



**Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) Activity Report
to the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
since August 2010**

This table is intended to provide Council with an overview of JPAC activities since the August 2010 Regular Session of Council to assist discussions during the annual joint Council/JPAC session in June 2011.

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 |
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| Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 10-02 “Public Forum on Healthy Communities and Ecosystems” 16–17 August 2010 Guanajuato, Mexico | The primary objective of the meeting was to create a forum for public and expert discussion of the link between healthy ecosystems and human health, and to showcase CEC’s North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Registry (NAPRTR), both as a tool for communities to access information about the sources and amounts of pollution in their areas, and as a way to use that information to assess and abate potential health and environmental effects associated with these pollutants. The discussion explored ways to promote accessibility to PRTR data in North America, as well as to enhance its usefulness in addressing health issues. | <i>Ongoing</i> |
| Letter to Council Re: Invitation to attend the JPAC Regular Session 10-03 to be held in New Orleans, United States <i>(Distributed on 8 September 2010)</i> | As a result of the deliberations between JPAC and Council members during the sessions in Guanajuato, Mexico, JPAC members extended a formal invitation to Council members and their officials to attend the JPAC meeting in New Orleans, noting that it provided a convenient opportunity to build on and speed implementation of Council’s new Strategic Plan. | The US Alternate Representative responded to the invitation, but informed the JPAC members that despite their best efforts and total commitment, Council would regrettably not be able to join JPAC in New Orleans. <i>(Response received on 4 October 2010)</i> |

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| <p>Advice to Council 10-03 Re: The Strategic Plan of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation 2010–2015 <i>(Distributed on 8 October 2010)</i></p> | <p>Having reviewed the final draft of the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan, provided preliminary verbal comments on it to the Council during the in-camera session held in Guanajuato, and then conducted a public consultation, JPAC members agreed to provide Council with a series of observations and recommendations for consideration.</p> <p>These covered a range of topics, including public participation and awareness, the Citizen Submission Process, partnering with stakeholders, and sharing best practices.</p> | <p>Council responded to each of the recommendations and observations in the Advice, noting that with the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan, Council took a concerted effort to focus CEC’s cooperative work program on fewer projects with more impact on North America’s citizens and ecosystems.</p> <p><i>(Response received on 2 February 2011)</i></p> |
| <p>Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 10-03 “Public Forum on Greening the Economy in North America” 16–17 November 2010 New Orleans, United States</p> | <p>The JPAC forum featured expert and public assessment of approaches to fostering a green economy in Canada, Mexico, and the United States, including environmentally friendly supply chains, green building, urban agriculture, low-carbon development, and cross-border environmental impact assessments.</p> | <p>During their Regular Session, JPAC members agreed to provide an Advice to Council:</p> <p>Advice 11-01: Greening the Economy in North America</p> |
| <p>Advice to Council 10-04 Re: Draft Proposal to Examine the Governance of CEC and the Implementation of the NAAEC <i>(Distributed on 14 December 2010)</i></p> | <p>After having reviewed the Draft Proposal to Examine the Governance of CEC and the Implementation of the NAAEC, and in response to Council’s invitation during the Council Session in Guanajuato to provide specific suggestions for re-drafting it, JPAC submitted observations and recommendations along with a marked-up copy of the Draft Proposal.</p> <p>The core of JPAC’s recommendations was for the Proposal to take account of a broader range of governance matters, including the governance of the Council and of JPAC itself, in addition to the Secretariat. Accordingly, the Advice addressed issues concerning each of CEC’s three constituent bodies.</p> | <p>Council provided a response to the recommendations and observations contained in the JPAC Advice.</p> <p><i>(Response received on 7 April 2011)</i></p> |
| <p>Advice to Council 11-01 Re: Greening the Economy in North America <i>(Distributed on 21 January 2011)</i></p> | <p>As a result of the public meeting held 16–17 November 2010 in New Orleans on "Greening the North American Economy", and considering the draft CEC Strategic Plan for 2010–2015, as</p> | <p><i>No response to date</i></p> |

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| | <p>well as JPAC's own earlier recommendations for greening the North American economy (Advices 10-01 and 10-03), JPAC members agreed to provide a series of observations and recommendations for Council's consideration.</p> <p>These covered several matters, including sectors on which CEC could focus, NAFTA barriers to greening the economy, TEIA and CEC outreach, among others.</p> | |
| <p>Session 10-04 of the Alternate Representatives 20 December 2010 Conference call</p> | <p>The JPAC Chair, Glen Wright, participated in a conference call with the Alternate Representatives, which had as main objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To adopt Council Resolution 10-04 authorizing the use of 2011 funds for operational expenses, pending approval of the 2011–2012 Operational Plan, ▪ To decide whether to instruct the Secretariat to prepare a factual record for SEM-06-005 (Species at Risk), ▪ To decide whether to make the Article 13 report “Destination Sustainability” publicly available, and ▪ To approve draft Council responses to JPAC Advices 10-02 and 10-03. | <p>The Session adopted Draft Council Resolution 10-04 during the call, providing the Secretariat with financial resources until the approval of the 2011–2012 OP.</p> <p>In addition, the three parties voted in favour of instructing the Secretariat to prepare a factual record for SEM-06-005 (Species at Risk) and approved the draft Council responses to JPAC Advices 10-02 and 10-03.</p> <p>All parties thanked Glen Wright for his successful work and engagement over the past year, expressing their shared appreciation for his work and service. Referring to the new JPAC Chair for 2011, Irasema Coronado, the US representative indicated their resolve to maintain the positive relationship between the Council and JPAC.</p> |
| <p>Council response to JPAC Advice 10-02 Re: North America's Energy Market: Aligning Policies and Managing Carbon (Distributed on 4 May 2010)</p> | <p>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:</p> <p><u>Energy Policy in North America</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a cooperative collaborative approach to energy policy in North | <p>Council provided a response, noting that the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan established the first plan of action for the Commission in the area of climate change.</p> <p>The Council also noted that over the next five years, climate-change experts from the three countries would focus on improving the comparability of greenhouse gas</p> |

