

Joint Statement from the US and Canada on the Status of the Negotiations under the Air Quality Agreement

- Both Canada and the United States have committed to reducing cross-border air pollution and recognize the significant human health and ecosystem effects (including acid rain and regional haze) associated with PM_{2.5} and its precursors. Both countries are committed to negotiating the addition of a Particulate Matter (PM) Annex to the Canada-US Air Quality Agreement while actively developing and implementing emission reduction programs to reduce fine particle concentrations.
- The United States and Canada have held two negotiating sessions on a PM Annex under the Canada-US Air Quality Agreement; one in November 2007 and one in May 2008.
- Significant progress was made during the most recent session, with the two countries reaching substantial agreement on several elements of the Annex such as the:
 - Purpose Statement.
 - Pollutants of Concern – the Annex will address primary PM_{2.5} and two secondary precursors, sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).
 - Definitions of the Pollutant Emission Management Areas (PEMAs) for both countries – Canada indicated that its PEMA would consist of Canada as a whole, while the US PEMA includes 28 states across the northern part of the country.
 - Mobile source commitments that could be included as part of the emission reduction commitments, in recognition of the fact that transportation is a major contributor to particulate matter.
- Intercessional work is continuing in preparation for the next session. This includes:
 - Finalizing the Purpose Statement.
 - Developing annex language on mobile source commitments
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 - Assessing ambient monitoring networks for PM in both countries
 - Sharing information about emissions monitoring and reporting requirements for stationary sources, including measurement of condensable PM_{2.5} emissions.
- Discussions will continue as part of the November 2008 United States / Canada Air Quality Committee meeting.