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From: James P. Bruce [mailto:jpbruce@sympatico.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2003 11:19 AM

To: Secretary Canadian Section

Subject: Progress Report on the Can.-U.S. Air Quality Agreement

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the copy of the 2002 Progress Report on the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. It is a valuable reference and it is comforting to note that for some pollutants some progress is being made.

However, linkages to climate variability and change seem to be largely ignored. This is particularly a concern for ozone. Formation of Ozone is accelerated by increases in air temperature and ultraviolet radiation. In interpreting maps and changes in Ozone concentrations (e.g. Fig. 13, 14, 15) some idea of changes in these driving factors, as well as in emissions of precursors which is well covered, would be instructive.

From a climate change perspective, tropospheric ozone is estimated to be the greenhouse gas providing the third largest increase in direct radiative forcing since pre-industrial times (IPCC-3rd Assessment Report - The Scientific Basis).

Further climate warming is likely to lead to longer and more intense air pollution episodes in urban regions. However, globally, increases in average water vapour (already being observed) may tend to damp out global increases in Ozone. It is recognized that these effects are hard to quantify.

Also an increase in occurrence of hot days could increase biogenic and anthropogenic emissions of VOC's from increased evaporative emissions from fuel-injected automobiles.

In short, it does not appear reasonable to ignore climate variations and changes, nor UV changes when considering local and regional air pollution. However, since climate change is occurring, this reinforces the need to reduce air pollution emissions.

Yours sincerely,

James P. Bruce

Canadian Policy Representative, Soil and Water Conservation Society

P.S. Would you please send me the recent Progress Report on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

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