

Minutes
Eighth Meeting of the
Joint Advisory Committee on Air Quality Improvement for the
Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico
Air Basin
Instituto Municipal de Investigación y Planeación (IMIP)
Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico
August 27, 1998

JAC Members Present:

For Mexico:

Ing. Luis Raul Cordova - Co-Chair - Alternate for Dr. Victor Hugo Paramo, INE
Quim. Pilar Leal - Alternate for Biol. Ma. del Pilar Lopez Marco, PROFEPA
Dra. Andrea Gavalera - Alternate for Dra. Rosalba Rojas
Ing. Jose Treviño - Ecologia del Estado de Chihuahua
Ing. Oscar Ibañez - Cd. Juarez Ecology Dept.
Quim. Adrian Vasquez - UACJ
Dr. Enrique Suarez - FEMAP

For the U.S.:

Bill Luthans - Co-Chair-USEPA Region 6
Dr. Elaine Barron - an El Paso Physician
Fabian Macias - Alternate for Ms. Cecilia Williams - NMED
Tom Martin - ASARCO
Danny Vickers - EDM International
Dr. Carlos Rincon - Environmental Defense Fund
Bob Currey - Alternate for Dr. Chip Groat - UTEP
Jesus Reynoso -El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District(EPCCHED)
Victor Valenzuela - Alternate for Archie Clouse - TNRCC

Welcome and Introductions

Luis Raul Cordova (LRC) welcomed all to the 8th meeting of the JAC, he looks forward to a productive and energetic meeting and asked Architecto Luis Felipe Siquieros, Director of the IMIP, to address the committee.

Arch. Siquieros (LFS) welcomed members of the JAC and the public to the Institute for Municipal Planning and Research. He commended the committee for the work it does and indicated the importance of the work, decisions, and recommendations made by the JAC. He hopes the recommendations that have been made by the JAC become reality.

Bill Luthans (BL) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He indicated he's encouraged by the efforts that have been undertaken and accomplished such as development of the Strategic Plan and the Juárez Air Quality Management Plan.

Agenda and Minutes

LRC - Asked for the approval of the current agenda.

Carlos Rincon (CR) motioned that the agenda be approved; Oscar Ibañez (OI) seconded the motion.

The Agenda was approved.

BL - Next item on the agenda - approval of the May 14, 1998 JAC meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted.

New Members

Next item on the agenda was the announcement of the new JAC members. BL welcomed to the committee Jesus (Chuy) Reynoso (ChR), Air Program Manager for El Paso City County Health and Environmental District (EPCCHED).

LRC - provided an update on the search for a replacement for Hector Quevedo. The Mexican delegates have requested nominations from several universities to fill the vacancy for the academic sector. Several names have been submitted.

Air Quality Reports

Air quality reports were submitted by ChR, Oscar Ibanez (OI), and Fabian Macias (FM)

ChR stated that as was agreed during previous meetings of the JAC, air pollution values would be presented in a concentration-based rather than pollution index-based format due to differences in ambient air quality standards observed by each country - Pollution Standard Index (PSI) for the US and Indice Metropolitano de la Calidad del Aire (IMECA) for MX. ChR presented several graphs indicating that EP air quality monitors reported ozone concentrations greater than 125ppb on two occasions between the months of May to July. JR also presented a chart prepared by Victor Valenzuela (VV), TNRCC Region 6, which shows a summary of 8hr ambient ozone data which represented the new 8hr ozone standard. Ozone concentrations met or exceeded 85ppb on 6 occasions during the same 3 months.

BL indicated that El Paso would first need to comply with the 1-hr ozone standard (120ppb) before the 8-hr standard (80ppb averaged over 8-hrs) would apply. On the 8-hr standard and for regulatory purposes we would need to look at a 3-year average of the 4 highest days to determine compliance with the new ozone standard. He also stated that given the 8-hr standard was exceeded on more occasions than the 1-hr standard there is work to be done.

Oscar Ibañez (OI) indicated data for Cd. Juarez was compiled during the months of January through August. His graphs indicated that Juarez exceeded the IMECA for ozone (.110ppm) on 3 occasions; the graphs also showed the number of days Cd. Juarez air quality has been reported as good, moderate, and unhealthy. Also, there have been 12 PM exceedances between Jan-Aug.

Fabian Macias (FM) stated there are 7 ozone monitors in Doña Ana County; 3 are in the SLP area. He overlaid his graphic data with JR's and demonstrated that the Sunland Park ozone levels closely track those in El Paso.

