

Appendix III-b9. Responses to question #18 of the questionnaire

18. Provide any suggestions for improving NARSTO.

**Responder Comment(s)
Number**

Q # 2 Diffusion in Mexico.

Q # 7 Publicize events and products more widely. Ensure that senior policy makers in the countries are aware of NARSTO. Make linkages with other programs, particularly in the border regions (eg. IJC International Air Quality Advisory Board).

Q # 8 Using its unique three government attributes as the starting point, NARSTO should be opportunistic - entrepreneurial, and seek to create results/products that are of value to governments and the private sector and that NARSTO is uniquely positioned to create. For instance, common concerns in all three countries include: water use and conservation; invasive species; marine pollution (marine fuels and engine designs, competition among ports, port design); hemispheric pollution; etc. Common technical needs where best practices could be developed by NARSTO could include: best available technology (see the EPA BACT/RACT/LAER site and the fact that it is now available in Spanish has made it available to air quality permit managers in all three countries - but it still doesn't have many of the Mexican industries I would think); air quality monitoring and protocols; satellite monitoring and protocols - see interviewee comments on NASA.

Q # 9 The Societies of Environmental Epidemiology and Exposure Assessment hold a regular joint conference that is the best in the area. What would be very useful is to have a NARSTO meeting in conjunction with one or both of these which could bring in the atmospheric side of things to a greater extent that currently comes in through the Exposure Assessment groups. It would be difficult since the joint conference is already as large as one would want, but if one could marry the three disciplines once every few years, I think there would be benefits for all.

Q # 11 Improve visibility of the organization to senior decision makers in Government and build an outreach and communications function.

Q # 14 Economize the organizational structure. Convene a high-level process similar to the one that resulted in the original White-House Charter ceremony to re-energize the linkage with industry. This linkage has metamorphosed significantly during NARSTO's tenure owing to energy deregulation, collapse of the US auto industry, and so-forth.

Q # 15 Working on homogenize practices between Canada, US and Mexico.

Q # 16 Greater recognition of its existence and value by the policy makers (air quality and climate).

- Q # 18 There is a continuing need to seek input from policy-makers on critical science needs. Articulating policy-relevant science questions is not a trivial task, and requires participation by and interaction between the policy and the scientific communities. NARSTO would benefit from a new focus, and I think the Air Quality/Climate Interface would be appropriate. A useful exercise might be to try to better define what that term really means. What are the critical subtopics - or at least the ones where NARSTO-like activities can best contribute? Should ozone and PM be revisited through a climate lense? What aspects of current NARSTO multipollutant management and accountability activities can be redirected in this area. Another possible future focus area (or could be considered a subtopic under Climate/AQ interface) might be called something like Air quality management beyond NAAQS . Both ozone and PM appear to be no threshold (for health effects) pollutants, and standards for both (in the US and Canada) have been tightened to near the limits of current control technologies, and also to near the limits of policy-relevant background - which is likely rising as the developing world develops and transcontinental transport increases (and will likely also increase as a consequence of changing climate).
- Q # 22 Greater private sector support and involvement. Update the Strategic Execution Plan, with clearer roles for contributing organizations, and more frequent review of progress against plans.
- Q # 23 Needs stronger foundation support from all participants. Needs to expand mandate to the trans-global level. Needs to work harder to communicate its products and benefits and ensure that all bias is identified and objectively declared and assessed.
- Q # 24 Data area: NARSTO could be the primary source the air quality community looks to to gain a basic understanding of current and historical intensive field studies - providing basic parameters, participants, key findings, synthesis of findings, related presentations and publications as well as access to data or at least guidance on gaining access. Major intensives: Aside for the NARSTO-NE campaign, NARSTO really has no role in field campaigns. Can NARSTO provide some kind of coordination role across, EPA, NOAA, NASA, DOE, private sector and the 3 countries? If that is not practical, certainly NARSTO could help facilitate dissemination of information, purpose and findings of such programs as alluded to above.
- Q # 25 Conduct an electronic survey like this asking NARSTO members their priorities for the coming year(s) and their views on how NARSTO can help address those priorities. Do this annually before the Executive Assembly and report on the results.
- Q # 28 Change the name. Adopt a higher profile. Expand the role of providing advice to policy makers.
- Q # 29 NARSTO needs to be timely with their information, NARSTO must provide relevant information for policy development, NARSTO must demonstrate that it can provide impartial, unbiased scientific based information that will aid in developing air quality

policies that will be beneficial to all three countries. NARSTO must demonstrate that they are the go to organization when governments and industry want unbiased information and guidance

Q # 30 Steady federal funding.

Q # 32 Improve the website.

Q # 33 I really am not up to date enough to presume this - but a strong and visible leader is really helpful, and an early attempt on the US side to give transition/new EPA people some info on NARSTO and what it has and can do would be a good thing.

Q # 34 Narsto need more diffusion, in Mexico only small groups has been contact with Narsto. it is important to Know if the results of Narsto are used by reseracher, mynistries, teachers, etc.

Q # 35 Narsto with the present mandate does not make policy recommendations for reasons that policy should remain with governments. However, there are often situations where only certain science based solutions should be used in deciding on policy. I think Narsto shouldn't shy away from identifying these solutions.

Q # 37 Enhance the participation of the two countries "minor partners"

Q # 38 More active participation by Canada and Mexico. Particularly Mexico. The organization needs a strategic plan for the next few years to provide focus to the planned efforts.

Q # 40 Ask for a line item budget for each of the member country governments greater NARSTO participation in other fora in order to increase NARSTO's visibility

Q # 41 NARSTO should focus on increasing the interactions among a larger number of members of the scientific community in Mexico.

Q # 43 More frequent, updated reports.

Q # 45 Reconsider its mandate, look to how to better unite the three countries given Mexico's 'rise'. Look to more formally partner with other like-minded consortiums. Get a bigger budget. Demonstrate its scientific credibility.

Q # 46 I would like to see a re-direction of emphasis to ozone issues as the primary focus, and better follow-through in disseminating research products to the regulatory community.

Q # 47 More public outreach of its mission through its membership; more and sustained funding.

Q # 50 As part of reinvention find ways to increase private sector participation via more outreach to top level managers and executives. For instance, in recent times, huge cooperative academia-industrial-government research efforts have commenced for finding holistic

solutions that intersect the heretofore disparate interests on energy generation and use, climate, natural resource mining and pollution. Its probably the right moment now to incorporate subsidiary issues, like air quality, and what NARSTO represents, within a broader international context. Participation in NARSTO was motivated by the benefits of leveraging independent science research efforts to find solutions for interdependent issues about emissions causing air quality degradation on local and regional scales. There are still such situations that remain to be and should be addressed. But to do so effectively requires some sort of renewal, reinvention or smooth transition to a new and different inter-agency and inter-organization entity. Building in a smooth transition is essential to prevent loss of the knowledge capital already amassed.

Q # 52 Shorter assessments; perhaps more focused and less comprehensive on a topic. Shorter review cycle to make the assessment more timely. Instead of assessments, consider sponsoring focused workshops, with a follow-on Workshop report on selected topics.

Q # 54 Reach-out to more state/regional energy organizations. Many are jumping into renewable energy from a fuel supplier or economic development perspective assuming renewable energy is carbon neutral. Much work needs to be done to educate state energy organizations on multi-pollutant considerations and sustainability.