



**OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEES
(NAC/GAC)**

SUMMARY

October 23, 2015

William Jefferson Clinton North
Room 3330
1200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
and Via Adobe Connect Teleconference

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Call to Order and Introductions

Oscar Carrillo, National and Governmental Advisory Committees (NAC/GAC) Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Office of Diversity, Advisory Committee Management and Outreach (ODACMO), Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Mr. Oscar Carrillo, NAC/GAC DFO, ODACMO, called the meeting to order. He greeted the participants, thanked them for attending, and called the roll.

Opening Remarks

Denise Benjamin-Sirmons, Director, ODACMO, OARM, EPA

Ms. Denise Benjamin-Sirmons, Director, ODACMO, welcomed the NAC/GAC members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and dedication. She also thanked the Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) partners for attending. Recently, the Department of Justice reviewed the Federal Advisory Committees and decided to designate the NAC and GAC as Presidential Advisory Committees. A new charter will be developed within the next few months. She added that Mr. Mark Kasman has been appointed as the Director of the Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs within OITA.

Welcome and Overview of the Agenda

Brian Houseal, Chair of the NAC

Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair of the GAC

Mr. Brian Houseal, Chair of the NAC, thanked ODACMO and OITA for arranging the meeting and committing to organizing a face-to-face meeting in April 2016. He welcomed participants and congratulated Dr. Octaviana Trujillo for her appointment to the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and Ms. Gail Small, who has been added to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation's (CEC) Roster of Experts on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

Mr. Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair of the GAC, echoed Mr. Houseal's congratulations. He added that the enormous amount of progress that has been made makes this an exciting time. He and Mr. Houseal had been concerned about how to navigate this transitional period without losing forward momentum, and he asked the NAC/GAC members to consider what advice the committees can offer collectively to encourage continued progress through the transition and fill gaps.

Update on U.S. Priorities for the CEC

Jane Nishida, Assistant Administrator, OITA, EPA

Mark Kasman, Director, Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs, OITA, EPA

Ms. Nishida, Assistant Administrator, OITA, thanked ODACMO for the support that it provides her office to ensure that OITA and NAC/GAC communicate well. She congratulated Dr. Trujillo on her presidential appointment to the JPAC, which was announced via a presidential press release. She also applauded Ms. Small for her recognition as a U.S. TEK expert on the trilateral roster. Ms. Nishida commented that NAC/GAC members are responsible for the shared exchange about raising the profile of TEK and the importance of integrated exchange of indigenous peoples in the three North American countries. She introduced Mr. Kasman as the new Director of the Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs.

Before presenting her CEC updates, Ms. Nishida provided updates about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the 2015 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris (known as COP 21), and Agency tribal efforts. An agreement has been reached among the 11 TPP countries, which includes the three CEC countries. This agreement should not affect the CEC's work as there is no side agreement regarding the environment. An environment chapter—which focuses on illegal fishing and logging, wildlife tracking, and the importance of multilateral agreement enforcement—has been negotiated within the TPP

agreement; EPA was involved in this negotiation. The objective of COP 21 is to develop a global agreement regarding climate change. The U.S. Department of State is the lead agency for the United States in these negotiations. President Barack Obama has been a strong leader in terms of climate change, and EPA has played an important role in acting on the provisions of *The President's Climate Action Plan*. Among the U.S. government submissions to the United Nations is EPA's Clean Power Plan. The Agency engaged in two tribal consultations—one on a treaty rights guidance document and the other about baseline water quality standards in Indian Country—at the recent National Congress of American Indians. During the upcoming White House Tribal Nations Conference to be held the first week of November, EPA will hold a listening session with tribal leaders to hear about their environmental issues of concern in Indian Country.

