



**OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEES
(NAC/GAC)**

(FINAL)

SUMMARY

May 15–16, 2019

William Jefferson Clinton South
EPA Conference Room 2138
1200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
and Via Adobe® Connect Teleconference

***Note:** The U.S. National and Governmental Advisory Committees are federal advisory committees chartered by Congress, operating under the Federal Advisory Committee Act; 5 U.S.C., App. 2. The committees provide advice to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. The findings and/or recommendations of the committees do not represent the views of the Agency, and this document does not represent information approved or disseminated by EPA.*

Table of Contents

Call to Order and Introductions.....	1
Welcome.....	1
Agenda Summary.....	2
NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION.....	2
Overview of EPA and FACMD	2
Role and Functions of EPA Advisory Committees.....	3
Overview of the NAC and the GAC	4
Overview of CEC and EPA’s OITA	5
Understanding NAC/GAC Meeting Objectives/Charges.....	6
Travel and Administrative Overview	6
Question and Answer Period.....	6
Public Comment Period	7
UPDATES: EPA’S Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)	7
CEC Update on Operational Plan (OP) and North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) Grants.....	7
JPAC Report	9
Update on the 2019 CEC Council Session.....	9
Lightning Talks From NAC/GAC Members Regional Topics	9
Summary and Next Steps	14
Call to Order	14
Plenary: Joint Committee Meeting	14
Public Comment Period	14
GAC Separate Meeting.....	15
NAC Separate Meeting.....	16
Committees Reconvene in Plenary Session.....	16
Adjournment	17
Action Items.....	17
Summary Certification	18

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Call to Order and Introductions

Oscar Carrillo, National and Governmental Advisory Committees (NAC/GAC) Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Federal Advisory Committee Management Division (FACMD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency)

Mr. Oscar Carrillo, NAC/GAC DFO, FACMD, EPA, called the meeting to order and welcomed new and returning NAC and GAC members and other attendees to the 52nd meeting of the NAC and GAC committees. The first meeting of these Committees was held in Washington, D.C., in 1994 and EPA is proud to celebrate 25 years of this North American trilateral approach—Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)—to addressing environmental issues for Canada, Mexico and the United States. He invited Ms. Sally Gonzales (GAC Chair) to do the invocation.

Mr. Carrillo thanked the NAC/GAC Chairs for assisting in planning the meeting and Ms. Monisha Harris, Director, FACMD, for ensuring that the resources are made available to support the work of the committees. He also thanked Ms. Jane Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) and OITA staff. Mr. Carrillo expressed appreciation to the FACMD staff, Stephanie McCoy, Geraldine Brown and Brenda McGill, for providing logistical support for the meeting. Participants introduced themselves. In his introduction, Mr. Carrillo reflected on growing up in El Paso, Texas, and understanding the U.S.-Mexico border issues. The advent of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) provided him the opportunity to be a part of any new development in resolving border issues, which became a professional interest of his at EPA. He noted the full agenda and then introduced Ms. Harris to update the committees on FACMD activities.

Welcome

Monisha Harris, Director, FACMD, EPA

Ms. Harris welcomed the new and returning NAC/GAC members and other attendees. The Office of Mission Support (OMS) and FACMD provide support for all of the Agency's federal advisory committees, including the NAC and the GAC, and two others; the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB) and the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). The NAC and the GAC provide advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator, Congress and the President on environmental issues; engage with the Agency's partners and stakeholders and play an important role in helping EPA to achieve its mission to protect human health and the environment. The committees will be further briefed on the Agency and roles and responsibilities of the advisory groups during the new member orientation session later in the meeting.

EPA is pleased to welcome 11 new members to the committees for fiscal year 2019, five to the NAC and six to the GAC, who were selected and vetted from a competitive pool of applicants. Ms. Harris thanked the new members for accepting the call to serve EPA and returning members for their continued commitment and service. She also thanked the DFO, Mr. Carrillo, who gives 100 percent to support the NAC and the GAC, upholds high professional standards in his work and ensures that the committees' advice is forwarded to EPA in a timely manner. She expressed appreciation to longtime FACMD staff, Ms. McCoy and Ms. Brown and new staff member Ms. McGill, for their tireless energy and effort devoted to the success of these meetings. Ms. Harris also expressed appreciation to Ms. Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, OITA and CEC Council U.S. Alternative Representative (Alt Rep), for her leadership and continued support of the NAC and the GAC. She recognized OITA staff for their contributions to the NAC and the GAC, notably Mr. Luis Troche, Senior Advisor, North American Program, and Mr. Mark Kasman, Director, Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs. OITA staff will update the committees on U.S. priorities later in the meeting. Lastly, Ms. Harris thanked the committees

for the hours of dedication and work that they perform in advising the CEC and EPA Administrator. She then invited Dr. Theresa Pardo (University of Albany, State University of New York), Chair of the NAC, and Ms. Sally Gonzales (Arizona State Senate), Chair of the GAC, to provide an overview of the agenda.

Agenda Summary

Theresa Pardo, Ph.D., Chair of the NAC

Sally Ann Gonzales, Chair of the GAC

Dr. Pardo and Ms. Gonzales also welcomed new members, returning members and other participants to the meeting. Dr. Pardo then reviewed the agenda. Day 1 of the meeting will focus on the new member orientation consisting of overviews of EPA and FACMD, the NAC and the GAC, the CEC and OITA, and EPA and administrative processes. Members also will be briefed on the roles and functions of EPA advisory committees (e.g., GNEB, NACEPT and NAC/GAC) and NAC/GAC meeting objectives and charge. The returning Committee members and FACMD and OITA staff will be available to answer any questions. The afternoon session will consist of updates on the CEC and Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and NAC/GAC member presentations on regional topics. Day 2—the business meeting—will include a joint plenary session, Committee separate breakout groups and reconvening plenary session. Time is allotted for public comments on both days of the meeting.

Dr. Pardo noted a change in the agenda. The update on U.S. Priorities and Council Session from Ms. Nishida scheduled for the Day 1 afternoon session has been changed to an Update on the CEC 2018 Council Session only. Mr. Troche will present this update.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Overview of EPA and FACMD

Monisha Harris, Director, FACMD, EPA

Ms. Harris provided an overview of EPA. To accomplish the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment, EPA Administrator, Mr. Andrew Wheeler, puts forth three overarching Agency goals focusing on—core mission, cooperative federalism and the rule of law and process—which are detailed in EPA's fiscal year (FY) 2018–2022 Strategic Plan. The six EPA priorities for FY 2018–2019 are—

- Improve air quality by the implementation of pollution control measures;
- Empower communities to leverage EPA water infrastructure investments;
- Accelerate the pace of cleanups and return sites to beneficial use;
- Meet new statutory requirements to improve chemical safety in commerce;
- Increase the environmental law compliance rate; and
- Accelerate permitting-related decisions.

