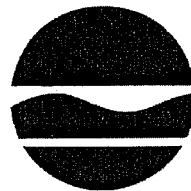


New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Air Resources, 2nd Floor
Albany, New York



APR 3 2007

Ms. Elizabeth Bourget
International Joint Commission
Attn: Air Quality Comments
1250 23rd Street, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20440

**2006 Progress Report
Canada - United States Air Quality Agreement**

Dear Ms. Bourget:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the subject document which elaborates on air quality initiatives that have been and continue to be implemented in the United States and Canada.

It is particularly important to identify, as this document does, the progress that has been realized to reduce air pollution. It is equally important to address where efforts are still needed to reduce levels of pollutants that continue to threaten the health of our citizens. This document achieves this goal as well. It is clear that the job of maintaining a cooperative and professional interaction between Canada and the United States, sharing data and concerns is as important today as it was when the initial agreement was formulated. A good example of this is the need to have data that is readily interchangeable between the United States and Canada. As the attention of our respective regulatory bodies continue to address PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ monitoring techniques and the promulgation of appropriate standards, sharing experiences with monitoring techniques can only lead to a better understanding of this important contaminant.

I am pleased that the latest progress report is both comprehensive and readable in identifying what has been done and commend those that have produced this document.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David J. Shaw
Director, Division of Air Resources