Ms. Nishida described the current leadership transition within the CEC, which has been affected by Canada's recent election. The current Canadian representative will remain until the new prime minister announces his cabinet on November 4, 2015. Ms. Nishida and Mr. Kasman will be traveling to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to discuss bilateral environmental relationships between the two countries. Mexico's president recently appointed a new Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, whose scheduled visit the following week to meet with the EPA Administrator may be postponed because of Hurricane Patricia. When the two are able to meet, they will discuss the *Operational Plan of the Council on Environmental Cooperation 2015–2016*. Part of NAC/GAC's charge is to provide advice about operational plan projects to ensure that the chosen strategic areas are incorporated effectively. Her office is engaged in a number of activities, including reviewing the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) grant proposals. Of the 509 proposals received, more than 250 were affiliated with indigenous communities. The top proposals from each country will be presented for final decision making.

Ms. Nishida thanked Dr. Irasema Coronado for her efforts as the executive director of the CEC Secretariat, which have significantly improved the efficiency of the CEC and advancement of new initiatives. The participants recognized Dr. Coronado for her tremendous leadership. Mexico's Council Chair is moving forward with the open selection process for the new executive director; candidates will be interviewed by all three CEC Alternate Representatives.

Question and Answer Period

Dr. Jody Hilty (Wildlife Conservation Society), NAC member, asked how many NAPECA grant proposals would be funded. Ms. Sylvia Correa, OITA, responded that \$1.7 million in funding is available, and they are making an attempt at parity with respect to geographic location of the proposed projects and available resources. Ultimately, the resources will be fairly distributed among the three parties. Dr. Hilty asked what percentage of proposals would be funded. Ms. Correa explained that the priority is to fund proposals that match the priorities determined by the three countries in the strategic and operational plans. Ms. Nishida added that the available resources are not enough to fund all of the proposals. Providing additional funding for NAPECA would decrease the resources available for the operational plan projects. The desire is for NAPECA funding to be awarded to vulnerable communities. Any NAC/GAC suggestions to increase the effectiveness of the program are welcome. Dr. Hilty liked the current approach of specifically identifying the focus so that more targeted proposals will be submitted.

CEC Update

Irasema Coronado, Executive Director, CEC Secretariat

Dr. Coronado said that she will return to the University of Texas at El Paso on January 19, 2016. She explained that the CEC Secretariat is connected closely with the communities it serves through NAPECA and has increased efficiency through improved technology use and becoming virtually paperless. Of the

509 NAPECA proposals received, 60 are being advanced for further consideration. Of the 150 U.S. proposals received, 57 had indigenous community affiliation. In terms of Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM), the new SEM Unit Director has cleared the backlog and is engaged in active outreach. A total of 85 SEM submissions have been received to date, including 11 from the United States. The CEC also has developed and implemented performance measurements focused on outcomes and accomplishments. To raise public awareness throughout North America about the CEC's work, the CEC is using a variety of platforms to chronicle its progress, engaging in social media, and networking more broadly with stakeholders and key opinion leaders. Dr. Coronado shared user statistics for the website and social media that highlight the increase in public engagement.

Question and Answer Period

Mr. Wennberg congratulated Dr. Coronado on the most positive, effective executive director tenure he has seen since serving on the NAC/GAC, and Mr. Houseal echoed his praise.

JPAC Report-Out: Upcoming Meetings

Robert Varney, Member, JPAC

Mr. Robert Varney, JPAC member, reported that the April 2015 JPAC meeting focused on sustainable energy and climate change, renewables and emerging technologies, and sustainable management of water resources in the context of climate change. The JPAC provided input on the CEC strategic and operational plans and submitted an unsolicited advice letter on the SEM process. The strategic plan improved significantly during the review process. The JPAC recommended an annual review of progress achieved toward the 5-year strategic plan, which would allow adjustments based on new information or opportunities. JPAC also recommended that urban initiatives be included under the section devoted to sustainable communities and ecosystems; another recommendation was that collaboration with the private sector be mentioned explicitly. Because the section on outreach and communications originally was too broad, the JPAC recommended that more concrete actions be included to meet communication goals. The JPAC's July 2015 "Water and Climate Change: Adaptation Through Green Infrastructure" meeting, which focused on stormwater and green infrastructure, was successful. The highlight was the participation of the members of the CEC Roster of Experts on TEK. The JPAC also submitted an unsolicited advice letter regarding the urgency of filling the CEC executive director's position to ensure a smooth transition with some overlap between the tenures of the two executive directors. The JPAC members will meet in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, for the annual planning meeting, at which they will elect a new Chair from Canada and decide on topics, working groups and upcoming meeting logistics. A teleconference will be convened with the CEC Roster of Experts on TEK to engage these experts in the JPAC's overall efforts. He welcomed Dr. Trujillo to the JPAC.

