

Canada Weekly

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Canada and US agree to initiate acid rain tests

After months of discussion about the effects of acid rain, Canada and the United States have signed an agreement to track the movement of pollution by winds over eastern North America. The deal was signed August 23 by US Ambassador to Canada Paul Robinson and the new Canadian federal Environment Minister Charles Caccia.

The experiment, known as CAPTEX (Cross-Appalachian Tracer Experiment) is an attempt to trace the movement of air pollution across eastern North America. It will be conducted over a six-week period beginning this month.

In the experiment, Canadian scientists will release 200 kilograms of an inert, colourless, odourless and non-toxic gas (perfluoro-monomethyl-cyclohexane) on three occasions from the Sudbury area. US scientists will make three similar releases from Dayton, Ohio. The tracer will be released at about one-week intervals, depending on prevailing winds and weather conditions.



Scientists will then follow the movement of the tracer for 1 000 kilometres using seven aircraft and a network of 85 sampling stations on the ground.

Joint project

Participating in the joint project will be scientists from Environment Canada, the Quebec and Ontario Ministries of the Environment, and the National Research Council of Canada. There will also be representatives from several United States agencies: US Department of Energy, the



US Ambassador to Canada Paul Robinson (left) and Canadian Environment Minister Charles Caccia sign an agreement to proceed with acid rain tests.



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