Established in 1970, EPA shared its beginning with the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) and joined the ranks of other existing federal agencies, including the Atomic Energy Division (now part of the Department of Energy); Department of Health, Education & Welfare (now the Department of Health and Human Services); Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture. EPA's annual budget and workforce has changed from the \$1 billion and 4,000 employees in 1970 to \$6.1 billion and more than 15,000 employees in 2018. The organizational structure of the Agency consists of 12 program offices—the Office of the Administrator and 11 others, including the OMS, which governs FACMD and the NAC and the GAC. There are 10 EPA Regions, which execute the Agency's programs, address environmental issues confronting their regions and implement federal environmental laws.

As FACMD Director, Ms. Harris explained that the primary responsibility of FACMD is to provide efficient operation and oversight of EPA committees in accordance with governing statutory and administrative requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and management of four federal advisory committees. She noted the organizational structure and acknowledged the FACMD staff. The Division is charged with serving as the secretariat for all of EPA's federal advisory committees, including those committees authorized under the FACA. FACMD serves as the National Program Manager for the Agency's Committee Management Program; is a catalyst for public participation in national and international policy development, implementation and decision-making; and participates as a partner in outreach, strategic coordination and evaluation of the Agency's programs. FACMD has oversight and guidance responsibility for the 22 federal advisory committees in EPA.

Ms. Harris described the four federal advisory committees managed by FACMD. The GNEB advises the President and the Congress on the need for environmental and infrastructure projects within the states of the United States contiguous to Mexico. Members of the Board include senior-level officials representing business, industry, academia, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), federal agencies, border states and local governments, Tribes and national environmental groups. The CEQ receives the Board's advice and recommendations on behalf of the President and helps identify topics for the Board's annual reports.

The NAC and the GAC advise the U.S. Representative (i.e., EPA's Administrator) to the CEC on implementation of the environmental side accords of NAFTA. The NAC includes representatives from business, industry, NGOs and academia. The GAC includes representatives from state, local and Tribal governments. FACMD coordinates the NAC and GAC's work with the OITA.

Established in 1988, NACEPT's role is to advise the EPA Administrator and other officials on high-priority national and international environmental policy, management and technology issues. Members of the Council are senior-level officials representing business, industry, academia, NGOs, federal, state and local governments, Tribes, national environmental groups, and environmental justice organizations. NACEPT forms subcommittees, as needed, to address specific programmatic issues.

Role and Functions of EPA Advisory Committees

Jim McCleary, Attorney Advisor, FACMD, EPA

Mr. Jim McCleary noted that the federal advisory committees are an important means EPA uses to obtain group advice, ideas, points of view and expert recommendations from diverse customers, partners and stakeholders. The FACA of 1972 governs the establishment, operation and termination of federal advisory committees, and the Act may apply when EPA utilizes or convenes committees to obtain group advice. Committees must have an active charter filed with Congress. The committee charter must include committee objectives and a description of duties, the period of time for the committee to complete its work, the official to whom the committee reports, and an estimated number of meetings and costs. A charter generally expires every 2 years and may be renewed.

At EPA, members serve at the discretion of the Administrator. The committee must be fairly balanced in representation of points of view and functions performed. EPA appoints members depending on whether the member is being asked to represent the point of view of a group (i.e., Representative members) or provide the Agency with their best independent judgment and expertise (i.e., Special Government Employees). In terms of public access, FACA requires openness and transparency. The meeting notices are published in the *Federal Register*, meetings are open to the public and opportunities are provided for public comment. Detailed meeting minutes, which are certified by the committee Chair, as well as committee documents are available to the public. These requirements apply to all meetings, including face-to-face, teleconferences, videoconference or any electronic medium. EPA must designate a federal

employee to be a DFO for each committee who manages the daily operations of the committee. The DFO must attend every meeting, approve the agenda, call the meeting to order, and adjourn the meeting.

Mr. McCleary noted the members' roles and responsibilities. He stressed that members are expected to participate and absences impact the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire group. Members are to study and review materials in advance of a meeting and engage in a candid exchange of views and perspectives during the meeting. Members are expected to collaborate to accomplish the Committee's charge, serve the appointed term and discuss immediately with the DFO any conflict that prevents their participation. Lastly, members should maintain close communication with the DFO.

There are travel and ethics considerations associated with being a member. EPA may pay travel and *per diem* for members on official travel. Members should refrain from any language or activities that would compromise the civility of the committee when traveling to meetings and during meetings. They should maintain an environment that promotes the participation of individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or sexual orientation. Members may not lobby Congress in their capacity as an advisory committee member. Also, EPA employees may not direct or encourage members to contact Congress with the concerns of pending legislation.

Mr. McCleary noted the committee limitations. At EPA, any subcommittees of the committee follow all FACA requirements, including guidelines for openness, transparency and membership. Committees also may form working groups to conduct research, perform studies or gather facts. Working groups are small, informal meetings that are not subject to FACA. However, EPA strongly encourages working groups to hold open meetings and make documents available to the public.

Overview of the NAC and the GAC

Oscar Carrillo, NAC/GAC DFO, FACMD, EPA

Mr. Carrillo explained that the NAC and the GAC were created in 1994 by Presidential Executive Order, as part of the U.S. federal implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC). Articles 17 and 18 of the NAAEC authorize the United States, Canada and Mexico to each convene national and governmental advisory committees. The mandate is to provide advice to the EPA Administrator/U.S. Government Representative to the CEC on a wide range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory and economic issues. The NAC consists of 15 representatives from business, industry, NGOs and academic institutions. The GAC is comprised of 13 representatives from state, local and Tribal governments. The NAC and the GAC serve 2-year term appointments with the option to renew for a maximum of 6 years of service. Members were encouraged to review the charter for further details.

The first official NAC/GAC meeting was held in September 1994. Today marks the 52nd meeting. The NAC/GAC meetings have been held in Washington, D.C.; Burlington, Vermont; San Diego, California; San Antonio, Texas; and Tucson, Arizona. The meeting structure is a 2-day format. The first day of the meeting is the plenary, briefings from EPA and CEC officials and other U.S. agency officials. On the second day, the committees meet jointly in the morning, then separately to discuss issues and prepare the outlines of advice letters. After the meeting, the Chairs draft advice letters and circulate them for comments. After comments are incorporated, each Chair transmits the advice to the Administrator. Two separate advice letters are developed, and they have equally important and unique perspectives.

The DFO manages day-to-day operations, is the primary contact for the committees, participates in meeting planning, oversees membership and works closely with OITA to track responses to Committee recommendations. The DFO has the responsibility of ensuring that the committees' minutes and letters of advice are reported annually to the General Services Administration's government-wide shared internet system: www.facadatabase.gov.

Mr. Carrillo noted some NAC/GAC accomplishments. In 1995, the NAC/GAC assisted in developing the first Operational Plan (OP) and budget of the CEC. In 2015, the NAC and the GAC were included in the tri-national effort to review the past 20 years of the NAAEC. The NAC/GAC were instrumental in advising the U.S. Government on ways to organize and lead the CEC and in the creation of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Expert Group.