CR asked all three presenters to provide JAC members with copies of their graphs and that these documents be attached to the minutes.

JAC Letter to PEMEX

LRC presented a letter sent by INE to PEMEX requesting the distribution of oxygenated gasoline in Juarez. PEMEX has yet to formally respond to this request, yet there has been some communication between PEMEX and Chevron which will be presented by Joe Creagh.

Joe Creagh, Environmental Manager for Chevron in El Paso, indicated that a representative from Chevron's Logistics and Trading Dept. has been in contact with PEMEX and will be meeting again with PEMEX personnel in MX D.F. during the next few days to continue pursuing the distribution of oxy-fuels in Juarez. He indicated that PEMEX prefers MTBE (methyl-tert-butyl-ether) as an oxygenate. Ethanol is the oxygenate distributed in El Paso. He also stated that there exists the probability that Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs) may introduce MTBE into the soil; the problem being that MTBE is an environmentally persistent substance while ethanol is not.

Regarding earlier discussions between PEMEX and a representative from Chevron's Logistics and Trading Dept. PEMEX has inquired as to what would it take beginning Oct.1 to provide oxygenated fuel to Juarez given PEMEX's preference for MTBE. Providing MTBE through the binational gasoline pipeline

would not be difficult. Ethanol would need to be shipped via tanker & issues of transporting it would probably need to be addressed. Ethanol cannot be shipped via pipeline for various technical reasons. He would like the JAC members to read over a document he has that discusses two different oxygenates.

Elaine Barron asked if a cost analysis of MTBE vs ethanol has been conducted and if health effects study on the given a leak into the groundwater commented regarding the LUST problem and what is being done to prevent this. Is there any statistical data indicating that catastrophes have occurred as a result of the use of MTBE.

JC responded that there is a subsidy for the use of ethanol therefore a small price advantage may exist. He does not know how price issues will play out in an international environment. It may be more expensive to use ethanol over MTBE in Juarez. On the health effects, EPA has issued an advisory regarding water supplies that may be affected by a release of MTBE. The advisory addresses odor and taste. There are ongoing issues regarding remediation of sites that have been affected by releases of MTBE.

BL added that EPA has stated that the air quality benefits are superior to the drawbacks although one of the drawbacks are issues of stewardship in handling MTBE and effects to groundwater should a release occur. He also asked what the preferred oxygenate is and what will be used.

JC responded that ethanol is the oxygenate that is used by those cities that have the year long fuels programs. On Dr. Barron's last question regarding spills a search on the web brought up an event that occurred in Santa Monica, CA. There is a lawsuit in Sta. Monica regarding this spill, and the issues revolve around product stewardship. In the US we have an underground storage tank (UST) program where older UST's are being replaced by tanks utilizing improved technology.

Victor Valenzuela (VV) asked JC that when Chevron meets w/ PEMEX next week in MX & PEMEX requests that they start supplying oxygenated gasoline and prefers to use MTBE, are they ready to provide it?

JC responded that Chevron currently does not have the ability to store MTBE at the refinery in EP and he's not sure if the other suppliers are capable of providing MTBE. Chevron may be able to provide trucks loaded w/ ethanol.

CR stated that there is a technical commission on oxy-fuels composed of Archie Clouse, Oscar Ibanez and himself and asked JC to provide AC, OI, and himself with current, first hand information of what transpires at the Sept. 1 meeting. This would suffice to keep the JAC & PEMEX updated on this issue.

ChR brought up 2 concerns if an oxyfuels program is undertaken. One is that debris from the UST may clog filters on the fuel pumps at the gas stations and the other is that debris from automobile fuel tanks may clog fuel filters and carburetors fuel lines causing driveability problems. Gas stations usually have extra filters on hand and as far as individual car owners are concerned they should change their fuel filters and not be talked into having expensive and unnecessary repairs done. El Paso has a minimum level of oxygenate and EPA has a maximum level of oxygenate. EP has an extensive testing program for both summer and winter gasolines and this is something that Juarez may wish to consider.

Daniel Chacon stated that an oxy-fuels program is not something that is simple to undertake. He suggested that the JAC may want to meet with PEMEX to inform them of the JAC's discussions regarding oxygenates & request a more definite response from them regarding the distribution of oxyfuels in Jz. The JAC may want to have a more formal working relationship w/ PEMEX to exchange important technical information thus we can avoid problems that can affect the public acceptance of this program.

