

PREFACE

In August, 1980, the Governments of Canada and the United States signed a Memorandum of Intent concerning transboundary air pollution. This action was taken in response to concern for actual and potential damage resulting from the long-range transport of air pollutants between countries and in recognition of the already serious problem of acid rain.

Each country has demonstrated concern for the causing of damage to the other's environment by transboundary movement of its pollutants. This concern is rooted in international agreements, such as the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and the 1979 E.C.C. Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, all of which both Canada and the United States have signed.

The Memorandum noted that both countries have set a priority on developing a scientific understanding of long-range transport of air pollutants and resulting environmental effects, and on developing and implementing policies and technologies to combat such effects.

To achieve the first steps of this overall objective, the memorandum established a plan of action for the period October, 1980 to January, 1982, during which time five documents are to be prepared by the following work groups:

1. Impact assessment
2. Atmospheric modelling of pollutant movements
- 3A. Strategies development and implementation
- 3B. Emissions, cost and engineering assessment
4. Legal, institutional arrangements and drafting  
(preparation of the actual document to be signed).

General terms of reference that apply to all work groups were established, together with detailed terms dealing with each work group.

General Terms of Reference (as per MOI)

1. The Work Groups shall function under the general direction and policy guidance of a United States/Canada Coordinating Committee co-chaired by the Department of External Affairs and the Department of State.
2. The Work Groups shall provide reports assembling and analyzing information and identifying measures as outlined below, which will provide the basis of proposals for inclusion in a transboundary air pollution agreement. These reports shall be provided by January, 1982, and shall be based on available information.