The top priorities are to ensure that advice letters are forwarded in a timely manner, develop a close partnership with OITA to ensure that the committees are provided appropriate information to develop the best advice and manage the committees in a professional manner. Members were encouraged to join the following listservs: CEC Newsletter at www.cec.org and the University of Arizona's CEC NET at cecnet@listserv.arizona.edu.

Overview of CEC and EPA's OITA

Luis Troche, Senior Advisor, North American Program, OITA

Mr. Luis Troche explained that NAFTA created the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trading alliance. The NAAEC— environmental side agreement to NAFTA—was created to foster the protection and improvement of the environment in the territories of the three parties (i.e., Canada, Mexico and the United States) and established the CEC. EPA is the U.S. Government lead implementer of the NAAEC and is the U.S. CEC Council member. An international organization, the CEC is funded by the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States to facilitate cooperation and public participation. The CEC also fosters conservation, protection and enhancement of the North American environment for the benefit of present and future generations in the context of economic, trade and social links among the three parties.

Environmental Ministers from the three parties comprise the Council, which sets priorities and overall direction and oversees implementation in the CEC. The Secretariat led by the Executive Director, provides administrative, technical and operational support to the Council and has other responsibilities. The JPAC consists of five representatives from each country and advises the Council and also provides information to the Secretariat. The Council, General Standing Committee (GSC), which runs the CEC and the Alt Reps, comprise one level of operations. Serving in a working group capacity at this operational level, the TEK Expert Group, consisting of three members from each country, provides advice on engaging indigenous communities. The U.S. NAC/GAC provides advice to the EPA OITA Assistant Administrator and EPA Administrator. Efforts to establish NAC/GAC counterparts in Canada and Mexico are ongoing. The CEC produces the 5-year Strategic Plan and the 2-year OP. It oversees the Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM) and Secretariat Reports, and plans the Annual Council Session.

The OITA manages the CEC program on behalf of the EPA Administrator and consults intra- and inter-agencies to develop priorities. It negotiates priorities for North America with Canada and Mexico and develops Strategic Plans/OPs with Canada, Mexico and the Secretariat. OITA designs Council Sessions and hosts a Session every 3 years. OITA also oversees implementation of OPs and coordinates other responsibilities, such as the SEM process. The CEC decision-making process involves the Council, GSC and the Alt Reps. The negotiation and consultation process involves EPA intra-agency discussions, U.S. Government interagency consultation, domestic consultation (i.e., NAC/GAC) and trilateral consultation (i.e., JPAC and TEK Expert Group). The guiding principles in CEC management begin with working cooperatively to benefit all three countries. Any products developed or lessons learned should be replicable, scalable and complement global priorities as appropriate. Initiatives are funded to become self-sustaining. Stakeholders at all levels are engaged in both consultation and actions in all sectors, including governments, communities, youth, academia, and non-governmental and the private sectors. The CEC works to avoid duplication of other efforts/forums.

Mr. Troche noted that there is no specific NAC/GAC charge for today's meeting. The advice to EPA will expound on the current CEC priorities, which are focused in three major areas: sustainability, ecosystem and species preservation and environmental health. The scope of the current OP projects includes pollinator preservation, food loss and food waste, and marine litter and marine protected areas. Other new initiatives—TEK, innovation hubs for sustainability and extreme weather and climate events—resulted from the CEC 2018 Council Session. committees will hear updates on the CEC projects from Mr. Cesar Rafael Chavez, Executive Director, CEC Secretariat, later in the meeting. The NAC/GAC advice to EPA serves many purposes: (1) inform the U.S. Council/Alt Rep approaches to the CEC portfolio; (2) inform U.S. expert groups in the design/implementation of projects; and (3) provide valuable perspectives and expertise from academia, private sector, NGOs, associations, and local and Tribal governments.

Understanding NAC/GAC Meeting Objectives/Charges

Oscar Carrillo, NAC/GAC DFO, FACMD, EPA

Luis Troche, Senior Advisor, North American Program, OITA

Dr. Theresa Pardo, NAC Chair

Sally Gonzales, GAC Chair

Mr. Carrillo described how EPA develops the NAC/GAC charge question, which involves his discussions with the Chairs on regional problems and with OITA on the pending environmental issues. Mr. Troche expressed that the goal is to ensure that the NAC/GAC meetings are focused on the committees' charge. Topics for the charge are submitted to Ms. Nishida for review, then the charge is formulated. He mentioned that advice can be requested on new or ongoing topics.

Dr. Pardo provided an overview of the advice letter workflow. The NAC/GAC charge is specific and contains a statement of interest, which drives the meeting discussions. The process involves the scientific writer taking notes and recording the proceedings and then preparing a meeting summary. The Chairs also will take notes focused on key items of the discussions to prioritize responses to the charge. The goal is to produce the draft advice letters 1 month after the meeting and circulate them to Committee members. The draft letters are finalized and forwarded to the DFO, Mr. Carrillo, who forwards the advice to the EPA Administrator.

Travel and Administrative Overview

Stephanie McCoy, FACMD Travel Specialist, EPA

Ms. McCoy explained to NAC/GAC members the reimbursement and travel process. All Committee members are invited EPA travelers and are required to complete the EPA Traveler ID Form. Members book air/train reservations through an EPA travel agency and then make their own hotel reservations. Travelers are reimbursed for their expenses. Ms. McCoy described the travel reimbursement process and the travel voucher expense form. She also reminded members to complete the meeting evaluation forms.

Question and Answer Period

Dr. Marla del Pilar Perez Lugo (University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez), NAC member, asked whether local universities in Puerto Rico would be considered as knowledge experts. Mr. Troche explained that federally recognized Tribes rather than universities would be the ones to contribute TEK to the CEC. Because no federal Tribes are located in Puerto Rico, EPA could explore other options for engaging indigenous peoples in TEK.

Ms. Julia S. Moore (Vermont Agency for Natural Resources), GAC member, asked about the interactions of EPA's OITA and the International Joint Commission (IJC). Mr. Troche responded that the IJC is a partner in EPA programs and interacts with OITA via meetings and collaborations.

Ms. Marina M. Brock (Massachusetts Department of Health and Environment), GAC member, remarked on the opportunity to include mitigation strategies into the response and recovery efforts for extreme weather and climate events and to create sustainability aside from resilience.

Dr. Lugo observed the integration of local emergency managers in the response during Hurricane Maria, but was unclear of any systematic performance of the major U.S. disaster research centers (DRCs) such as the University of Delaware DRC and the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. She also asked whether the OITA is engaging the Tribal Colleges in the TEK Expert Group. Mr. Troche pointed out that the OP projects are supported by a team of more than 30 representatives from each of the three countries who select subject matter experts based on the scope of the research. This new area of collaboration in the CEC is evolving, and OITA anticipates engaging other groups in the future such as the DRCs. Regarding TEK, the OITA reaches out to the groups recommended by the TEK Expert Group, JPAC or NAC/GAC members, but has found that many groups contacted have difficulty finding time in their schedules to participate.