Update on the CEC's Operational Plan Projects

Karen Richardson, Director of Programs, CEC

Ms. Karen Richardson, Director of Programs, CEC, provided an update on each of the CEC's 16 operational plan projects for 2015–2016:

- *Integrated Modeling and Assessment of North American Forest Carbon Dynamics and Climate Change Mitigation Options*
- *Helping North American Communities Adapt to Climate Change: A Pilot Syndromic Surveillance System for Extreme Heat*
- *North American Initiative on Food Waste Reduction and Recovery*
- *North American Initiative on Organic Waste Diversion and Processing*
- *North American Blue Carbon: Next Steps in Science for Policy*

- *Reducing Emissions From Goods Movement via Maritime Transportation in North America (Phase II)*
- *Enhancing North American Enforcement of the IMO Maritime Fuel Sulfur Limits*
- *Accelerating Adoption of ISO 50001 and Superior Energy Performance Certifications*
- *Strengthening Conservation and Sustainable Production of Selected CITES' Appendix II Species in North America*
- *Greening of Chemicals Management in North America*
- *Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)—The Americas' Flyway Action Plan*
- *Engaging Farmers and Other Landowners to Support Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation*
- *Monarch Butterfly Flyway: Communication, Participatory Conservation and Education*
- *Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network*
- *Using Ecosystem Function and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Together to Build Resilience and Adapt to Climate Change in North America*
- *Marine Protected Areas: Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Supporting Coastal Community Resilience*

A 20-year ongoing initiative is the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), which will examine mining issues in December 2015. Other ongoing initiatives include the North American Portal on Climate Pollutants, North American Land Change Monitoring System, and North American Environmental Atlas.

Question and Answer Period

Ms. Edna Mendoza (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality), GAC member, asked for more information about the PRTR mining initiative. Ms. Richardson responded that industry experts will provide information regarding how PRTR can better serve the mining sector and improve reporting. The agenda is not yet complete but can be shared when it is.

Mr. Wennberg asked about the expected near-term and longer term results of the ISO 50001 train-the-trainers project. Ms. Nathalie Daoust, CEC, responded that the short- to mid-term outcomes will be to train 45 facilities in North America on implementing ISO 50001. Many personnel have been trained as energy management practitioners, and each country will select two of these to become trainers for the basic training across North America. An important longer term component step is that each facility will be able to report energy management savings. Mr. Wennberg asked whether any component will document the bottom line as a way of persuading more facilities and industries to consider certification. Ms. Daoust replied that, because the program currently is in place in all three countries, the goal is to obtain data pertaining to the current number of companies that have been trained to obtain a baseline of companies that have a binational focus. The final activity is outreach to disseminate successes.

Ms. Ginny Broadhurst (Northwest Straits Commission), GAC member, asked whether the marine protected area project has specific outcomes. Ms. Richardson explained that the goals of the project are twofold. A prior project examined how to design marine protected areas in a changing climate, and this project builds on that in terms of fostering a resilient community in face of climate change and using a seascape approach to build a marine protected area network. Impacts to associated industries and joint management strategies also will be examined.

Dr. Ivonne Santiago (University of Texas at El Paso), NAC member, asked which projects address clean water. Ms. Richardson responded that the ecosystems function project includes a stream restoration component to provide a clean water source for local communities. Dr. Coronado explained that the strategic and operational plans did not focus on water, and this is reflected in the projects. Dr. Santiago asked how the NAC/GAC could address the importance of the availability of safe drinking water and its

inclusion in the plans. Mr. Wennberg responded that the NAC/GAC could incorporate this issue in its advice letter.

