

## **2.0 CONSOLIDATED INTERNATIONAL AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD**

### **COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Status of Acid Rain Emissions**

##### **Recommendation:**

Given the efforts of the New England States and the Atlantic Provinces to co-ordinate the determination and management of the effects of acid deposition on this transboundary region, the International Joint Commission should encourage the governments of Canada and the United States to provide the resources necessary to fully document the current concerns and the future risk in this binational region and to determine appropriate reductions in emissions of sulfur and nitrogen oxides inside and outside the region.

##### **Recommendation:**

The International Air Quality Advisory Board encourages the International Joint Commission to advise the governments that public access to information on releases of toxic substances, including persistent toxic substances, should be an ongoing requirement for the electrical utility sector. This should apply to significant electrical power generation facilities on both sides of the boundary, particularly in light of the extensive and interactive restructuring currently underway in that industry.

#### **Ozone**

##### **Recommendation:**

The Commission should request a detailed account from governments of specific progress made toward establishing an Ozone Annex to the Canada United States Air Quality Agreement, including detailed identification of the major issues requiring binational resolution and commitment to a projected schedule for completion of the Annex.

##### **Comment: Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE)**

The current United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Advisory Panel should provide some definitive findings on the impact of MTBE, a gasoline additive used to ameliorate air quality. However, in the interim, the continuing fouling of public water supplies is unacceptable. If agencies are not able to mount effective spill and leak prevention for both above ground and underground sources, it is likely that the usage of MTBE as a gasoline additive will be systematically reduced and largely eliminated throughout both nations.

## **Fine Particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Review**

### **Recommendation**

The International Joint Commission should seek further assurances that:

- the two governments are committed to reaching agreement on the use of monitoring techniques that will provide comparable (both in quality and quantity) PM<sub>2.5</sub> data in the U.S. and in Canada;
- speciation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> under U.S. and Canadian monitoring programs will be adequate to determine specific pollutants and, where possible, sources of particular concern to human health throughout both countries; and
- under the U.S. PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring program being currently deployed, at least two enhanced monitoring sites (Supersites) be established in the transboundary area.