

2008-09 RCEN Atmosphere and Energy Caucus Steering Committee

[Sandra Madray](#) (Co-Chair), Chemicals Sensitivities Manitoba, MB
[Anna Tilman](#) (Co-Chair), Save The Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition, ON
[Sandra Boswell](#), The Allergy and Environmental Illness Group, PEI
[Sheila Cole](#), Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia, NS
[Gordon Dalzell](#), Citizens Coalition for Clean Air, NB
[Peter Ormond](#), Conserver Society of Hamilton and District, ON
[Olga Schwartzkopf](#), Soil and Water Conservation Society, BC Chapter, BC
[Nashina Shariff](#), The Toxics Watch Society of Alberta, AB

Atmosphere and Energy Caucus – Highlights/Summary for 2008 RCEN Annual Report

The RCEN Atmosphere & Energy Caucus works on important issues related primarily to hazardous air pollutants. As such, the caucus membership frequently works in partnership with the RCEN Toxics Caucus. The RCEN coordinated seven teleconferences of the Caucus Steering Committee in 2008 and hosted a caucus meeting at this year's AGA in Toronto.

In partnership with Environment Canada and Alberta Environment, the RCEN organized a meeting in Ottawa between the NGO representatives to the multi-stakeholder alternative air emissions framework process and the broader community of NGOs working to reduce air pollution across Canada. A total of 25 NGOs were represented at this August meeting and a comprehensive report of NGO views on the process for developing and the substance of a national regulatory framework for air emissions was produced. The RCEN hosted four teleconferences this year with the environmental community to address various aspects of this initiative.

The multi-stakeholder driven, alternative approach to the federal regulatory framework on air emissions has been very active in 2008, even after losing the participation of the federal government following the October election call. To date, the government of Canada has yet to re-engage in this process. The provinces, through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Industry representatives, and health and environmental NGO representatives reached a significant milestone in January 2009, releasing a draft air management framework paper for consultation with their respective constituencies. The hard work and commitment of this group should see the federal government come back to the table this year.

A sense of urgency is building within the caucus and the public to see strong, real world national policy development that seeks to put an enforceable global standard on the regulation of greenhouse gases and the broad spectrum of other deadly air pollutants. Our partnerships with a wide range of departments within the federal government and within the hugely diverse ENGO community will be used to help Canada achieve this goal.

Atmosphere and Energy Caucus 2008 Annual Report

Activities from Caucus Coordinators' Monthly Reports

April 2008

- Coordinated [Steering Committee teleconference](#) held April 17, 2008. Items addressed included: ENGO engagement in RFAE development and steering committee elections
- Put out [call for Steering Committee nominations](#) April 30, 2008

Environment Canada Regulatory Framework on Air Emissions Air Pollutants Consultations

- Continued discussions with EC pertaining to status of consultations both from the perspective of the Multi-stakeholder Group and the ENGO-specific consultations
- Canvassed all caucus members to identify their areas of air pollutants expertise and compiled info into Excel spreadsheet

May 2008

- [2008/09 Atmosphere and Energy Caucus Steering Committee](#) established with new membership of [Nashina Shariff](#), The Toxics Watch Society of Alberta on the Board of Climate Action Network Canada and member of the Multi-stakeholder Discussion Group on the RFAE and also [Sandra Boswell](#) The Allergy and Environmental Illness Group in PEI and [Peter Ormond](#) Conserver Society of Hamilton and District in ON
- Completed draft of 2007 Atmosphere and Energy Caucus Annual Report and Atmosphere and Energy Caucus written section for 2007 RCEN Annual Report

Environment Canada Air Pollutants component of the Regulatory Framework on Air Emissions
Coordinated conference call of the Multi-stakeholder Discussion Group on the RFAE and all other air pollutants ENGO interests held May 7. Decision was to form a communications committee to ensure effective communication and collaboration between the MS group ENGOs and the greater ENGO air pollutants interests

June 2008

- Coordinated [Atmosphere and Energy Caucus Steering Committee](#) teleconference re-scheduled and held on June 23, 2008. Agenda was changed and dedicated to the issue of Environment Canada consultation with ENGOs on the air pollutants component of the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions
- Attended a breakfast seminar of the Air and Waste Management Association on monitoring air pollution using satellite technology held June 12, 2008
- Continued discussions with Air Emissions Priorities section of Environment Canada in regards to: integrating the broader ENGO community with EC consultations with the Multi-stakeholder Discussion Group on the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions and in regards to funding for face-to-face caucusing of the A&E caucus