In response to a question from Dr. Santiago, Ms. Richardson explained that she could research how the number of current NAPECA applications compares to those received in prior years and send her this information.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were offered.

Committee's Dialogue on the CEC's Operational Plan Projects

Brian Houseal, Chair of the NAC

Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair of the GAC

Mr. Wennberg reminded the members of the charge and the need to maintain forward progress despite personnel changes. He noted that the state of Vermont has adopted a law about food waste diversion, and he wondered whether the other members had concerns about their jurisdictions' actions. Mr. Justin Johnson (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources), GAC member, explained that the regulation is designed to encourage the development of infrastructure and systems that will enable everyone in Vermont to keep reusable resources out of the landfill and make progress in energy and resource conservation. The state is providing adequate time for municipalities to determine appropriate actions. He agreed that challenges exist and also would like to know what is occurring in other jurisdictions.

Mr. Houseal asked the members about their concerns regarding the administration changes in Canada and Mexico that could be highlighted in the advice letters to the EPA Administrator. Dr. Hilty's concern is about the differences among the countries in terms of state/provincial powers versus federal powers. Mr. Roger Vintze (California Department of Toxic Substances Control), GAC member, expressed concern that the efforts of the CEC and NAC/GAC may be muted with changes in government parties. For example, when Mexico's government changes, personnel changes occur down to very low staff levels, which disrupts continuity and existing relationships. He would like the NAC/GAC to adopt a significant effort to brief the parties at all levels on an ongoing basis to ensure that institutional knowledge is retained.

Ms. Broadhurst asked whether helpful materials, such as a factual summary, about the TPP are available. Mr. Houseal explained that Ms. Nishida had reported to the NAC/GAC Chairs that OITA has not received the final language of the environmental chapter, so such information may not be available. He noted the justifiable concern about the lack of transparency regarding environmental issues in the TPP. Mr. Wennberg added that Ms. Nishida had indicated that EPA had been significantly involved in the negotiation of the environmental chapter, and nothing in it should disrupt the structure of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The more stringent of the two agreements will govern the three North American countries; the TPP does not seem to be as stringent as the NAAEC.

Ms. Broadhurst suggested that the NAC/GAC receive a briefing about the TPP when more clarity exists. Mr. Carrillo noted that an update could be provided at the NAC/GAC's next meeting if information is available. Ms. Correa explained that the NAAEC is an agreement between three countries that have been dealing with transboundary issues for quite some time and, as a result, is more rigorous than the TPP. The TPP is focused heavily on trade, but if NAC/GAC members are interested, a copy of the agreement can be provided to them once it is final. Alternatively, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative could be invited to speak to the committees. Mr. Houseal agreed that the TPP seemed to be focused on trade and does not appear to have the depth of the NAAEC, and he supported Ms. Broadhurst's suggestion that a

briefing would be appropriate. The advice letter could include a recommendation to maintain and enhance implementation of the NAAEC following the administration changes in Canada and Mexico. Unfulfilled opportunities exist within the NAAEC, particularly considering that it is President Obama's final year in office in the United States. Mr. Johnson agreed with these concerns, noting that some states have challenges with respect to how the federal government approaches its relationship with Canada's provincial government.

Mr. Houseal asked the members how best to meet the charge of identifying strategies to maintain forward momentum throughout the political transitions. Mr. Timothy Bent (Bridgestone Americas, Inc.), NAC member, believes that one of the most important duties of the CEC is to communicate its purpose and accomplishments to maintain a high awareness of environmental issues and the avenues that the CEC offers to address these issues. It is important to broaden awareness and the ability of individuals to participate and engage in activities.

Although he recognized that it is out of the NAC/GAC's control, Mr. Wennberg voiced his concern about the executive director of the CEC Secretariat changing every 3 years because it disrupts continuity. A prior recommendation was met with the response that any change would require a treaty renegotiation or something similarly difficult. He wondered whether some effort could be made to ensure that countries do not appoint an executive director who wants to radically change the direction of the previous executive director, particularly as the learning curve is steep when stepping into this position.

