

**Minutes-Executive Summary**  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FOR  
CD JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA \ EL PASO, TEXAS \ DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO  
SUNLAND PARK RACE TRACK - SUNLAND PARK, NM  
MAY 13, 1997

JAC Members present:

For the United States of America:

Dr. Elaine Barron, Texas Water Development Board;  
Mr. Archie Clouse, TNRCC Region 6;  
Mr. John Cordova - Public Works Department, City of El Paso, TX;  
Dr. Carlos Rincon - Border Air Program Director - Environmental Defense Fund (EDF);  
Fabian Macias - Alternate for Cecilia Williams, NMED, Air Quality Bureau;  
Dickie Apodaca - Alternate for George Avalos, Doña Ana County, NM Engineering Dept.;  
Mr. Tom Martin - Environmental Manager, ASARCO;  
Dr. Charles Groat - Director, Center for Environmental Resource Management, UTEP;  
Mr. Jerry Clifford - Deputy Regional Administrator for the EPA - Region 6 Dallas, TX;

For the United Mexican States:

Quim. Pilar Leal - Alternate for Biol. Maria del Pilar Lopez Marco - PROFEPA;  
Ing. Jose Treviño - Director, Environmental Dept. for the State of Chihuahua;  
Ing. Oscar Ibañez - Director, Urban Development and Ecology for Cd. Juarez, Chih.;  
Ing. Rene Franco - President, Mexican Environmental Movement in Juarez;  
Mr. Angel Peralta - Representing the Business Community;  
M. C. Felipe Adrian Vazquez - UACJ;  
Dr. Victor Hugo Paramo - INE-SEMARNAP

Approval of minutes. The minutes were approved noting the necessary changes; the agenda for this meeting also was approved.

Next item was a discussion by Carlos Rincon on the By-laws, Rules & Procedures for the JAC. Jerry Clifford commented on 2 issues: "Substitution" and "Authority of the Committee". Most members were in favor of the wording in the draft and the 2 points remained given that should any part of the bylaws conflict with Appendix I then Appendix I supercedes, and to remove the 2 points the group would begin to limit itself. The group agreed to defer the Bylaws back to the subcommittee to prepare a final unified document in english and spanish to include "staggered terms".

Next item was a report by Dr. Ron Ketter on Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). 4 topics were covered: Progress since the previous JAC meeting; Background on Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs); International SEPs; Resolution for consideration. SEP's are a tool used by EPA and TNRCC whenever there is a violation

of an environmental law or regulation and a party (violator) agrees to pay a certain fine. The party also agrees as part of the settlement to carry out a SEP in exchange for a partial reduction in the civil penalty where the assessed penalty must reflect the gravity of the violation; the enforcement settlement must foster a deterrent effect. Types of SEP projects:

Cleaning and restoration	Training
Disposal of unsightly materials	Process Modification
Conducting Environmental Audits	Recycling (waste water, etc.)
Public Outreach and Awareness	Technological Improvements

On ISEPs - A US firm under enforcement with EPA may agree to enter into an ISEP and carry out in Mexico the above mentioned projects or the following:

- a) Road paving projects to reduce PM-10 (particulate matter of 10 microns and less;
- b) Finance Brick kiln modifications by converting to cleaner fuels and build more efficient brickkilns;
- c) Sponsor Employee Vehicular I / M Programs;
- d) Conduct a "Paint shop spray gun 'Buy-Back' program"; and
- e) Install pollution abatement equipment in Cd Juarez industrial facilities.

Why consider ISEPs?

- a) Authority already exists;
- b) Low-risk option for exploring ERC programs;
- c) flexibility;
- d) explore the feasibility of future Binational cooperation.

A resolution endorsing the ISEP concept was submitted, but at this time the JAC preferred to better understand the concept given some confusion between SEPs and ERC trading discussed at the 2/97 JAC meeting. During that meeting there was some question as to whether authority existed to have an international emissions reduction credits (IERC) trading program, and there currently is no such authority.

Update on Border Crossing 2000 Task Force Dedicated Commuter Lane (D.C.L.) initiative. There currently is funding appropriated by the INS and others to develop infrastructure for the Stanton Street Bridge.

Dr. Paramo provided an update on a letter to Cong. Sylvestre Reyes stating that an official recommendation was submitted to the State of Chihuahua regarding the emissions inspection program. The letter also refers to the JAC recommendation on air quality reporting to the general public that will be prepared jointly by the agencies involved with Environmental Health and Air Quality. Another letter from Secretary Julia Carabias and a representative from the office of EPA Administrator Carol Browner was read that sets out a plan for an air quality program in Cd. Juarez. Another letter was sent to PEMEX recommending the sale of oxygenated gasoline in Juarez.

Next item allowed for public comment.

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Octavio Chavez reminded the JAC that any of its resolutions would be made after an opportunity for public comment and provided several comments on the previous discussions.

Beatriz Vera commented that the spirit of this meeting is different from past meetings in that in earlier meetings all JAC members were present for the benefit of the airshed, and today everyone was here representing their own agency or organization. She suggested to the co-chairs that they instill a feeling among JAC members to work for the benefit of the JAC and move above their official responsibilities.

Ismael Orozco - Mexican Consul in El Paso provided a brief summary on the status of the Dedicated Commuter Lane. The final decision for this method of crossing requires bilateral agreement. In this regard there exists a US / Mexico Binational working group which is part of the Greater Binational Commission between the US and Mexico. There has been no mention regarding the D.C.L. initiative and he is unsure if the US State Department or the Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE-Mexican State Department) have submitted proposals to move forward. Dr. Paramo added he will work with SEMARNAP personnel to bring this endeavor to fruition.

#### New Initiatives

Carlos Rincon submitted a proposal whereby the AWG is requested to send a letter to the Secretaria de Hacienda y Credito Publico (Mexico's IRS) requesting that Mexican Customs Authorities at the Cd Juarez Port of Entry be instructed to enforce Cd Juarez ecology regulations when a vehicle dealer proceeds with vehicle importation paperwork. This recommendation was approved but will be further discussed at the next JAC meeting.

Dr. Paramo discussed the development of an air quality program for Cd Juarez. He solicited the assistance of the public and JAC members in the development of an Emissions Inventory for Juarez, the Cd Juarez air quality monitoring centers, meteorological monitoring, inventory of the vehicular fleet, etc..

Rene Franco submitted that he would like to form a subcommittee to realize the construction of a binational subway mass transit system, and he would like to have a recommendation come from the JAC to analyze the idea and help it mature into reality.

Jerry Clifford indicated he would like to see those people who are developing emissions inventories to brief us and share their information, their schedule for completing their work, and help us get engaged in their process of developing a regional EI as well as identifying measures in a more comprehensive framework for addressing the region's air pollution problems.

Matt Witosky announced an upcoming EPA Reg. 6 / INE sponsored 2-day symposium to discuss the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). The meeting will be held for state and local

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officials to determine if the US and Mexican programs can fit together and also increase the impact of TRI in Mexico. Information will be forthcoming.

Next meeting date set for El Paso on August 12, 1997.