Ms. Debra L. Kring (City of Mission), GAC member, commented on one example, EPA's local emergency response during Hurricane Katrina. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assembled kits of supplies for people losing their homes in the flood, whereas EPA generated a 40-page document about recovery efforts. Ms. Kring suggested reviewing procedures to determine the best approach to benefit the people impacted by the emergency event.

Ms. Nazaret Sandoval (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality), GAC member, asked about the criteria for continuing/discontinuing projects funded for more than one cycle, such as the monarch butterfly project. Mr. Troche explained that the monarch project scope was balanced with other species in the conservation project. After researching the migration trends, location and the science, CEC explored with the project experts the idea of expanding the approach to the pollinator preservation project.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were offered.

UPDATES: EPA'S Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

CEC Update on Operational Plan (OP) and North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) Grants

Cesar Rafael Chavez, Executive Director, CEC Secretariat (via video)

Mr. Chavez updated members on the 2017–2018 OP cooperative projects and ongoing initiatives. He noted that the 2019–2020 OP will soon be released. The 10 active OP projects, which were approved at the 2017 Council Session, are aligned with the three strategic priorities set in the CEC 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. Mr. Chavez explained that six of the 10 projects have been completed and that reports are being finalized and translated into other languages. The remaining four projects will have completed their final activities and/or workshops prior to the June 2019 Council Session.

Mr. Chavez detailed the final activities and accomplishments of the 10 2017–2018 OP cooperative projects approved at the 2017 Council Session and listed below.

1. *Monitoring Health Impacts From Extreme Heat Events*
2. *Reducing Pollution From Maritime Transport*
3. *Improving Black Carbon Emissions Inventory Data for Small-Scale Biomass Combustion*

4. *Measuring Mitigation of Food Loss and Food Waste (FLW)*
5. *Increasing Industrial Energy Efficiency Through ISO 50001*
6. *Supporting Sustainable Trade of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)*
7. *Conserving Shorebirds Through Community Engagement*
8. *Science for Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation*
9. *Strengthening Adaptive Capacity of Marine Protected Areas*
10. *Building Community Solutions for Marine Litter.*

Mr. Chavez updated participants on the following TEK and 2018 Council initiatives.

- **Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Initiative.** Activity 1, to identify and compile information on communities and experts associated with TEK in North America, has been completed. The reports are being finalized and translated into other languages and are expected to be posted to the CEC website in late June 2019.
- **Partnerships on Preparedness and Resilience to Extreme Events in North America Initiative.** This initiative aims to improve preparedness and response to extreme events of relevance to communities and populations. Volunteer observer networks, including the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, are being used to inform prediction and monitoring of precipitation and wildfires. Cost assessments will be performed and remote sensing will be used to improve preparedness and response to extreme events.
- **Education and Engagement of North American Youth in Innovation and Sustainable Growth.** The aim is to establish a network of innovation centers from academic institutions to train youth and communities on innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable design for green growth. To date, 250 innovation and/or sustainability hubs and centers from academic institutions in North America have been identified. The Network's name, logo and tagline are being developed as well as the Network's charter. The next steps will be to plan the first knowledge exchange workshop.

Mr. Chavez next reported on ongoing initiatives at the CEC and the NAPECA grants. Work is in progress on a land coverage map at a 30-meter resolution for the North American Land Change Monitoring System using 2015 and a land coverage map using 2010 to 2015 data. The North American Environmental Atlas continues to expand with new map layers and functionalities. The North American Pollutant Releases and Transfers *Taking Stock Report, Volume 15*, was published in April 2018. A new interactive Web page for Taking Stock Online is in place, and collaborations with national programs on improving cross border transfers data are ongoing. In addition, a model of successful regional cooperation in European and Latin American countries was presented. Mr. Chavez reminded members that the first NAPECA grants were issued in 2011. To date, the CEC has awarded \$4.4 million to support 66 community projects. Of the 66 funded, 20 originated in Canada, 24 in Mexico and 22 in the United States. The CEC funded nine grants for FY 2018, and eight of the nine have been completed. Reports are being generated.

Mr. Chavez announced that he will be leaving the CEC in July 2019 and that this would be his last NAC/GAC meeting. He thanked EPA and the CEC for the privilege to serve as Secretariat Executive Director for the past 3½ years, which has been a valuable experience for him. Mr. Chavez also thanked the NAC/GAC for their support.

JPAC Report

Sabaa Khan, Chair, JPAC (via video)

Ms. Sabaa Khan, Chair, JPAC, presented an update on JPAC activities. The agenda for the June 2019 Meeting of the JPAC, which will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, is being finalized. Ms. Sabaa discussed JPAC's overarching vision for 2019, which synergizes the Council priorities, CEC projects and JPAC activities. The general consensus drawn from the themes of the 2018 meetings is that the CEC is capable of taking a more cohesive approach to its mission through the work of the JPAC, Council and Secretariat. The theme of the upcoming JPAC public forum—building disaster-resilient communities in North America—aligns with the CEC initiatives on extreme events. The morning session will focus on the community perspective, and the afternoon presentations will address enhancing the agricultural and the food security aspects of resilience. Speakers will provide insight into emerging practices and technologies for building resilience. The JPAC fall 2019 meeting will extend the disaster-resilience theme with a focus on front-line responders. Ms. Khan invited participants to attend the JPAC meeting and thanked the NAC/GAC for their support.

Update on the 2019 CEC Council Session

Luis Troche, Senior Advisor, North American Programs, OITA

Mr. Troche presented on behalf of Ms. Nishida, who is in the process of updating the EPA Administrator on the May 14, 2019, Alt Reps meeting held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The outcomes of the Alt Reps meeting inform the U.S. priorities and initiatives. The 2019 Council Session will be hosted in Mexico City, Mexico, June 24-25, 2019. The sessions on June 24th will feature the JPAC public forum and meeting as previously described by JPAC Chair, Ms. Khan. Day 2, June 25th, will be the 26th Regular Session of the CEC Council. The CEC will showcase its history, reflecting on the past 25 years. The Council public meeting will highlight accomplishments and trilateral priorities and engage in a dialogue on circular economy and resource efficiency. As for the 2017 and 2018 Council Sessions, winners of the Youth Innovation Challenge (YIC) will be announced. Members of the JPAC and TEK Expert Group served as judges for YIC. The Council will discuss the OP and the status of the NAPECA grants.

Lightning Talks From NAC/GAC Members Regional Topics

NAC and GAC Members

Dr. Pardo explained that members would present a 5-minute lightning talk on environmental topics of interest respective to their geographical regions, which could be considered in formulating recommendations for the advice letters. She invited NAC and GAC members to present their environmental topics.

