

**Minutes of the NARSTO Executive Assembly Meeting
Environment Canada
Downsview Ontario
April 17th & 18th 2001**

The NARSTO Executive Assembly meeting was opened at one o'clock on Tuesday, April 17, 2001. The meeting commenced with 2001 NARSTO status report presented by Jake Hales, the NARSTO Management Coordinator.

Joe Mauderly of the Lovelace Institute reported on the current status of health-effects research on suspended fine particulate matter. Salient points included the indications that:

1. Current research has indicated no single candidate of the original 11 potential impact agents set forth by Joe in the 1998 Chapel Hill Fine-Particle Workshop report. Conversely, none of these candidates has been excluded, either; although there does seem to be some indication of a reprioritization of elements on this list.
2. It is unlikely that any single item on this list will emerge as a predominant contributor. Several of these (and perhaps others) are likely to contribute jointly to the observed effects.
3. From a health-sciences standpoint, one of the most important things atmospheric scientists can do is perform detailed characterizations of ambient pollutants, particularly potentially harmful organic compounds. Health scientists are currently dealing with a large matrix of unknown, but potentially important pollutants in this respect.

Pauline Midgely (Executive Secretary of EUROTRAC-2) presented an overview of EUROTRAC-2, which in many ways can be considered as a European counterpart to NARSTO. Coordinated by Pauline's Secretariat offices in Munich, EUROTRAC-2 has several parallel scientific efforts in operation. These cover NARSTO's focus areas of ozone and fine particles, but extend to additional areas (such as mercury and POP's) as well. Currently EUROTRAC is considering extending into a third phase of its research program, which should begin subsequent to EUROTRAC-2's completion in 2002. Further information on EUROTRAC-2 is available on www.gsf.de/eurotrac (or simply by clicking EUROTRAC on the NARSTO home page).

Marjorie Shepherd provided a status update on the Fine-Particle Assessment, which is currently in progress. An internal NARSTO review draft will be posted on the Web this August, and review meetings will be held in October in Sacramento and Portland. A revised draft will be submitted to a tri-national review team composed of the Canadian Royal Society, the US NRC, and the Mexican RED, who are expected to complete their review by July 2002. The final document is scheduled for completion in December 2002.

Les Grant of EPA presented a lengthy description of the second external review draft of EPA's Criteria Document for Particulate Matter. Completed in March of this year, this is a comprehensive and large document, which reviews all aspects of fine-particle behavior. Available on CD-ROM, copies can be obtained by contacting Les at grant.lester@epa.gov.

Tuesday's session concluded with exiting Public-Sector ESC Co-Chair Don McKay announcing that Jim Meagher from the NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory will be his replacement for the next two-year term. Don also announced that the ESC has elected Robert Wendoll of Dunn-Edwards to serve as Private-Sector Co-Chair Elect. Robert will replace Howard Feldman when his term as Co-Chair expires next year. In addition, John Jansen of the Southern Company has been elected to serve as Private-Sector Co-Chair elect-elect, to follow Robert's term. These appointments were confirmed by the Executive Assembly, and Jim presented Don with a plaque in appreciation for Don's strong efforts as ESC Co- Chair.

Wednesday's session began with presentations on the following topics:

- TEXAQS-2000 Field Study Status Report - Jim Thomas
- California Ozone Study, California Regional Particulate Matter Air Quality Study, and Southern Californai Ozone Study Status Reports - Bart Croes
- NYSERDA Emission Research Program - Janet Joseph
- Pacific 2001 Fieldy-Study Preview - Shao Meng Li
- NARSTO Quality Assurance and Data Management Status Report - Jeff West
- Status Report on Mexican Activities and Future Plans - Pancho Guzman
- Overview of IPCC Chapter on Atmospheric Aerosols - Len Barrie

The final portions of the meeting were devoted to business topics. Jake Hales presented a status report on the NARSTO Infrastructure Fund, and reviewed the current makeup of the Executive Steering Committee. The Executive Assembly agreed that Jim Thomas should replace Cyril Durrenburger, who is retiring from TNRCC, and that Mark Strickland should replace Jim Shissias from Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG). Jim is still with PSEG, but has moved into other focus areas.