In response to a question from Mr. Houseal about how the executive directors are selected, Ms. Correa explained that finalists are selected by the lead country and the Alternate Representatives interview each of the finalists in person. Each country is respectful of the other countries' decisions regarding executive director selection, and if there is no significant objection to a country's selection, the other two countries will be supportive.

Mr. Mark Joyce, Associate Director, ODACMO, stressed the importance of grounding any actions and recommendations in the purpose of the NAC/GAC, which is to advise the U.S. representative on the CEC on issues regarding the CEC and the NAAEC. It is the JPAC's responsibility to advise the three representatives jointly. Other forums are available to deal with some of the issues that have been discussed. The TPP is a distinct agreement that will not diminish the role of the NAAEC and the work of the NAC/GAC. The NAC and GAC were tasked with focusing on the operational plan to ensure continuity amid the political transition, and he asked the committees to focus on this charge during their separate meetings.

Committees Meet Separately

The NAC and GAC met via separate teleconferences.

GAC Separate Meeting

Mr. Wennberg opened the session with three focus areas for GAC discussion: (1) addressing the charge, (2) commenting on the response letter, and (3) introducing any other topics of interest.

Dr. Vincent Nathan (San Antonio Metropolitan Health District), GAC member, asked what actions the NAC/GAC could take during the political transition period. Mr. Carrillo noted that the committees are in something of a holding pattern, but as the operational and strategic plans have been approved, some items are progressing. The purpose of this meeting is for NAC/GAC members to hear updates on the operational plan projects and determine whether they are on the right track. Mr. Wennberg added that the operational plan projects have a set of clearly defined expectations, and they will continue to move forward to achieve these expectations. Development of the next 2-year operational plan will occur

following the political transitions. Federal agencies generally are accustomed to administration changes and build institutional knowledge and competency to endure these changes.

Mr. Wennberg asked whether any of the projects could be moved to the next level or if taking this step would be premature. Mr. Vintze responded that all three countries would like the monarch butterfly project to succeed, so he could see the project being extended as a guide on how to make a system work among the three countries. The themes of green growth and sustainable communities will resonate into the future and likely will continue to be of interest to the CEC. The facts of climate change will not change within the next 3 to 5 years to make the project obsolete.

Mr. Johnson commented that all of the projects fall within topics of great interest, and he did not think that an administration change would decrease this interest. It is important that NAC/GAC members build relationships with incoming personnel to continue these conversations. Dr. Nathan agreed that there would be continued interest in these issues. He remarked on three climate change issues that intersect: (1) greenhouse gas reduction, (2) transportation, and (3) blue and black carbon. The various types of fuels and their impact on blue and black carbon have not been addressed in any of the operational plan projects. Ms. Mendoza added that the project devoted to maritime transportation could be expanded to include transportation in general. Mr. Carrillo thought that, based on what is included in the current strategic plan, the CEC might focus on transportation topics in the next operational plan (2017–2018).

Ms. Broadhurst wondered whether it would be appropriate to write a letter to the new executive director encouraging a continuation of the momentum already established. Mr. Wennberg thought that it would be appropriate to encourage the new executive director to pursue the priorities established in the strategic plan. Mr. Carrillo explained that the NAC/GAC members will have the opportunity to meet the new executive director during the April 2016 face-to-face meeting; these thoughts could be conveyed to Dr. Coronado's successor during this meeting. Ms. Cristina Viesca-Santos (El Paso County [Texas] Attorney's Office), GAC member, stressed the importance of a diplomatic approach to avoid the perception that the United States is directing Mexico. Mr. Johnson thought that it was possible to develop an appropriate letter without directing another country. The letter should include the recognition that the executive director role is important, and the GAC respects this role. Mr. Wennberg will draft the letter and circulate it to the GAC members for their review.