LRC supported this proposal and considered this would reinforce the efforts currently taking place to not only promote the use of oxy-fuels, but also enhance its acceptance. He thinks that the JAC should make

the first move with the PEMEX representatives in JZ to see where they stand regarding distribution of oxy-fuels and determine a method of getting the ball rolling.

He wrapped things up by recommending that the JAC continue promoting to PEMEX the distribution of oxy-fuels in Juarez. We will soon receive a response from PEMEX, but before a final decision is made the JAC may collect opinions from its members regarding the preferred oxygenate for distribution in Jz.

Health Report

Andrea Gavalera provided an update on health-based activities taking place on the JAC. She gave a report on a meeting that took place in San Diego CA regarding recommendations and activities identified in the JAC Strategic Plan.

Dedicated Commuter Lane

Danny Vickers (DV) presented an update on the Dedicated Commuter Lane (DCL) that is being proposed to be installed at the Stanton Street Bridge. He showed a plan view of the proposed facility identifying vehicular flow. He also described the method used by US Customs to identify individuals authorized to enter the US through the DCL. A computer chip will be installed in a vehicle while its driver would be required to pass a security check. Passengers in an approved vehicle would be required to also pass this check. Unauthorized passengers would be required to cross the bridge using current methods. The goal is to cross into EP in less than (<) 3 minutes. Registration for authorization to use the DCL will begin in Jan. 1999; this process will take 5 weeks. The DCL is expected to open in March 1999. This project has taken 4 years to complete due to the different levels of government that had to approve this project. Mexican & American bridge crossing fees will continue to be applied. The heaviest type of vehicle that will be allowed to use the DCL is a 15 passenger van. One of the reasons the Stanton Street bridge was chosen as the DCL is because it is the least utilized bridge. The next goal of the DCL workgroup of the El Paso Foreign Trade Committee of the EP Chamber of Commerce is to get a DCL on the free bridge and the Zaragoza Bridge. Initial cost estimates for a vehicle and driver to use the DCL is less than (<) \$300/yr. Costs to regular crossers using the current method on the Santa Fe or Zaragoza bridges is about \$200/month given the fee and wear and tear.

Paso del Norte Air Quality Task Force (PDNAQTF - also TF)

Next Daniel Chacon presented a series of slides identifying the Goals of the PDNAQTF and its relationship with the JAC.

The *Mission Statement* of the PDNAQTF is to:

Improve the air quality within the PDN region for a better standard of living of citizens of C. Juarez, El Paso, & Sunland Park by promoting, through locally managed actions and innovative approaches the involvement of the community at large, private & public sectors and academic and social organizations.

The *Objectives* of the PDNAQTF are to:

Maintain a clean air-basin according to each country's standards; full recognition of the International Air Quality Management District; and to promote, coordinate, and implement projects to better understand the air basin pollution problems and possible solutions favoring those that include the social and economic development for the PDN region. Promote public awareness and environmental conscience by carrying out continuous outreach; obtain active public participation in the management of air quality projects in cooperation with government institutions throughout the basin and the JAC; improvement of air quality for Cd. Juarez, Chih. / El Paso, Texas / Dona Ana County, NM

The *Areas of Work*:

Tasks will be achieved through the following area of work: Transboundary governance; specific pollution abatement activities; public health projects; and regional environmental leadership.

CR - stated that Daniel was recently selected as the current president of the PDNAQTF.

DC humbly acknowledged his appointment and looks forward to working with the JAC. He asked for the JAC's opinion and recommendations the workplan and objectives proposed by the task force.

LRC - commented on the administration of the PDNAQTF - there are 3 pillars they are looking at to build a good working relationship:

- 1) An NGO that is binational in scope and philosophically supported by all;
- 2) Specific air quality programs undertaken by the US and MX delegations on the JAC within their own countries; and 3) a committee that is making a strong effort to improve the air basin. Yet he feels it's the same group of people who are involved and that new faces are needed to promote the group and its mission to improve regional air quality. We have a strong and worthwhile structure and organization we just need to increase the size of the group.

Bob Currey (BC) thoroughly agreed with what LRC stated. It is important for the JAC to note that the TF is the parent of the JAC and a product of a grassroots citizen activist organization. In the TF, people from all the neighborhoods of the community have come together as citizens and taken off the uniforms of their governmental, academic etc. positions to work together to create the JAC and have become actively involved on the work of this committee. As such TF can do many things that the JAC cannot. The TF is an important tool to promote, follow-up, and implement what the JAC recommends. He congratulated the TF on behalf of the JAC for their wonderful efforts and accomplishments during these 5 years.. History says that we can do more as neighbors than as public officials.

