

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

AVR 24 2009
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The Right Honourable Herb Gray, P.C., C.C., Q.C.
Chair, Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
Canada and United States
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6K6

IJC / CMI OTTAWA
ACTION Beckhoff
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Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 16, 2009, enclosing a copy of the *Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement Progress Report 2008*.

As you are aware, representatives from Health Canada participate in the Canada-United States Air Quality Committee and its subcommittees, and have contributed to the health-related content of this Report. As noted in the Report, there are significant health effects associated with air pollution exposure across Canada, including in the Canada-United States border region. Health Canada is engaged in research to characterize air pollutant exposure and the associated effects on human health.

The Report also highlights the actions taken by both countries to manage air quality and to meet the commitments of the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement. As Canada and the United States continue to move forward with the negotiation of a Particulate Matter Annex to the Agreement, Health Canada representatives will ensure that consideration continues to be given to managing the health risks associated with the transboundary flow of air pollution.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Leona Aglukkaq