Mr. Wennberg moved the discussion to EPA's September 2015 response letter to the GAC's advice letter of May 7, 2015. He was disappointed that EPA's response to the recommendation on the Article 13 report on hydraulic fracturing focused on process. Mr. Johnson thought that it was reasonable for the GAC to indicate that it disagrees with EPA's responses to its recommendations. In terms of the Agency response to the recommendation on community reaction to renewable energy development, Ms. Mendoza commented that the GAC could indicate that it is unaware of the studies EPA mentioned in its response and request that the Agency provide information about the studies. Mr. Vintze offered to send anecdotal experiences from California regarding renewable energy. Mr. Carrillo will ask OITA to send information about the studies to the GAC. Mr. Wennberg commented that after the GAC reviews the studies, a response may not be necessary. If the studies indicate that there is a disconnect, this information can be used to support the GAC's original recommendation.

Mr. Wennberg asked whether the members thought the GAC should follow up with EPA regarding its response to the GAC's recommendation on oil trains. One member noted that the response letter states that the issue falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Transportation, so the CEC may not be involved with this issue. Ms. Mendoza thought that the GAC could highlight that the issue is related to the topic of green growth. Ms. Broadhurst suggested that it would be helpful to receive a briefing on the topic even if it involves more than one federal agency. Mr. Vintze said that he is concerned specifically about the materials, construction, cleaning and maintenance of the oil train cars. Because the GAC

members are unsure whether this is an appropriate topic in terms of advising the CEC and have many questions about oil trains, they agreed a briefing would be appropriate. Ms. Broadhurst will send Mr. Wennberg two PowerPoint slides about oil trains. Mr. Wennberg will develop a response to EPA about this topic.

NAC Separate Meeting

Mr. Houseal called the roll of the NAC members and explained that the NAC's charge highlighted the progress made in finalizing the CEC strategic and operational plans and emphasized maintaining this progress during the political transition. He summarized previous NAC/GAC member comments about the charge, including the need to ensure that the new executive director and council members receive a quality briefing about the institutional memory of the CEC and the need for the CEC to instill high public awareness about its mission, purpose and programs. One recommendation could be for the CEC to engage in press and media briefings about the executive director transition, highlighting Dr. Coronado's accomplishments and what to look forward to in terms of the three pillars expressed in the strategic plan. Dr. Hilty liked the idea of proactively using the opportunity of leadership changes to celebrate and highlight the CEC's accomplishments.

Dr. Santiago reiterated the importance of safe drinking water. Mr. Houseal explained that bilateral agencies already exist to address drinking water issues. Dr. Santiago is concerned about available sources of safe drinking water (e.g., bilateral agreements for the Rio Grande River). Mr. Joyce described some of the bilateral organizations committed to safe drinking water and water rights. He pointed out that the CEC has to determine what it can best focus on given its size, resources and mandate. Another consideration is that all operational plan projects must be approved by all three countries. Under the climate change efforts, the NAC could note that the maintenance of aquifers is critical to the three countries while understanding that existing binational agreements and organizations address these issues; the NAC could recommend that this issue be included in some manner in a few of the current operational plan projects. Mr. Houseal agreed that water could be included within climate change because the strategic plan specifies an initiative to increase the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations to adverse environmental health effects from extreme climatic events (e.g., drought, catastrophic flooding). Dr. Hilty agreed with this approach.

Mr. Houseal sees an opportunity to discuss energy infrastructure with the United States' largest two energy partners, which are Canada and Mexico, respectively. Energy infrastructure is intricately linked to environmental impacts, and NAFTA did not implement transboundary environmental impact assessment processes. An opportunity exists to revisit this issue. Dr. Hilty agreed that energy infrastructure—from traditional sources to renewables—is a transboundary issue. Dr. Santiago noted that the power structure, water structure and energy-water nexus are important and should be considered holistically, as well as how the infrastructure affects all three countries. The energy-water-transportation nexus affects the environment in significant ways. Mr. Joyce agreed that the NAC should take the opportunity to revisit this issue. Ms. Ana Romero-Lizana (World Trade Center), NAC member, would like the letter to reflect that the United States is open to considering many different energy sources.