Impacts of Border Delays for People and Trade at the California-Baja California Ports of Entry (POE)

Ms. Elisa Arias (San Diego Association of Governments), NAC member, reported on the Baja California U.S.-Mexico POEs (i.e., border crossings). Per the 2007 Economic Impact from Border Delay Study (commonly called SANDAG), the increase in vehicle crossings has resulted in congestion, delays and reduced air quality. The SANDAG study was expanded in 2017 to include survey data on air quality variables (e.g., vehicle fleet and fuel) and showed that heavy-duty vehicles crossing the border are newer than passenger vehicles and those crossing into California are subjected to regulations related to model-year engines. Pollutant emission rates vary by fuel purchase location and border crossers tend to purchase fuel in the United States. The Mexican government is aligning fuel regulations with standards set in the Paris Accord agreement. Ms. Arias highlighted the efforts underway to improve air quality in the California-Baja California region, including infrastructure changes at POEs and air quality and border wait time monitoring.

Cape Cod, Massachusetts Public Health/Works Pilot Project

Ms. Brock described the Cape Cod pilot project with the local Departments of Public Utilities and Public Works involving 15 neighboring towns, which is innovatively engaging non-traditional environmental partners. The issue is that Massachusetts state and local governments are exempt from occupational health and safety and environmental regulations. There is no environmental safety structure in place at public utilities and staff members are exposed to unsafe conditions in the work environment without the benefit of standards or regulations. Some efforts are focused on implementing the minimum Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards locally. The pilot project is working with Northeastern University scientists, Massachusetts Worker's Compensation, state enforcement agencies and state insurers to develop an environmental structure for public utilities and public works programs, seemingly starting from a blank slate. The pilot also will identify barriers and resource gaps as well as positive practices. Ms. Brock emphasized that connectivity across agencies and groups is crucial. Information technology issues also are significant.

Minnesota/U.S.-Canada Border

Ms. Suzanne E. Hanson (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency), GAC member, pointed out that Duluth, Minnesota, is home to the largest Great Lakes port and sits on Lake Superior. The area is known for its mining and logging industries. Copper mining activities pose recent threats and air quality is the primary environmental impact. Ms. Hanson credits Great Lakes/Duluth successes in pollutant control to the Tribal partnerships established over the past 25 years, cooperation of Canada and the United States via the IJC, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Phosphorus is a major pollutant in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods and originates in the lake. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the GLRI provide funding support for pollution control projects.

El Paso, Texas POEs

Mr. Eric A. Morales (El Paso County Attorney's Office), GAC member, explained that the current immigrant issues are having a dramatic effect on the El Paso POEs. The traffic is heavy on major interstates ordinarily because of the POEs and trade. Currently, resources are being redirected and trade and truck crossing is at a standstill at the international POE, which is negatively impacting air quality. The low social and economic status neighborhoods are most affected. The quality of food, including produce, is reduced due to spoilage from sitting for long periods of time. Local health care systems, in terms of unknown status of infectious diseases, and housing also are being affected.

Vermont U.S.-Canada Border Lakes

Ms. Moore said that Vermont's border issues involve standing water and the U.S.-Canada Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog Watersheds. The Vermont Agency for Natural Resources coordinates cross-border activities and interstate responses to reduce lake phosphorus levels and works with the Lake Champlain geographical area program, but responses vary by region. The Vermont dairy industry has been in decline economically, which impacts their participation in any water conservation efforts. Ms. Moore mentioned that water quality remains at the forefront of Vermont's environmental issues.

Mission, Kansas Clean Energy and Repurposing Efforts

Ms. Kring informed participants that Kansas is the number one state in wind power generation. The city of Mission is the only one in Kansas that returns 8 percent of revenue to residents for recycling their trash

and other products. Plastic bags are recycled and converted into reusable goods, such as banners or purses. Mission makes use of Form-based Codes, which provide instructions on building materials.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Projects

Mr. Leonard Drago (ADEQ), GAC member, described some of the ADEQ's ongoing projects focused on air quality, surface water, wastewater and transmission. Air quality monitoring in San Luis Obispo, California, indicates ozone transfer, but it is unclear if the source is Mexico or California. In Arizona, surface water monitoring is connected to the Tribal engagement efforts. Dr. Drago noted that the ADEQ is considering the Clean Water Act 404 assumption for the state of Arizona, which has a proven record of improving permitting times. Meetings were conducted with the 22 Tribes in Arizona for their input. In partnership with the North American Development Group, the aging wastewater infrastructure and system upgrades are being addressed in short-term mitigations. In 2018, the Arizona Corporation Commission began transmission work in Canada, Mexico and the United States to help build capacity.

Puerto Rico Extreme Event: Lessons Learned

Dr. Lugo reported on lessons learned in the response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the impact of stakeholder engagement. In the wake of the category 5 hurricane that hit Puerto Rico, the longest power outage occurred in U.S. history, affecting 200,000 families and resulting in 2,975 deaths. Since the resulting deaths were within the families affected, the vulnerable population could easily be identified. Dr. Lugo detailed the lessons learned. Electricity is more than just technology; it has social, cultural and political dimensions. Electricity is so embedded in our society that it influences every aspect of a person's life. Vulnerability, recovery and disaster response are bigger problems, and a large number of stakeholders are involved. Problems are not resolved; they get "worked on." Placing the emphasis only on resilience hides the power of relationships. Situations may give people no choice but resilience. Universities are critical infrastructures and the largest repository of local knowledge, but they are not considered as such. For example, the University of Puerto Rico was systematically excluded from the reconstruction process. The largest repository of knowledge of Puerto Rico's electrical system and social economic conditions of the communities is embedded in the universities, but this was ignored. This phenomenon may be repeated at Tribal universities and colleges, and more research is needed in this area.

Dr. Lugo argued that universities are first responders, but they often are not considered in this capacity and are not organized to fulfill this function. The United States has approximately 5,000 universities. From 1989 to 2018, 19 extreme events affected more than 65 Hispanic institutions. Knowledge about the vulnerabilities of the communities has been created from these events. At the time of Hurricane Maria, a student mobility program was organized. Students and faculty were treated as environmental referees, but they were not organized. Human and humanitarian aid are brought into disaster areas, including Puerto Rico, but these efforts are not well organized. Thirty universities were in the field 2 weeks after the event, intervening with communities that did not have water or electricity. These groups arrived on the scene before FEMA and were emulating a government response. The communities were unaware that these universities were not going to provide long term aid. Among the lessons learned is that universities need to be trained as emergency response actors and integrated into response programs. Dr. Lugo emphasized that resilience is more than just achieving pre-event conditions. If pre-existing conditions were not good initially, then the community will be returned to that situation.

Plastics Industry

Ms. Jennifer J. Ronk (Dow Chemical Company), NAC member, expressed her appreciation of the discussions on circular economy (i.e., minimizing waste). From the plastics industry perspective, the aim is on preventing marine debris and producing materials that are circular. The plastics industry is seeing challenges with the onset of China's import ban, as well as with opportunities for industries to grow and infrastructure investments. Resolving these challenges will positively affect marine litter and debris.

