

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

---

## GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

---

### 1. **Committee's Official Designation (Title):**

Governmental Advisory Committee to the United States Representative to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation

### 2. **Authority:**

This charter renews the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to the United States Representative to the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2. The GAC is in the public interest and advises the U.S. Representative on implementation and elaboration of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC). Establishment of the committee is authorized under article 18 of the NAAEC and by the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, P.L. 103-182, which authorizes U.S. participation in the CEC. Federal government responsibilities relating to the committee are set forth in Executive Order 12915, entitled "Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation."

### 3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities:**

The GAC will provide advice, information and recommendations on specific governmental issues. The GAC will evaluate a broad range of environment-related strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory and economic issues to be addressed in implementation and elaboration of the NAAEC.

### 4. **Description of Committee's Duties:**

The duties of the GAC are solely to provide advice to EPA.

### 5. **Official(s) to Whom the Committee Reports:**

The GAC will provide advice and recommendations and report to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, who serves as the United States Representative to the Council of the CEC under the authority of Executive Order 12915.

**6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support:**

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of Federal Advisory Committee Management and Outreach, within the Office of the Administrator.

**7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Work Years:**

The estimated annual operating cost of GAC is \$166,000 which includes 0.7 person-years of support.

**8. Designated Federal Officer:**

A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO or a designee will be present at all of the advisory committee's and subcommittee meetings. Each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so, and will chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the committee reports.

**9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:**

The GAC expects to meet approximately three (3) times a year. Meetings may occur approximately once every four (4) months or as needed and approved by the DFO. EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses when determined necessary and appropriate. A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the DFO.

As required by FACA, the GAC will hold open meetings unless the EPA Administrator determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with subsection c of Section 552b of Title 5, U.S.C. Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the committee as time permits, and file comments with the GAC.

**10. Duration and Termination:**

This charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After this two-year period, the charter may be renewed in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

**11. Member Composition:**

The GAC will be composed of approximately twelve (12) members who will serve as Representative members of non-federal interests, Regular Government Employees (RGEs), or Special Government Employees (SGEs). Representative members are selected to represent the points of view held by organizations, associations, or classes of individuals. In selecting members, EPA will consider candidates from State, local and tribal governments.

**12. Subgroups:**

EPA, or the GAC with EPA approval, may form GAC subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the GAC for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered committee nor can they report directly to the U.S. Representative to the Council of the CEC.

**13. Recordkeeping:**

The records of the committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, shall be handled in accordance with NARA General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 and EPA Records Schedule 181 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, these records shall be available for public inspection and copying, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

August 10, 2012

Agency Approval Date

August 24, 2012

Date Filed with Congress