BL fully agreed.

As an added comment BC stated that Bob Gray finalized the ozone map that has been seen on TV and the Internet. The website is "www.ozonemap.org". Second, the person whom he represents, Dr. Chip Groat, has been nominated by the President of the US to head the US Geologic Survey (USGS). This is a significant honor for Dr. Groat and for the university. For the purpose of the minutes he would like to know why El Paso lost \$16-\$30 Million in highway projects as was reported by the El Paso Times, for lack of a state air quality study?

Chuck Kooshian (CK) - El Paso Metropolitan Organization (MPO) - stated that the MPO is not completely at fault regarding this issue. The delay is coming from Austin. All the data for the transportation modeling plan was submitted to Austin in 1996. The response from Austin was that EP would not be in conformity as far as reducing mobile source pollution was concerned given projected population growth. There was a summit in March 1998 between the TNRCC, TxDOT (Texas Dept. of Transp.) & MPO to formulate a strategy that allowed the transportation modeling plan to show that El Paso would conform to air quality standards. The follow-up plan recommended more projects such as public transit terminals, use of CNG (compressed natural gas) as a fuel source, etc. MPO continues to work w/ TxDOT to refine the model.

BC stated that in order to shorten this process EP would need to develop the capacity itself to which Chuck responded in the affirmative.

Danny Vickers also responded to the article in the Times. There have been a lot of private sector input on how to increase the capacity of the MPO, which has the capacity to plan \$35 million of projects per year, The community wants to give MPO the capacity to plan \$50M per year. That means adding staff and having a permanent director including a private sector group or foundation that can push projects that the MPO may not be able to promote as a governmental organization. There is also discussion of taking the MPO out of the city government type of organization and establishing a regional planning board such as the Public Service Board (responsible for water issues). Planning in an international community makes it difficult to plan projects of a large scope. He would like to see more projects that also address air quality issues.

Allyson Siwik invited Chuck Kooshian to participate in the JAC Strategic Planning process.

As a final point BC asked that the Administrative Liaisons record in the minutes the names of JAC members or their designated alternates who are in attendance. Its when we don't have a representative at all that is alarming. He also asked the co-chairs to talk to their members to assure attendance at JAC meetings is stressed.

CR added that issues of attendance are addressed in the bylaws.

Allyson Siwik (AS) invited all members and those in attendance to attend the upcoming inauguration at the Sunrise Post Office of an alternate fuels filling system.

BL asked that the JAC indulge him whilst he take care of some EPA business. Recently there was a ceremony at the Reg. EPA office to recognize EPA employees who promote environmental activities. He recognized Allyson Siwik for her work on the JAC and for developing the Strategic Plan.

JAC Strategic Plan

CR & AS presented a status report from the JAC Strategic Planning Committee. Given the amounts of time that has been required to develop the JAC from its first inception, to development of the bylaws, to movement on all the recommendations that have been made he believes that it would probably take about 1yr to complete the strategic plan as well as establish projects that will be identified in the Plan.

AS provided a status report of activity to date on development of the JAC strategic plan. The JAC strategic plan tech commission has been working since its inception in December. We had a symposium in February where we agreed on mission, goal, objectives, we defined the problem & scoped out many good ideas to address the air quality problem. We developed a matrix from which we prioritized projects according to feasibility, cost effectiveness, and significance of impact. For the May meeting we had 103 projects that had been identified in areas of mobile, point and area sources, health, legislation, financing, economic incentives, etc. Since then we have narrowed this list of projects down to 26. What we have left to do is develop 1-page summaries that ID for everyone what the problem is, the source contribution, and what the project would be. We will send the JAC the summaries of the 26 items as soon as they are ready. What is left to do? We need to develop a time-line for implementation of each project. JAC members need to take the lead for each of these projects. There are some projects that can be pursued; maybe they need some financing to begin. EPA may have contractor support to better define the projects. Finally we need to develop the strategic plan Document which we hope to have drafted for the upcoming JAC meeting.

In summary we have identified: mission, goals, objectives; measures of success, strategic plan document outline, comparison of strategic plan projects to the Cd. Juarez Air Quality Management Plan, etc.