Dr. Santiago commented that in addition to discussing alternative energy sources in the letter, the NAC could discuss alternate sources and uses of water (e.g., recycled water) so that the CEC explores this topic in the future. For example, power plants should not need to use drinking water for their operations.

Mr. Houseal recommended that the NAC members review the operational plan to determine what may need to be strengthened. For example, the Article 13 report on hydraulic fracturing may have been removed.

Dr. Hilty would like the letter to be laudatory, as she was impressed with Ms. Richardson's presentation and how the CEC has established and articulated its niche. Mr. Joyce agreed with a laudatory approach to acknowledging the CEC's exemplary work of the past few years and reinforcing the importance of continuing in this vein. Mr. Houseal suggested that the EPA Administrator publicly recognize Dr. Coronado's accomplishments, which could increase press coverage. Mr. Joyce replied that he believes this is being considered, and he can follow up with OITA about these plans. Mr. Houseal will draft a laudatory advice letter and obtain feedback from the NAC members.

Mr. Joyce summarized the main points discussed in the session: (1) aquifer protection, including its link to climate change, tribes and existing operational plan projects; (2) the opportunity to take advantage of the incoming Canadian prime minister's interest in developing a unified North American energy strategy; and (3) the CEC's significant accomplishments and the need to reinforce and maintain the momentum established. Mr. Houseal added that the energy strategy should consider traditional versus renewable energy sources and alternate water use as it relates to power plants.

Mr. Joyce thanked the NAC members for their input and engagement and Mr. Houseal for his commitment to leading the group and drafting the advice letter. Mr. Houseal and Mr. Joyce agreed to schedule a follow-up call with Mr. Wennberg and Mr. Carrillo.

Action Items

- ❖ Mr. Wennberg will draft advice letter and share with GAC members for their comment.
- ❖ Mr. Carrillo will ask OITA to provide the GAC with information about the studies mentioned in its response to the GAC's previous advice on community reaction to renewable energy development.
- ❖ Ms. Broadhurst will send Mr. Wennberg two PowerPoint slides about oil trains.
- ❖ Mr. Wennberg will develop a response to EPA about the topic of oil trains.
- ❖ Mr. Carrillo will follow up with the NAC/GAC members regarding the poll he conducted to determine the date of the April 2016 face-to-face meeting.
- ❖ Mr. Joyce will contact OITA to determine what plans may be underway to publicly recognize Dr. Coronado's efforts as the executive director of CEC.
- ❖ Mr. Houseal will draft an advice letter and obtain feedback from the NAC members.

Summary Certification

I, Jeffrey Wennberg, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee, and I, Brian Houseal, Chair of the National Advisory Committee, certify that the meeting minutes for the dates of October 23, 2015, as hereby detailed, contain a record of the persons present and give an accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached and copies of all reports received, issued or approved by the advisory committees. My signature date complies with the 90-day due date after each meeting required by the GSA Final Rule.



Jeffrey Wennberg
Chair, GAC

1/20/2016

Date



Brian Houseal
Chair, NAC

1/21/2016

Date

Appendix A: Meeting Participants

NAC Members

Brian L. Houseal, Chair

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Terry Keating, Ph.D.

Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Stephanie McCoy

Office of Diversity, Advisory Committee
Management and Outreach
Office of Administration and Resources
Management
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Jane Nishida

Assistant Administrator
Office of International and Tribal Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Pam Teel

Office of International and Tribal Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Other

Irasema Coronado

Executive Director
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
Secretariat

Nathalie Daoust

Council Secretary
Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Robert Moyer

Unit Director
Submissions on Enforcement Matters
Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Karen Richardson

Director of Programs
Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Robert Varney

Member
Joint Public Advisory Committee

Lisamarie Windham-Myers

Biologist
U.S. Geological Survey

Contractor Staff

Kristen LeBaron

The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc.

Darlene Summers

The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc.

