road to a Sustainable Future. This event had as a</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>

	<p>main objective to discuss four scenarios on the future of the North American freight transportation system, which were developed in December 2009 by thirty industry, government, NGO and academic representatives.</p>	
<p>Advice to Council 10-01 Re: Roundtable Discussion on the CEC's Priorities for 2010 and Beyond <i>(Distributed on 15 February 2010)</i></p>	<p>As a result of the "Roundtable Discussion on the CEC's Priorities for 2010 and Beyond," JPAC provided a series of recommendations under each of the three new priorities, which included:</p> <p><u>Healthy Communities and Ecosystems:</u> JPAC strongly supports the Council's desire to establish healthy communities and ecosystems as a priority, and underscores the importance of conducting further research on the value of ecological services. They note the importance of engaging communities, and developing economic policy that reinforces environmental protection and sustainable development at the community level, among other recommendations.</p> <p><u>Climate Change-Low-Carbon Economy:</u> Given the growing impacts to North America and the rest of the world from climate change, JPAC recommends that the CEC provide assistance to establish mechanisms that promote a shift to a low-carbon economy in North America. They recommend the CEC assist with harmonizing North American regulatory policies and standards for energy efficiency and mitigation of GHG emissions, encourage capacity building on climate programs by engaging a wide range of stakeholders, among others.</p> <p><u>Greening the Economy in North America:</u> JPAC believes that North America should move towards an economy that relies on clean energy and the reduction of GHG emissions in concert with economic growth. They recommend that the CEC assist in</p>	<p>Council expressed appreciation to the JPAC for conducting a public forum to discuss the future priorities of the CEC. They mention that the suggestions raised in their Advice, will be valuable as they develop the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan and cooperative work programs over the next five years, and anticipate further Advice from JPAC once they review the Draft 2010-2015 Strategic Plan.</p> <p><i>(Response received on 17 June 2010)</i></p>

	establishing a uniform NA eco-labelling for consumer products and a NA wide certification system for bio-fuels, among others.	
Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 10-01 24 March 2010 “North America's Energy Market: Aligning Policies and Managing Carbon” Vancouver, British Columbia	The main objective for the meeting was to examine barriers to harmonization and comparability of renewable energy standards and definitions among North America's three countries, as well as to discuss opportunities and challenges for carbon sequestration and storage technologies.	As a result of the discussion, the members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice: Advice 10-02: North America's Energy Market: Aligning Policies and Managing Carbon
Second Meeting of the Advisory Group on Sustainable Freight Transportation in North America 25 March 2010 Vancouver, British Columbia	In representing JPAC and as members of the Advisory Group on Sustainable Freight Transportation in North America, Glen Wright, JPAC chair for 2010 and Rodolfo Lacy, JPAC member for Mexico, participated in the second meeting of the Advisory Group.	<i>Ongoing</i>
Advice to Council 10-02 Re: North America's Energy Market: Aligning Policies and Managing Carbon <i>(Distributed on 19 April 2010)</i>	Following JPAC's public meeting on North America's Energy Market: Aligning Policies and Managing Carbon; the members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice on the outcome of the meeting. The recommendations included: <u>Energy Policy in North America</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a cooperative collaborative approach to energy policy in North America as it relates to climate change, while promoting equitable economic development, global competitiveness, incenting new technologies and maximizing the use of existing renewable energy technology. • Identify potential negative impacts (unintended consequences) in the development of energy and climate change policies to ensure that initiatives in one area do not negatively impact initiatives in another. • Identify the cumulative impacts of smaller renewable energy projects in order to better evaluate the overall contribution to the achievement of climate change goals. 	<i>No response to date</i>

	<p><u>Carbon Capture and Storage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse continued funding of carbon capture and storage research, as well as pursue ongoing development of compatible rules and standards, in light of the considerable amount of power produced by hydrocarbons in North America. • Recognize that all efforts to mitigate the production of greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector will be significantly affected by the approach taken to the carbon market. To the extent possible, develop carbon market decisions in each country that are compatible, in order to ensure that a North American carbon market functions effectively and is characterized by a clear price signal for carbon. • Pursue efforts to enhance the North America Environmental Atlas with a view to including CO₂ equivalents and black carbon. The CEC should also collaborate with the US Department of Energy to support its work related to the development of a North American Carbon Atlas. • Support forest management practices in each of our three countries that will optimize natural carbon sequestration. • Encourage co-operation at technical and official levels to support continent-wide sustainable forest management, focusing particularly on North America's important forest resources, including boreal, tropical and subtropical. 	
<p>JPAC letter to the Council From the JPAC Chair for 2010 to the Ministers <i>(Distributed on 9 June 2010)</i></p>	<p>The JPAC chair for 2010, Glen Wright, sent a letter to the Council members on behalf of JPAC, concerning the dates for the 2010 Council Session, response from Council to JPAC advice and other communications and the Draft 2010–2015 Strategic Plan.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>