

Comments on US-Canada Air Quality Agreement Progress Report 2008

This report is a well-written and informative summary of the joint efforts, and results of those efforts by US and Canada to address transboundary air pollution and deposition issues. It is especially valuable because it is one of the few documents where both US and Canadian work are combined. The data sources are well referenced for anyone interested in looking at a particular issue in more detail. The bottom line here seems to be that both countries are meeting or beating their obligations in terms of NO_x, SO₂ and VOC's, and environmental improvements are the result.

However, because of the length of the report, it could be improved by following the introduction with an executive summary to synthesize the material concisely. In this era of short attention spans an abstract or executive summary helps to get the main points across quickly.

Some other suggestions/comments:

A complete map of the PEMA region would be useful. Figure 14 has the US area but not the Canadian part of PEMA. It is mentioned in the text but a complete map would be much more clear.

The big pictures of what is going on in terms of emission changes are shown in Figs 29, 30, 31 where total US and Canadian emissions on the same graph are shown over time for SO₂, NO_x and VOC's, respectively. This is great, but this information should appear much earlier in the report (It could be part of an executive summary). Also figures with the total emissions in the PEMA region of both countries (on the same graph), which is the focus of the Ozone Annex, would be useful. Extending the emission lines into the future as was done with Fig 16 is also informative.

Table 2 pg 43 should also include NADP/AIRMoN. It's not a large network but it is a valuable network because of daily precipitation chemistry data. Also the NADP passive ammonia network is now up and running and should be included in a table like this in future reports. Add all the Canadian networks to a future table. It sometimes feels that the Canadian and US portions of this report were written separately (probably were!) and not enough effort was made to combine the information in a clearer way.

Over all this is an excellent report.

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