CR presented the 26 projects in general terms. He identified the mobile source projects, point and area source projects, health projects, economic incentives, legislation, planning, special studies, etc. Among some of the projects identified are:

- Enforce vehicle importation regulations;
- Strengthen vehicle inspection/maintenance programs;
- Promote Dedicated Commuter Lanes to expedite crossing at international bridges.
- Require the distribution of seasonally appropriate gasoline such as the same low RVP gasoline in summer and oxygenated gas in winter;
- Recommend to the Industrial, Commercial and Service Sectors as well as government to establish programs beyond compliance with current air quality standards.
- Conduct epidemiological studies to assess the health impacts from current exposures to air pollutants in general;
- Develop health education programs to achieve changes in personal habits regarding care of the environment with special emphasis on air quality;
- Institute an epidemiological surveillance program associated with air pollution;

Next steps: Finalize project summaries and assign JAC leads for projects, develop project-specific work plans.

JAC Strategic Plan/Cd. Juarez Air Quality Plan Comparison

Adrian Vazquez (av) presented a comparison between the Cd. Juarez Air Quality Management Plan (PROAIRE) and the JAC Strategic Plan currently under development.

LRC asked the JAC's opinion on PROAIRE item #30, regarding the JAC's participation in implementation of the PROAIRE. He understands there is a letter from the co-chairs that has been drafted in this regard.

CR stated that the spirit in which this committee was formed to support local & regional air quality programs.

BL indicated he agreed with what CR said, but this was a time when as a representative of the US Government he considered it important to consult with the appropriate staff at EPA to determine the legality of signing a document endorsing a program established by another governmental entity that could represent a binational agreement where he may not have the authority to do so. The message he has received is that EPA may endorse the idea and concept of such an agreement, but the authority to sign this document has not yet been received.

EB indicated that as a source of reference she has met w/ a toxicology expert in El Paso named Dr. John Haynes. Dr. Haynes is the only physician in El Paso specialized in this field. He has stated that he is willing to cooperate with our activities as needed. She also indicated she has been selected by the Office of environmental justice to serve on a Federal Advisory Board to the Air Work Group. She will be going to Washington representing this community to carry the message of our strategic plan.

Update on PROAIRE Activities

Oscar Ibanez (OI) presented an update on activities described in the PROAIRE. The national reforestation program currently is taking place in Juarez in collaboration with the Rotary clubs of Juarez. We also have an agreement to study fugitive emissions from Cementos de Chihuahua specifically the "Frontera" facility. The DCL report has already been discussed. There is a recommendation to reduce emissions from private residences. This proposal has been developed by the City Ecology Dept. & there will be a public hearing on this matter within the next 2 weeks. There is a preliminary study by UACJ to improve the Cd. Juarez Air Monitoring Network using funds provided by INE. There was a meeting with local experts to determine what would be the best method to analyze PM. The report has a September due date. There is ongoing research in the Integrated Transportation Plan for Cd. Juarez undertaken by the IMIP. This study is funded by various US and MX sources & will establish a model to analyze mobile source emissions throughout the city. It will consider the expanded use of Public Transit systems. There was also contact made with a local facility that produces electric vehicles to determine what are potential markets for use of electric vehicles in fleets. There is a market for this product where a high energy charge is not required such as light duty, high volume delivery services. There is agreement to continue studying emissions reductions from the brickmaking microindustry; this program is going on between UACJ and NMSU. On the vehicle I/M program there is an effort to reinvigorate the Cd. Juarez program which was postponed several months ago. We currently have I/M going on at local shopping malls with funds provided by EDF. Cd. Juarez also has two vehicles assigned to the police department that will enforce the vehicle emissions laws & regulations to remove high-polluting vehicles from the streets.

JAC letter on Cd. Juarez Vehicle Verification Program

Enrique Suarez (ES) has a letter to be sent by the JAC to the Co-chairs of the Air Work Group which could be forwarded to the new environmental authorities for the State of Chihuahua. The letter alludes to the negative impact on Cd. Juarez air quality due to the lack of an enforceable Cd. Juarez vehicle emissions verification program. He requests that the JAC support this letter.

LRC indicated he would like to have comments from the JAC with regards to this letter and if approved, this letter to be sent to the state governments.

Matt Witosky (MW) stated that if there is a consensus of getting the letter to the AWG, he would like to know how it will get presented to that Work Group.

CR indicated that would not be difficult to accomplish at the upcoming meeting of the AWG.