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| | <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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, | <p>emission and data inventories, including sharing information and best practices, concerning a number of climate-change issues. CEC will also build on the progress in other fora in carbon capture and storage.</p> <p><i>(Response received on 11 January 2011)</i></p> |
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| | <p>focusing particularly on North America's important forest resources, including boreal, tropical and subtropical.</p> | |
| <p>Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 11-01 4–5 April 2011 Mexico City, Mexico</p> | <p>The JPAC Regular Session had several components. First, to present and receive public feedback on the proposed projects for 2011–12 in the Council's priority areas: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems, Climate Change and a Low-Carbon Economy, and Greening the Economy in North America.</p> <p>Secondly, JPAC members focused their discussion on the effectiveness, timeliness and fairness of the CEC's Citizen Submissions on Enforcement Matters process, which allows citizens in any of the three countries to assert claims that a country is not effectively enforcing its environmental laws. To gain a better picture of this process, JPAC requested input at this Session on the development of a questionnaire for submitters. The feedback received assisted JPAC in finalizing the questionnaire, which was sent on 17 May 2011 to submitters who have participated in the process since 1994.</p> <p>Lastly, JPAC lead a roundtable discussion on North American transportation-related environmental issues, building on the key findings and recommendations in Destination Sustainability, the CEC Secretariat Article 13 report.</p> | <p>As a result of the meeting, the members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice:</p> <p>Advice 11-02: JPAC-led Public Consultation on the 2011–2012 CEC Operational Plan</p> |
| <p>Council response to the JPAC 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, CEC.</p> <p>JPAC submitted for Council's consideration a series of recommendations, including: periodic access by JPAC to Council so that it can offer relevant and timely advice to meet Council's needs; the integration of JPAC strategic planning activity with</p> | <p>Council provided a response to the recommendations and observations contained in the JPAC Effectiveness Review Report.</p> <p>Council's response addressed matters including the need of JPAC members for periodic access to Council and the Alternate Representatives, CEC's need of a more effective governance model, and the need to clarify and coordinate the roles of the three</p> |

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| | the strategic planning process of the CEC Secretariat; the expansion of public outreach to improve JPAC's interactions with the public and its stakeholders; and clarity and coordination of the roles of the three CEC components, with guiding principles for communications among them and their partner organizations. | CEC components.. <i>(Response received on 7 April 2011)</i> |
| NAC & GAC meeting 14 April 2011 Washington, D.C. | <p>The JPAC Chair, Irasema Coronado, provided a report on JPAC activities since the last US NAC & GAC meeting, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The recent meeting in Mexico City, which had as main objectives: to receive public feedback on the proposed projects under the 2011–12 OP, to discuss the SEM process including receiving feedback on a JPAC questionnaire and to hold a roundtable discussion on North American transportation-related issues, building on the key findings under the Article 13 Report “Destination Sustainability”; ▪ The JPAC-led public consultation on the 2011–2012 Operational Plan; ▪ The JPAC E-Waste public forum and Regular Session in conjunction with the Council Session, to be held in Montreal; and ▪ The final meeting of the year to be held in El Paso, Texas, which will focus on the Sound Management of Chemicals. | <i>Ongoing</i> |
| Advice to Council 11-02 Re: JPAC-led Public Consultation on the 2011–2012 CEC Operational Plan <i>(Distributed on 13 May 2011)</i> | Having reviewed the proposed CEC 2011–2012 Operational Plan during the JPAC Regular Session 11-01, which took place in Mexico City on 4–5 April, and having then conducted a public consultation on the proposed Plan, JPAC submitted observations and comments for Council's consideration through its Advice 11-02. | <i>No response to date</i> |
| Session 11-01 of the Alternate Representatives | The JPAC Chair, Irasema Coronado, participated in a conference call with | The JPAC Chair provided the Alternate Representatives with an |

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| <p>3 June 2011 Conference call</p> | <p>the Alternate Representatives, which had as main objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To discuss any outstanding issues related to the 2011–2012 Operational Plan, and ▪ To discuss the 2011 Council Session. | <p>update on the planning efforts for the JPAC public forum on Managing E-waste in North America, and referred to Advice 11-02, which resulted from the JPAC-led public consultation on the 2011–2012 CEC Operational Plan.</p> <p>She noted that the issues and recommendations included in the Advice for Council's consideration were largely based on the discussions among JPAC members, as well as feedback received from the public throughout the process.</p> |
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