Howard Feldman then led the Assembly in a discussion of future directives and action items, for the coming year, from the Executive Assembly to the Executive Steering Committee and the Management Coordinators. For reference, Howard listed the following directives for the current year, set at the 2000 Executive Assembly meeting in Washington DC:

- Complete the Ozone Assessment.
- Commence Work on the Fine-Particle Assessment.
- Proceed with Model Intercomparison Activity.
- Proceed with Mexico Fine-Particle Conference.
- Finalize Fine-Particle Science Plan.
- Establish On-Net Publication Policy.
- Maintain and Foster Linkages with Health-Sciences Community.

After extended discussion the Assembly agreed that the counterpart list of directives for the coming year should be as follows:

- Complete the Fine-Particle Assessment as scheduled.
- Continue to maintain and foster linkages with the health-sciences community.
- Move toward organizing a joint symposium with the health-sciences community, targeted for sometime in 2003.
- Organize and implement a special symposium/workshop on advanced emission-estimation methods: target date 2002.
- Conduct a systematic follow-up on the Ozone Assessment. Consider additional outreach to the policy community and updating Part 3 of the Strategic Execution Plan as components of this effort.
- Consider developing a consistent basis for dealing with co-pollutants, when focusing on specific issues, such as ozone and suspended particulate matter.
- Complete the model evaluation as planned.
- Consider developing a consistent basis for implementing "accountability" (as described in Chapter 5 of the Ozone Assessment Document), in dealing with atmospheric pollution management.

Two additional topics were discussed briefly during the final minutes of the meeting. The first of these concerned the longevity of NARSTO, a subject discussed earlier during the 2000 Executive Assembly meeting. This was based on the fact that NARSTO was originally presumed to be a ten-year program; and we are now embarking on our seventh year and are making plans well out into the future. The consensus was that, while no one wants NARSTO to outlive its usefulness, it is currently a vigorous and productive effort that is resulting in highly useful products. The program should be continued as long as its productivity and usefulness are maintained at this level.

The second topic addressed the makeup and tuning of next year's Executive Assembly meeting. It was suggested that in 2002 we design the meeting for a high-level executive audience, including cabinet secretaries and ministers and company vice-presidents. Part of the rationale for this suggestion was that the new administrations in all three countries should have reached an established state by that time, making it appropriate to inform high-level administrators of our activities. This possibility will be discussed by the Executive Steering Committee in the following months.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM, Wednesday, April 18, 2001.

Meeting Attendees

Bill Aljoe	National Energy Technology Laboratory
Leonard Barrie	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Timothy Belian	Coordinating Research Council
David Chock	Ford Motor Company
Bart Croes	California Air Resources Board
Robin Dennis	U.S. EPA
John Elston	N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection
Fred Fehsenfeld	NOAA
Howard Feldman	American Petroleum Institute
Al Ferrulo	Pennsylvania Power and Light
Alfonso Garcia	Instituto Nacional de Ecologia
Les Grant	EPA
Francisco Guzman	Instituto Mexicano del Petroleo
Jake Hales	Envair
Donald Hastie	York University
Janet Joseph	NYSERDA
Pete Lawson	Ontario Power Generation
Peter Lunn	U.S. DOE OBER
Maris Lulis	Environment Canada
Joe Mauderly	LRRI
Don McKay	Environment Canada
James Meagher	NOAA
Shao Meng Li	Environment Canada
Pauline Midgely	EUROTRAC
Paul Miller	North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation
P. K. Misra	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Peter Mueller	EPRI
Keith Puckett	Environment Canada
S. T. Rao	N.Y. Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Marjorie Shepherd	Environment Canada
Mark Strickland	Public Service Enterprise Group
Jim Thomas	TNRCC
James Vickery	U.S. EPA
Robert Wendoll	Dunn-Edwards Corporation
Jeffrey West	U.S. EPA