Environment Canada Air Pollutants component of the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions
Scheduled and postponed until further notice conference call of the Multi-stakeholder Discussion Group on the RFAE and all other air pollutants ENGO interests. Call was postponed pending circulation to the engaged caucus of the draft letter to Environment Canada regarding stakeholder engagement on this matter

July 2008

Coordinated [Atmosphere and Energy Caucus Steering Committee](#) teleconference held July 22. Anna Tilman and Sandra Madray were confirmed as Co-chairs. Items addressed included: ENGO letter to Environment Canada regarding consultation with ENGOs on RFAE development, CWS Incidental Take Regulations, upcoming RCEN meeting with NRCAN, NWMO consultations on site selection for nuclear waste

Environment Canada Air Pollutants component of the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions
Drafted letter and proposal to EC and Alberta Environment for an RFAE NGO stakeholder consultation event

August 2008

- Coordinated Steering Committee teleconference held August 14, 2008, facilitated by Emile. A draft agenda for the August 25-26 meeting was addressed.
- Completed draft Caucus Workplan 2008-09
- On August 5, met with Stefan Reinecke, Stratos, project manager for NWMO dialogue sessions to discuss the potential involvement of RCEN delegates (Stratos concluded that this was not within the mandate given to them by the NWMO for the dialogue sessions). Spoke with Anda Kalvins, Director Environment at NWMO, clarified for Anda who the RCEN is and what we do. Anda was not receptive to RCEN participation at this juncture, but insisted that the NWMO consultations are the most inclusive, most well respected consultation process. Anda will be discussing the RCEN with her colleagues told me that she would be getting back to me.

Environment Canada Air Pollutants component of the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions

- Completed and submitted with Nashina Sharif final proposal to Environment Canada and Alberta Environment for an RFAE NGO consultation event
- Received approval from EC and AE to proceed with implementation of the proposal
- Prepared English call for delegates and made advance preparations before leaving on vacation and handing off organizational responsibilities to Emile and Leela
- Coordinated selection of 19 NGO delegates
- Attended and took minutes at August 25 evening consultation and August 26 consultation

September 2008

Environment Canada Air Pollutants component of the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions

[Air Pollutants under the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions \(RFAE\) Consultation Event](#)

- Coordinated follow-up teleconference held Sep 4. Items addressed included: status of the multi-stakeholder alternative air framework process, status of ENGO specific consultations on the air pollutants component of the federal RFAE, strategies for moving forward.
- Coordinated production of NGO consolidated report including 2 teleconferences held Sep 8 and 10– final deliverable to Environment Canada and Alberta Environment for August 25 and 26 consultation event
- Coordinated NGO RCEN invoicing process for per diem rate and consolidated report production
- Submitted final deliverable to Environment Canada and Alberta Environment and final invoicing information for Alberta Environment to Jude

[Tripartite Alternative Regulatory Framework on Air Emissions \(RFAE\) Proposal](#)

Tripartite: Provinces, Industry, Health and Environmental NGOs were aiming towards a Sep 10 meeting with the Deputy Minister to present their alternative proposal (proposal for the development of an alternative framework) for approval. Election call has delayed this process until after Nov 4

October 2008

Steering Committee

- Coordinated caucus steering committee call held October 8. Discussion focused on the RCEN AGA. Did not have quorum.
- Coordinated caucus meeting at the RCEN AGA held October 26. Caucus meeting focused on updates, issues with federal consultations, new and old priorities for the caucus workplan

Air Pollutants component of the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions

Coordinated air pollutants strategy telecon held October 6, 2008. General wait and see mode due to Oct 14 election, but also general interest in knowing what the overall caucus strategy is on air pollutants.

[Tripartite Alternative Regulatory Framework on Air Emissions \(RFAE\) Proposal](#)

Provinces (through CCME), industry and NGOs are pushing forward with the details of the alternative proposal without the participation of Environment Canada. I am again trying to set up a system for regular reporting.

November 2008

Steering Committee

Completed follow-up to the A & E Caucus meeting at RCEN AGA including minutes and resulting action items

[Tripartite Alternative Regulatory Framework on Air Emissions \(RFAE\) Proposal](#)

The “tripartite process” steering committee (including ENGO reps. Lisa Gue and Nashina Shariff) met Nov. 3-5. The objective was to complete work on a draft overview paper describing the tripartite process’ proposed alternative framework for addressing air quality concerns. While some progress was made, there is more work to be done before the draft paper is ready for broad circulation. In particular, the tripartite group is still developing recommendations on federal regulatory requirements for industrial emission reductions where NAAQS are exceeded. The steering committee is scheduled to meet on this issue on Dec. 3.

