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CANADA SETS RECORD STRAIGHT ON ACID RAIN

The Department of External Affairs today moved to set the record straight on acid rain, following some remarks made Thursday in New York by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

What is important is each country's performance in controlling its own sources of pollution. In Canada, sulphur dioxide emissions over the past 10 years have decreased by 25%, while in the United States, they have remained generally constant.

The significance of the thermal power generating sector as a source of U.S. pollutants has led to the development of strict control requirements, especially for new sources. Canada has not had the same need because it relies to a much smaller extent on thermal power. It is not true, however, that Canada is not requiring strict controls on new thermal power sources.

In April 1981, new thermal power guidelines were issued which are generally equivalent to U.S. requirements for new sources. The new Hat Creek facility in British Columbia is being required to install scrubbers.

It is also not true that neither country is requiring scrubbers on old plants. In February 1980, the Ontario government issued tighter controls on Ontario Hydro facilities which involve installing scrubbers at one of its major stations.

In addition, Canada has adopted a policy which makes federal funding of conversions of oil-fired facilities to coal contingent on their being undertaken in an environmentally-sound manner.