

Appendix III-b5. Responses to question #13 of the questionnaire

13. What other attributes, positive or negative, could be ascribed to the NARSTO organization?

**Responder Comment(s)
Number**

- Q # 7 Science based. A lot of recognized experts worked on NARSTO assessments.
- Q # 8 Canada does not use NARSTO as well as it might. I do not know the reasons - but speculate that the reasons for this may include NARSTO management and members are mainly U.S. and therefore do not support Canadian agenda items, financial support in Canada is not available and therefore there is no support for Canadian agenda items, Canadians may not be suggesting agenda items for NARSTO work since Canadian government scientists may not recognize as credible science conducted outside of the government.
- Q # 9 Not as forward thinking as it could be.
- Q # 14 Encourages tri-national consistency in data archiving (+)Encourages tri-national consistency in major functions such as emission-reporting standards and procedures (+)Uncertain funding base (-)Lack of funding base discourages participation on NARSTO committees by members of small businesses and some members from academia (-)
- Q # 18 NARSTO provides (a) useful forum(s) that empower(s) enthusiastic individuals in multiple agencies, countries, academic institutions, etc. to work collaboratively on topics and products that might not be possible within their individual institutions. In turn this can sometimes help redirect the focus of the cumbersome individual bureaucracys in useful directions.NARSTO seems to have lost momentum as the private sector has withdrawn support, and/or as its focus has broadened.
- Q # 22 Enhances government and industry air quality science interaction and cooperation, creating a forum outside the charged regulatory rule making process explorations of mutual interest. Provides unique cross-disciplinary environmental research outreach, especially bringing together the atmospheric sciences, human exposure, and human health fields.
- Q # 23 The overall health and quality of life of the citizens of North American is improved/positively impacted by NARSTO.
- Q # 24 The NARSTO Data Archive was good idea at the time, but it has not seen the widespread use originally anticipated. NARSTO has an opportunity to facilitate greater access, interpretation and promotion of the intensive field campaigns that currently are well

understood by participants, but lack adequate descriptions, meta data for users not intimately engaged in the studies.

- Q # 25 Not enough state-level participation. Attempting to make air quality information useful to health effects researchers. Not enough focus on trans-boundary international issues.
- Q # 28 Focused on physical science not health. This limits the ability to fully contribute to policy discussions and to ensure that the atmospheric science is responsive to guidance from health research. On the other hand the equivalent health science role in the US is well addressed by HEI. NARSTO is conscious of the importance of applying science to policy but is limited by non-official status. Nevertheless it is far more effective than the NAFTA based CECAs evidenced by the decision to hold onto an outdated name, NARSTO gives the impression of being little stodgy. In Canada it is seen as a source of credible science advice but is not a player in discussions in the same way as industry associations and NGOS.
- Q # 29 With regard to my yes to US centric focus it is understandable since the US provides the major contribution. If Canada and Mexico wants NARSTO to be more partial then they need to contribute a larger share
- Q # 31 Responsive as an organisation, and the members/participants have also been responsive individually
- Q # 33 I am not very involved in the organization these days, but I believe NARSTO should make an effort to increase participation of new EPA policy managers in the process.
- Q # 34 We need think that the Mexican development in both environmental protection and the economy are different that USA and Canada. Therefore it is important determine how Mexico will improve the air quality in the near future.
- Q # 35 It provides an independent assessment of the state of science and hence garners confidence from all stake holders.
- Q # 39 Provide funding for workshops.
- Q # 40 NARSTO would be better served if it had at least some permanent budget and secure source of funding. This would allow more continuity, and if governmental sources of funding were involved, it would ensure greater participation of funding governments and greater use of results.
- Q # 45 Helps provide one voice or a consensus voice for the atmospheric science community when engaging the AQ Health Effects/risk assessment science community and the ecological effects community. Although this needs to be formalized and should. Does well with limited resources and limited authority. But needs to assess current stature, perhaps refocus and recharge. Strikes a relatively good, amicable balance among stakeholders. Does a good job at being policy-relevant and not dictating policy.

- Q # 46 While the organization and abilities of NARSTO remain valuable, its effectiveness has been somewhat diluted, in my opinion, by a tendency to pursue whatever research topic receives the most attention from government agencies at any given time.
- Q # 50 + or -: Chair persons appear to take too little proactive interest on structural matters.+: implementation leadership exhibited by coordinator, prior and present, has been consistently superior.-: diminished private sector support due to an evolution over.
- Q # 52 Encourages communication between public and private research sectors-Long latency time for assessment reports to appear; need to shorten both the reports and the review process- Data archive is useful; need to advertise more widely
- Q # 54 The interaction of NYSERDA with NARSTO members has enhanced the scientific focus of its research agenda and individual projects. It has allowed great knowledge transfer for a state program with limited access to national research programs and limited resources.