

-----Original Message-----

From: Les Alm [mailto:LALM@boisestate.edu]
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2003 3:33 PM
To: Commission@washington.ijc.org
Subject: AQA 2002 Progress Report

Comments on the Air Quality Agreement 2002 Progress Report

The progress reports are immensely valuable for a social scientist (like myself) as I attempt to follow the progress of acid rain policy in both the United States and Canada. From my perspective the AQA appears to be successful along many levels, not the least of which is keeping the issue of reducing cross-border pollution out in the open so those interested in such things have the ability to view the progress being made.

I do have one very minor concern about the 2002 report. Under EMERGING COUNTRY ISSUES (page 20), there is a brief summary of President Bush's Clear Skies Initiative that mentions the substantial reductions in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides that will result if Congress passes the legislation. However, based on my readings from U.S. government entities (e.g., Congressional Research Service), there does not seem to be any type of consensus that the Clear Skies initiative will bring about such reductions. Certainly, the public statements from those critical of Bush's proposal do not indicate that the Clear Skies Initiative will produce the reductions as listed in the Progress Report. This section on the Bush proposal appears more as an advertisement for the Bush proposal rather than a balanced look at his proposal with at least some mention of the drawbacks (or criticisms). It seems to me that the Progress Report should continue to document the actual reductions of air particulates in both Canada and the U.S., and if it does comment on future proposals it should provide a more complete picture of those proposals.

Overall, the Progress Report does such a good job of not only noting the amount of reductions accomplished and anticipated, but it also provides the scientific studies (or references) that support those numbers.

Leslie R. Alm
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Public Policy & Administration
Boise State University
Boise, Idaho 83725-1935
208-426-4094
lalm@boisestate.edu