Appendix B: Meeting Agenda



Official Meeting of the National and Governmental Advisory Committees to the U.S. Representative to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation

TELECONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, October 23, 2015

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

(12:00 – 4:00 p.m. CT, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. MT, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. PT)

Adobe Connect Link: <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/nac-gac-mtg/>

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WJC North Building, Room 3330

Washington, D.C. 20004

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|-----------|--|
| 1:00 p.m. | Call to Order and Introductions
Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer, EPA |
| 1:10 p.m. | Opening Remarks
Denise Benjamin-Sirmons, Director, Office of Diversity, Advisory Committee Management and Outreach, Office of Administration and Resources Management, EPA |
| 1:20 p.m. | Welcome and Overview of Agenda
Brian Houseal, Chair of the National Advisory Committee (NAC)
Jeff Wennberg, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) |
| 1:25 p.m. | Update on U.S. Priorities for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
Jane Nishida, Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA), EPA
Mark Kasman, Director, Regional and Bilateral Affairs, OITA, EPA
Question & Answer Period |
| 1:45 p.m. | CEC Update
Irasema Coronado, Executive Director, CEC Secretariat
Question & Answer Period |
| 2:00 p.m. | Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) Report-Out: Upcoming Meetings
Bob Varney, Member, JPAC
Question & Answer Period |

Friday, October 23, 2015 Continued...

- 2:15 p.m. **Update on the CEC's Operational Plan Projects**
Karen Richardson, Director of Programs, CEC
Question & Answer Period
- 2:45 p.m. **Public Comment Period**
- 3:00 p.m. **Committees' Dialogue on the CEC's Operational Plan Projects**
Brian Houseal, Chair of the NAC
Jeff Wennberg, Chair of the GAC
- 3:30 p.m. BREAK
- 3:45 p.m. **NAC and GAC Meet Separately via Teleconference**
Brian Houseal, Chair of the NAC
Jeff Wennberg, Chair of the GAC
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjournment**

Appendix C: Charge Questions for October 23, 2015, NAC/GAC Meeting

CHARGE QUESTIONS: NAC/GAC MEETING

~ FRIDAY, October 23, 2015 ~

WASHINGTON, D.C.

10/22/2015

Dear NAC & GAC Members,

The outcomes of the CEC 2015 Council session in Boston were the endorsement of: 1) the *CEC's Strategic Plan for 2015–2020*, 2) the *CEC's Operational Plan for 2015–2016*, 3) the naming of the *experts on traditional ecological knowledge* from Canada, Mexico and the United States; and finally 4) the launching of the third cycle of a *two-year grant program* that supports environmental action at the community level, by allocating C\$1.325 million of the CEC budget. At the conclusion of the meeting, the EPA Administrator also formally transferred the Chairmanship of the CEC Council to Mexico for the coming year. We also note that Mexico will name the next CEC Executive Director as the current tenure for Dr. Coronado ends in January 2016.

Furthermore, in late August, Mexico appointed Secretary Guerra as the new Mexican Ambassador to Italy, and named a new Environmental Minister, Mr. Rafael Pacchiano Alamán. At this time we understand Secretary Pacchiano is learning about all the programs under his care, but has not yet met with Administrator McCarthy. In addition, the Canadian federal elections were held on October 19, 2015 and, pursuant to Canadian election laws, the Ministries are barred from making announcements or renegotiating agreements that could hamper the work of the next Parliament. The U.S., as we all know, is about a year away from its own Presidential elections. Given these political realities and reflecting on the 2015 Council Session accomplishments, this is an opportune time to reflect on the CEC's work and how momentum on priority issues might be maintained in light of these many changes.

Therefore, the “charge” for this meeting will be to consider how to maintain the CEC's positive momentum during this time of political transition, particularly as it relates to the projects in the *2015–16 Operational Plan—Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation, Green Growth, and Sustainable Communities and Ecosystems*. For this charge, you will be briefed by the CEC Director of Programs. In addition, during the meeting you will receive regular updates from OITA, the CEC, and JPAC. During the last portion of the meeting the committees will meet separately to develop their respective advice letters, based on the materials and presentations shared throughout the meeting. Finally, as always, the committees are welcome to provide advice on other trade and environment issues related to the NAAEC.