Border Watersheds

Mr. Luis E. Ramirez Thomas (Ramirez Advisors Inter-National, LLC), NAC member, noted the need to revisit policies affecting U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada border watersheds. Mr. Thomas called attention to the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) sewage pipeline, which is located beneath the Nogales Wash along the Arizona-Mexico border and extends from the city of Nogales, Arizona, to the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). The cost of maintenance and modernizations and improvements are burdensome on the local level. The town of Nogales, which is bearing the cost, has a population of 24,000 whereas Santa Cruz county has a population of 350,000. The responsibility for maintaining the IOI remains an ongoing challenge and there are no apparent solutions. Water treaties exist, but none specifically address sewage.

Mr. Thomas highlighted examples of cooperation, such as establishing a partnership with Aliansa Electroquímica Ltd (AEQ). The Arizona-Senora Environmental Strategic Plan jointly defines action items and top priorities, and conditions to be addressed from a binational perspective. The Arizona-Mexico Commission has been in existence for 60 years and has a 16-committee structure, one of which is focusing on environment and water.

Mr. Thomas then described a "process" example. A number of Homeland Security initiatives affect citizens. For example, the new program, Unified Cargo Processing (UCP), has reduced the customs process from 3.5 hours to 30 minutes and remains within compliance. In the UCP model, Mexican and U.S. customs officers work side by side. Reports show that the logistical savings to companies is high, and the environmental impact is positive.

Michigan Mobility-Related Activity and Economic Development Efforts

Ms. Simone Sagovac (Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition), NAC member, explained that on the state level, Michigan has been tracking economic development and mobility-related technologies and that several have been patented. Ford Motor Company is bringing its mobility-related activity and trade to downtown Detroit, and a Chrysler Fiat manufacturing facility is being considered. These new activities will be supported by border infrastructure, specifically the Canada Highway International Bridge. Canada is the United States' number-one partner in trade, and Detroit is the busiest crossing point. The Canada Highway International Bridge provides a direct connection between the U.S. and Canadian through-way systems. If not for the bridge, use of the existing crossing tracks requires navigating numerous traffic signals, which can be timely and inconvenient.

The issue is that the bridge is landing in an impoverished community and would cause new health impacts. In collaboration with Canada, community mitigation efforts are underway and programs are being implemented to enable people to move from the area if they choose. Forty state monitoring stations have been installed.

Waters of the United States: Impact to Tribes

Dr. Ann Marie Chischilly (Northern Arizona University), NAC member, explained that new decisions on the waters of the United States will be detrimental in the Tribal communities. Tribes living in Alaska rely on the lakes and rivers for their water supply and sustenance. The National Tribal Council developed a comment letter detailing their concerns. Dr. Chischilly also pointed out that the issues between states and Tribes are ongoing. In terms of emergency response, Tribes often engage the state and local governments in times of emergency, and at times those relations are not friendly. She emphasized how it was fundamental to understanding how treaties impact Tribes.

Tijuana River Valley Pollution

Mr. Andrew P. Carey (U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership), NAC member, pointed out that resolving the Tijuana River Valley pollution is an issue that the United States and Mexico together will need to address. Several strategies are being proposed and Congress just approved \$30 million to begin the cleanup process. Several transboundary flows of trash enter the United States from Mexico and causes problems when it rains. The issue is that there is no regular trash collection in the municipality of Tijuana. The nearby U.S. Mexico border beaches have been closed for a total of 1,600 days because of trash.

Question and Answer Period

Dr. Hector F. Gonzalez (City of Laredo Health Department), GAC member, thanked Ms. Arias for the overview of the California–Baja California POEs, which he thinks is reflective of the U.S.-Mexico border crossing issues in general.

Ms. Sagovac asked about the use of other technologies to reduce emissions. Ms. Arias explained that the regulation of fuel emissions plays a role, but managing the infrastructure, capacity, traffic flow and operations at the border crossings seems to be the main issue needing attention.

Dr. Lugo commented that although structures and systems for Massachusetts public utilities appear as a “blank slate,” this is likely not the case. Ms. Brock noted that many systems in place are outdated and improvements have been minimal.

Ms. Sara Hopper (DowDuPont), NAC member, wondered about the source of the phosphorus in Rainy-Lake of the Woods. Ms. Hanson identified two paper mill plants and a water treatment facility as phosphorus sources. Some runoff from farms in Canada also can be contributors.

Dr. Aminata Kilungo (The University of Arizona), NAC member, commented that the Arizona Board of Health provides resources (e.g., vaccines) to help in the immigrant crisis, using its own budget.

Dr. Gonzales called attention to the Zika virus outbreaks that can follow an environmental disaster. He offered that Puerto Rico has shown that it is resilient.

Dr. Kilungo pointed out the difficulty poor communities have when recovering after an extreme event and noted the importance of adaptation.

In response to a question by Ms. Moore on the type of university response received, Dr. Lugo explained that Puerto Rico’s main line university professors and students were responding to the scene and providing humanitarian aid. The National Science Foundation’s Grants for Rapid Response Research (commonly called RAPID) played a key role.

Dr. Vincent R. Nathan (Center for Houston's Future), NAC member, asked whether Dow Chemical had interactions with Woodlands Plastics on its approach to recyclable plastics. Ms. Ronk observed that several groups are working in this area and noted that Dow Chemical also is investing in chemical recycling.

Summary and Next Steps

Dr. Pardo explained the logistics for the following day and completion of the meeting agenda. The meeting was recessed at 4:48 p.m. EDT.

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Carrillo. Ms. Gonzales noted that the day's agenda focused on the business meeting of the NAC/GAC. Committees will meet separately to reflect on the meeting discussions to begin to formulate the charge and the advice letter. After deliberations, members will reconvene for reports from the Chairs.

Mr. Carrillo explained that the fall meeting dates will need to be finalized. Members will be asked via a Doodle Poll for their availability to attend an October 2019 meeting. Mr. Carrillo reminded members that the next Council Session will be held June 24–25, 2019, in Mexico City, Mexico. EPA has resources to travel the Chairs and two other members to attend. Further details, including the agenda, will be forthcoming.

Plenary: Joint Committee Meeting

Dr. Pardo and Ms. Gonzales proposed focusing on the 2019 Council Session theme to design a charge question and frame the discussions. The charge question and specific focus area can be different for the NAC and the GAC. Some ideas the committees could consider include (1) building disaster-resilient communities; (2) marine litter, food waste and extreme events in concert; (3) a circular economy; (4) interconnectedness among the sectors to become resource efficient; and (5) extreme events in general. Dr. Pardo opened the floor to other ideas.

Dr. Gonzalez called attention to a critical public health issue that should be integrated into the discussions, which is to educate the public on proper disposal of hazardous materials.

Ms. Sagovac noted the lack of an evacuation plan for flaring operations, which could have detrimental health effects. Ms. Gonzales observed that a plan of action often was missing and that communities are not prepared to respond. She suggested having a dedicated emergency planner.

