

### 3.0 INTRODUCTION

In this, its 24th progress report, the International Air Quality Advisory Board revisits several issues discussed with the International Joint Commission over the last few years, most recently in our Special Report on Transboundary Air Quality Issues. Included are the status and multilateral developments with regard to emissions of the Acid Gases, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), and the relationship of the latter to ozone control, which respond, in part, to initiatives noted by the Commission in its report “The IJC and the 21st Century.”

The efforts of the New England Governors and the Atlantic Premiers to create the structure necessary to enable joint consideration of management strategies for acid emissions in that portion of the continent, and the role of the Canada/United States Air Quality Agreement are reviewed, as are the recommendations of the newly formed OntAIRio Coalition for Acid Gas Control.

The completion of the OTAG (Ozone Transport Assessment Group) study in the United States has resulted in a United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) State Implementation Plan (SIP) call, designed to require states to commit to reductions largely in emissions of NO<sub>x</sub>. Specific NO<sub>x</sub> reduction and control provisions of the EPA action and the states and Canadian response to same are discussed, particularly NO<sub>x</sub> control from coal-fired electrical utilities, in a context of wholesale utility restructuring in both countries.

With regard to NO<sub>x</sub> from mobile sources, the recent agreement between the six major diesel engine manufacturers and the U.S. Department of Justice regarding emissions is reviewed as are further state, federal and provincial (Ontario) activities on automobile emissions, with an emphasis on the pollutant NO<sub>x</sub>. An update on Canadian and U.S. action on sulfur levels in gasoline and some discussion of sulfur levels in diesel and heavy oil fuels are also presented.

The report updates activity on ozone in the U.S. and Canada, with a particular emphasis on possible activity under the Canada/United States Air Quality Agreement. The continued use of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) as a gasoline additive and its role in fouling water supplies is reviewed.

Fine particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) measurement and management in both countries is considered, with a focus on monitoring efforts for this contaminant in both countries. The Board stresses the need to ensure that the monitoring technology used, if not identical, should at least produce comparable results.

The report concludes with an update on regional haze activities in the United States, noting that the USEPA has issued a proposed final rule for management of this environmental parameter. The linkage, particularly in monitoring activities, between the haze rule and that for fine particulate is noted.