AV presented several training programs that exist between the UACJ, INE, DGDUE (Cd. Juarez Ecology Office), EDF, TNRCC and EPA which emphasize technology transfer. He also mentioned the Mobile5Juarez mobile emissions model which was headed up by Jorge Sarmiento, INE and Carl Snow, TNRCC.

CR announced the finalization of a workshop for vehicle inspection mechanics. He then identified the Good Neighbor Environmental Board as a group with which the JAC should be in communication. The GNEB operates in both countries whose members come from 9 states along the US/MX border. He indicated that Adrian Vazquez represent the JAC on this Board.

BC suggested that Dr. Groat also be named as a rep. of the JAC on the GNEB since he will be participating at that meeting.

Project XL

Soumen Ghosh, NMSU, presented issues involved with Transboundary Emissions Reductions Credits (ERC) Trading Program as part of EPA's XL Program. ERCs can be defined as the currency used in trading among emission points. There are several methods in which how such a currency can be used; one such policy is known as the offset policy. The offset policy allows qualified new or expanding sources to commence operations in a nonattainment area provided they acquire sufficient ERCs from existing sources.

How does this work:

Under XL an ERC Trading program in the Paso del Norte air shed could be promoted to help a business based in El Paso to reduce emissions in a Cd. Juarez business which has similar emissions and obtain ERCs which can be considered as offsets in the US-based company's request for expansion and permit application process. Likewise a source in Juarez may do the same across border between plants in Juarez and El Paso or Dona Ana County.

Benefits:

Benefits may accrue to the partners due to several reasons: cost effectiveness; enhanced production capacity and broadening markets due to enhanced operations. The cost of reducing emission releases from both facilities is the basis of such an emissions reduction project.

Steps needed to implement such a program:

Recognize that this program is a better and cost effective way to reduce air pollution; identify candidate firms on both sides of the border; estimate the incremental marginal cost of reducing criteria pollutants (NOx, CO, PM) by participating firms; develop an institutional framework for implementing the emission reduction credit program.

Mark Rodriguez from El Paso Electric presented technical points of this project should it join with Mexico's Federal Electric Commission to reduce emissions from several of its power plants. In order to obtain ERCs the following criteria would need to be followed:

Quantify by stack testing the emissions to be reduced; assure the emissions reductions are permanent and enforceable - if there is no commitment from the legal arena, this project will not get off the ground.

Observations and comments by the public:

Octavio Chavez (OCh) made reference to the February JAC meeting with regards to the statements made by New Mexico to look into distributing oxygenated fuel in Doña Ana County.

Fabian Macias responded that Cecilia Williams would be the best person to answer this issue at the next meeting of the JAC.

CR stated that NM should integrate itself with the JAC technical commission on oxygenated fuel distribution.

Agreements

- 1) Continue with the proposal by Chevron regarding the use of ethanol instead of MTBE as an oxygenate in Cd. Juarez.
- 2) The Strategic Planning Technical Commission will obtain greater involvement from members of the JAC to head up projects identified in the Strategic Plan.
- 3) Maintain JAC member attendance list and apply the rules regarding meeting attendance as stated in the Bylaws.
- 4) Move forward with the letter to the AWG which will then be forwarded to the new Legislators and leaders for the State of Chihuahua regarding the negative impact on Cd. Juarez air quality due to the lack of an active vehicle emissions verification program.
- 5) Submit to the AWG an update on the JAC Strategic Plan.
- 6) Reorganize the oxygenated gasoline Technical Commission to include New Mexico.
- 7) Authorize Adrian Vazquez and Chip Groat to represent the JAC at meetings of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board.
- 8) Propose at the upcoming meeting of the AWG to be held in Tijuana, B.C. to establish a nexus between the JAC and the Environmental Health Work Group (EHWG), and to establish a Pilot Project to conduct an Epidemiological Surveillance effort in the Paso del Norte Airshed; establishing that the JAC and the EHWG support these types of joint activities.

Jose Treviño (JT) mentioned the signing on August 14, 1998 of a Tri-state Agreement on Environmental Cooperation between Chihuahua-Texas-New Mexico. He indicated that on 3 October, 1998 there will be a change of government authorities for the State of Chihuahua, and there will more than likely be a new person to replace him. He took this opportunity to bid farewell to the JAC on behalf of himself, the outgoing administration and Governor of the State of Chihuahua.

LRC thanked Ing. Treviño for his active and distinguished participation on the JAC and invited him to continue participating in the efforts to promote the JAC and improve regional air quality.

Next meeting date set for 3 December in New Mexico.

Meeting adjourned.