Mr. Tracy D. Hester (University of Houston Law Center), NAC member, suggested taking time to do a reflection on the NAC/GAC and the 25 years of advice to EPA and how the committees might evolve in the context of the new agreements. Convening a meeting of past chairs might be helpful.

Dr. Kilungo emphasized the importance of including adaptation as a component of the emergency response.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were offered.

GAC Separate Meeting

Ms. Gonzales opened the GAC discussion and explained the advice letter development process. Members were asked to elaborate on any topics discussed via a follow-up email and also to send in comments on any other topics they want to include in the advice letter.

Ms. Gonzales led a discussion on advice for EPA, which focuses on current CEC priorities. Dr. Gonzalez suggested including food waste, its mitigation and adaptation along with some aspects of the discussions of the regional topics. Engaging local communities and identifying a point person (i.e., liaison) for communications prior to any event should be primary. He recommended being flexible in the definition of extreme events. The advice should include information on the impact to children's health and it is a good time to provide input on the activities of the committees in general. Ms. Kring emphasized producing bilingual or multilingual documents of any final materials on extreme events. Ms. Arias called attention to persons with limited mobility and the importance of providing services, including transportation during evacuations during extreme events. California has examples of how this can be accomplished.

Ms. Brock commented that the response/mitigation is best addressed at the local rather than state or federal level. A needs assessment should be done. A tiered, community-based, targeted approach can be considered. Several resources exist, but are underutilized. Connectedness across groups is key. Mr. Drago highlighted education, awareness and transparency as major components to extreme event responses, especially at the community level and to consider examples from Arizona.

Ms. Moore noted that Vermont's Health in All Policies approach is one model to highlight and to make a parallel statement about resilience. Ms. Kring emphasized generating the appropriate tool to fight the crisis. Ms. Sandoval suggested leveraging the prior GAC advice on communications during emergency response to extreme events. Even experts (e.g., inspectors) lack education and tools.

Participants highlighted several areas on which to focus efforts. A focus should be on air quality regarding extreme events, especially the impact of emission standard rollbacks in California and other states. This proposed rule is an imminent issue. There should be emphasis on education at the local level and examples from Vermont should be cited, including lessons learned from refinery incidents and groups that convene cities and counties. EPA could consider facilitating a discussion. Water contamination plays a role as well as fish inspections. There should be best practices to leverage. Effects on local residents should be explained responsibly to defray fears. First responders should receive more education. Mr. Morales suggested considering connecting public health effects to the environmental aspects of extreme events and include the Midwest region into the equation for predicting extreme weather events. Ms. Moore commented that the homeless population also should be included in any measures developed and suggested including predictability as a component. Mr. Morales thought that EPA could find a way to convey acknowledgement of the increased frequency of extreme events, the intensity and widespread devastation, as well as show how to enhance local capabilities.

Participants detailed tools and resources. Mr. Carrillo suggested connecting to the CEC North American Pollutant Releases and Transfers initiative as one way to identify densely populated areas. Ms. Brock noted that FEMA's HAZUS program already is doing this type of monitoring. Mr. Drago announced that tools are available on the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality website under the "My Community" header. Ms. Moore noted that Vermont has an interactive map of prior extreme events, which is a powerful tool for the state. Ms. Sandoval thinks the new CEC initiative on mapping extreme events information into the North American Environmental Atlas is one to consider.

Ms. Gonzales moved the discussion to other topics. Participants noted that the NAC and the GAC have many incoming members. Because new environmental agreements are pending, it would be a good time

to conduct a poll of new and ongoing members regarding their input on advice to EPA. The prior NAC and GAC Chairs also could provide input. Mr. Carrillo explained that Congress is reviewing the U.S. - Mexico-Canada Agreement and that the negotiations on the new Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA) have concluded. A proposed change will reduce the total JPAC members from 12 to nine. Any comments from the NAC and the GAC at this point could affect the NAAEC, which is still in force.

Participants pointed out the many different perspectives from the regional topics. The border crossing issues are affecting the public health and examples should be included in the advice letter. Mechanisms should be in place to ensure that the Tribal community is included in any decisions. A single liaison for up to 22 Tribal communities is taxing for any one individual.

NAC Separate Meeting

Dr. Pardo opened the NAC discussion. Members can either propose a charge statement or develop a charge question from the regional topics presented at today's meeting.

Dr. Kilungo suggested doing an analysis of the NAC/GAC information and recommendations already provided to EPA and getting updates on any implementations. A member noted how these data could be used to inform decisions on the interconnectedness of sectors.

Dr. Nathan explained that the emergency response after action report trains responders in the next emergency. The focus should be on how, rather than what, extreme event data are used. Educating and informing communities are ways to make good use of data collected during extreme events.

Members discussed disaster, risk and resilience (DRR). Risk and resilience are not necessarily synonymous in the smart city concept. Aside from natural disasters, changes in the economy can bring about a disturbance. Family resilience is based on its ability to respond to any form of shock, of which risks are one component. DRR automatically links resilience to the disaster. Globally, disaster, risk and reduction are the broad categories. Dr. Pardo suggested that the advice letter could emphasize the difference in resilience systems and resilience to specific disasters. Ms. Sara Hopper (DowDuPont), NAC member, suggested prompting for ways to make governments efficient and effective at the federal level in the DRR context. Dr. Nathan commented on how deregulation contributes to extreme events, such as fires caused by crude oil refineries. Mr. Thomas emphasized the goal to impact everyday policy not just in a disaster. Issues such as border crossing delays and the resulting health effects do not qualify as disasters. Dr. Lugo suggested integrating universities as actors in the emergency response system.

Members discussed expanded roles of the NAC. A member suggested establishing performance metrics from prior EPA advice. A 10-year assessment of the charge questions and the results could help to formulate action items and inform future decisions. Members agreed that having an evaluation of the past NAC advice would be helpful. The opportunity exists to convene a meeting of former NAC/GAC Chairs for their input on any expanded roles for the committees.

Committees Reconvene in Plenary Session

Reports From the NAC and GAC Chairs

Dr. Pardo reviewed the NAC deliberations. Members discussed the future characterization of the NAC under ECA regarding a new positioning of the advice. The NAC will recommend that the Assistant Administrator consider convening a meeting of the past NAC (and GAC Chairs) on lessons learned. Members also discussed extreme events and resilience in general, as well as resilience to specific disasters. How the day-to-day events (e.g., rainfall and flooding and/or border crossings) impact resilience should be emphasized.

Ms. Gonzales reviewed the GAC deliberations. Members discussed how to improve the future of the GAC (and the NAC) in the context of the ECA. Key themes of the discussions were communications in extreme events, plans for local government and communities, and tools and existing models that can be leveraged. Members also discussed the public health considerations in rolling back emissions standards, incorporating the regional topics into the advice letter and Tribal community engagement.