Members of the steering committee (including Lisa Gue) also recently met with federal officials from Environment Canada, Health Canada, and other departments who had previously been engaged in the tripartite process. Federal participation was suspended during the election. At the recent meeting, Environment Canada officials indicated that they are still in the process of briefing the new minister of the environment and have not yet received direction on this file. ENGOs and industry associations represented in the tripartite process have written to the new federal ministers of health and environment urging them to quickly re-engage federal officials in the tripartite process.

December 2008

Steering Committee

Coordinated Steering Committee call held December 2. Did not have quorum.

[Tripartite Alternative Regulatory Framework on Air Emissions \(RFAE\) Proposal](#)

The steering committee met on December 4 and held a follow-up teleconference on December 11. Another teleconference is scheduled for Friday. Disappointingly, Environment Minister Prentice has not yet directed federal officials to re-engage in the tripartite process (federal participation was originally suspended during the election campaign). The steering committee, therefore, has decided to proceed in finalizing a “duopartite” (provinces + stakeholders) proposal with the intent of presenting it to federal ministers as soon as possible – with or without the active involvement of federal officials. The main outstanding issue is still the federal role in enforcing emission reductions in areas where National Ambient Air Quality Standards are exceeded. The steering committee is exploring the option of a legislative amendment, having not been able to agree on an approach to regulating under existing authorities. Goal is to be able to finally complete a draft document and seek caucus feedback in January.

January 2009

[Tripartite Alternative Regulatory Framework on Air Emissions \(RFAE\) Proposal](#)

- Draft Framework Overview Paper was produced by the Tripartite Steering Committee acting in a “duopartite” (provinces + stakeholders) capacity Environment Minister Prentice has still not yet directed federal officials to re-engage in the tripartite process (federal participation was originally suspended during the election campaign).
- Coordinated teleconference held Jan 26 with the ENGO representatives to the Tripartite Process to discuss soliciting the input of the broader ENGO community towards the Draft Framework Overview Paper

Emissions Control Area for Ships

- Was contacted by Environment Canada/Transport Canada in regards to consultations / information sessions planned in Vancouver, Ottawa and Halifax between dates of Jan 19 – 23
- Met with EC (Don Stewart) and TC (Paul Topping) leads in person and via teleconference in Gatineau on Jan 16 – result was that they are willing and interested to receive a proposal from RCEN for engaging RCEN member organizations
- I attended the Jan 23 session in Ottawa for background information and to re-iterate the unfortunate timeframe given for the January sessions

February 2009

[Tripartite Alternative Regulatory Framework on Air Emissions \(RFAE\) Proposal](#)

Coordinated teleconference with the Tripartite ENGOs and the broader air pollutants ENGO community held February 6. The purpose of the teleconference was to provide the broader air pollutants ENGO interests with the opportunity to provide input towards and seek clarification on the recently released Air Management Framework document from the Tripartite ENGOs.

Emissions Control Area for Ships

Provided detailed briefing to chairs of Atmosphere and Energy, Water, Fisheries and Oceans, Toxics, Health and the International Program on February 20, 2009 regarding this Transport Canada – Environment Canada initiative. Will follow-up with TC and EC in April when they will be submitting their “bulk documents” application to the UN International Maritime Organization. Opportunities for consultation with ENGOs will follow their April submission. No interest has been expressed from the Chairs of the 5 caucuses notified.

[Workshop to Examine Sulphur and Nitrogen Deposition Issues in Western Canada](#)

Coordinated Call for Delegates for 3 ENGO delegates for CCME workshop in Banff, AB scheduled for April 28-29.

March 2009

Coordinated Steering Committee teleconference held March 24, 2009. Topics addressed included: regional/local updates and 2009-10 caucus work plan.

[Workshop to Examine Sulphur and Nitrogen Deposition Issues in Western Canada](#)

Coordinated Delegate Selection for 3 ENGO delegates for CCME workshop in Banff, AB scheduled for April 28-29. Only 2 were found to be qualified and members in good standing: [Anna Tilman](#), Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition, ON, [Jennifer Grant](#), Pembina Institute, AB.