Adjournment

Dr. Pardo and Ms. Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m. EDT.

Action Items

- ❖ Mr. Carrillo will forward the speakers' PowerPoint presentations to the Committee members.
- ❖ EPA could explore other options for engaging indigenous peoples as knowledge experts in regions where there are no federally recognized Tribes.
- ❖ Dr. Pardo will share her draft advice letter with the NAC members for their comments.
- ❖ Ms. Gonzales will share her draft advice letter with the GAC members for their comments.

Summary Certification

I, Sally Ann Gonzales, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee, and I, Theresa Pardo, Chair of the National Advisory Committee, certify that the meeting minutes for the dates of May 15–16, 2019, as hereby detailed, contain a record of the persons present and give an accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached and copies of all reports received, issued or approved by the advisory committees. My signature date complies with the 90-day due date after each meeting required by the GSA Final Rule.



Sally Ann Gonzales
Chair, GAC

8/16/2019
Date



Theresa Pardo
Chair, NAC

8/16/2019
Date

Appendix A: Meeting Participants

NAC Members

Theresa Pardo, Ph.D., Chair

Director
Center for Technology in Government
Associate Professor of Public Administration
and Policy
University at Albany - State University
of New York

Andrew P. Carey

Executive Director
U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership

Ann Marie Chischilly, Ph.D.

Executive Director
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
Northern Arizona University

David T. Dyjack, Ph.D.

Executive Director
National Environmental Health Association
Denver, Colorado

Tracy Hester, J.D.

Professor of Practice
University of Houston Law Center

Sara E. Hopper

Federal Government Affairs
DowDuPont

Aminata P. Kilungo, Ph.D.

Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public
Health
Department of Health and Promotion Science
The University of Arizona

Donna L. Lybecker, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair
Department of Political Science
Idaho State University

Vincent R. Nathan, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Consultant
Center for Houston's Future

Carlos Perez

Principal
Galica LLC

Maria del Pilar Perez-Lugo, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology
University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez

Jennifer J. Ronk

Sustainability and Advocacy Manager, North
America
The Dow Chemical Company

Simone Sagovac

Project Director
Southwest Detroit Community Benefits
Coalition

Luis E. Ramirez Thomas

President
Ramirez Advisors Inter-National, LLC

GAC Members

Sally Ann Gonzales, Chair

State Senator
Arizona State Senate

Elisa Arias

Principal Regional Planner
San Diego Association of Governments

Marina M. Brock

Senior Environmental Specialist
Environmental Health Division
Department of Health and the Environment
Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Leonard Drago

Ombudsman/Tribal Liaison
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Suzanne E. Hanson

Regional Manager
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Debra L. Kring
Council Member
City of Mission

Julia S. Moore
Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Eric A. Morales
Principal Attorney
El Paso County Attorney's Office

C. Nazaret Sandoval
Environmental Engineer
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Designated Federal Officer

Oscar Carrillo
Federal Advisory Committee Management
Division
Office of Mission Support
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Participants

Monisha Harris
Federal Advisory Committee Management
Division
Office of Mission Support
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

James McCleary
Attorney Advisor
Federal Advisory Committee Management
Division
Office of Mission Support
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Stephanie McCoy
Federal Advisory Committee Management
Division
Office of Mission Support
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Brenda McGill
Federal Advisory Committee Management
Division
Office of Mission Support
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Luis Troche
Senior Advisor
North American Program
Office of International and Tribal Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Other Participants

Cesar Rafael Chavez
Executive Director
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
(CEC) Secretariat

Sabaa Khan
Chair
Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

Marcela Orozco
JPAC Liaison Officer

Contractor Staff

Carolyn J. Fisher, Ph.D.
The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc.

Appendix B: Meeting Agenda



Official Meeting of the National and Governmental Advisory Committees to the U.S. Representative to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation

May 15-16, 2019

U.S. EPA WJC South

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20004

Tel: 202-564-2294 fax: 202-564-8129

5/9/2019

AGENDA

~EPA Conference Room OGD 2138 WJC South ~

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

- 9:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 9:15 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer, Federal Advisory Committee Management (FACMD), EPA
- 9:20 a.m. **Welcome**
Monisha Harris, Director, FACMD, EPA
- 9:30 a.m. **Agenda Summary**
Theresa Pardo, Chair of the National Advisory Committee
Sally Gonzales, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

- 9:50 a.m. **Overview of EPA and FACMD**
Monisha Harris, Director, FACMD, EPA
- 10:20 a.m. **Role and Functions of EPA Advisory Boards**
Jim McCleary, FACMD, EPA

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 Continued...

- 10:40 a.m. **Overview of NAC and GAC**
Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer, EPA
- 11:00 a.m. **Overview of CEC and EPA’s Office of International and Tribal Affairs**
Luis Troche, Senior Advisor for North America Programs, Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA), EPA
- 11:20 a.m. **Understanding NAC/GAC Meeting Objectives/Charges**
Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer, FACMD, EPA
Luis Troche, Senior Advisor for North America Programs, Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA), EPA
Theresa Pardo and Sally Gonzales, NAC/GAC Chairs
- 11:45 a.m. **Travel and Administrative Overview**
Stephanie McCoy, Travel Specialist, EPA
- 10:50 a.m. **BREAK**
- 12:00 p.m. **Public Comments Period**
- 12:30 p.m. **LUNCH**
- UPDATES: EPA’S Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) and the Commission for Environmental Affairs (CEC)**
- 1:30 p.m. **CEC Update on Operational Plan and NAPECA Grants**
Cesar Rafael Chavez, Executive Director, CEC Secretariat
Question & Answer Period
- 2:00 p.m. **JPAC Report-out (via video)**
Sabaa Khan, Chair, Joint Public Advisory Committee
Question & Answer Period
- 2:15 p.m. **Update on U.S. Priorities & Council Session**
Jane T. Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator (PDAA), OITA, EPA
Question & Answer Period
- 3:00 p.m. **BREAK**
- 3:15 p.m. **Lightning Talks (5–7 min.) From NAC/GAC Members Regional Topics**
NAC and GAC Members
Question & Answer Period

4:15 p.m. **Summary & Next Steps**
Theresa Pardo, Chair of the National Advisory Committee
Sally Gonzales, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee

5:00 p.m. **ADJOURN**

Thursday, May 16, 2019

BUSINESS MEETING:

8:30 a.m. **Registration**

9:00 a.m. **Call to Order**
Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer, EPA

9:05 a.m. **Plenary: Joint Committee Meeting**
Theresa Pardo, Chair of the National Advisory Committee
Sally Gonzales, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee

- Discussion on Fall 2019 meeting

9:30 a.m. **Public Comment Period**

9:45 a.m. **Committees Meet Separately**
NAC stays in "2138" Conference Room
GAC meets in "1132" Conference Room

12:00 p.m. **LUNCH**

1:00 p.m. **Committees Reconvene in Plenary Session**
Report-outs From NAC/GAC Chairs

3:00 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**