An Approach to Recording Expert Opinion on

Strategies for Clean Air and Health

Health Effective Policy Options for Air Quality Management
In North America and Europe,

based on currently available scientific information.

Achieving the Conference Objective

The Conference Objective is to examine health effective policy options for air quality management in North America and Europe based on currently available scientific information and expert opinion. The meeting will result in the development of a Conference Statement that will capture the opinion of conference delegates on the best options and strategies for air quality management. The purpose of the Statement is to serve as an information source for consideration by air quality policy makers. The Statement will not represent the opinion of AIRNET or NERAM nor will it serve as a directive for their future activities.

The development and recording of "informed" expert opinion of the conference participants will be facilitated by a number of documents, the conference presentations and group discussions. The purpose of this document, produced by the Conference Planning Committee, is to firstly describe the end result of the conference discussion process and then to chronologically outline the process for the guidance of Conference Participants, Presenters, group Chairs and group Rapporteurs.

The End Result - November 7 PM (15:00) – Final Plenary "Identification of Best Options and Strategies"

The four rapporteurs will present the results of the final break out group discussion on "Selection of Priority Policy Strategies for Clean Air and Health" (November 7, 13:30), noting any similar options presented by other groups. Following the rapporteur presentations, the two chairs will summarize the list of options presented by the rapporteurs. A general plenary discussion of the findings will follow. Conference Participants will record their preferences among the list of best options and strategies by show of hands. The chairs will record the results of voting on each option.

This recording of preferences following an "informing" conference structure has been done successfully many times in the past by NERAM (for example see drinking water Conference Statement @ www.irr-neram.ca).

November 6, Presentation of Background Papers: Health Effects (9:00), Air Quality Modeling (9:50), Policy Tools (10:50), and Policy Options and Strategies (13:45)

Background papers that summarize the current science and implications for the conference policy issues have been produced by international experts from North America and Europe. The policy issues are (there are uncertainties for each issue):

- What does health effects research tell us about the risks from air pollution, including who should be protected, and from what sources or components of the air pollution mixture? What are the uncertainties and inherent limitations of the health effect studies on air pollution?
- In addition to scientific evidence and its uncertainties, what is the role of public risk perception in public policy development and what are the requirements for risk communication?

- What sources contribute to risks to public health, and what methods are available to link sources to exposures? How can air quality modeling inform local, regional and continent wide air management strategies?
- What are the expected future benefits of existing policies for pollution reduction for cars, power plants, etc.?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of alternative policy approaches (e.g. NAAQS, limit values, best available technologies?).
- What are currently the most prominent research priorities to improve air quality management and is the science community targeting these priorities?

Each background paper will be presented followed by an overview of the related posters and a plenary discussion of the issues raised.

November 6 (16:00-17:30) Break-Out Group Discussions on Background Papers and Issues

Break Out groups, are pre-assigned (see the list of registrants) and are a cross section of location, scientific background, and so forth. They will be constant for the whole of the Conference, but individuals may shift groups at the outset (please inform the conference registration desk).

In this first break out session it is important that the Chair have everyone identify issues and concerns about the current science and uncertainties in each of the three areas of Health, Air Quality Modelling, and Policy Tools. The groups should work towards a collective understanding of the existing science in each of the three areas, however, individuals will likely not be experts in two of the three areas. The key focus questions for discussion are:

1. What are the key scientific findings that are important for air quality policy strategies?

2. What are the key scientific issues and uncertainties to be resolved to guide effective policy decisions?

At the conclusion of these break-out groups each chair and rapporteur will produce a document of the group's understanding of the science and their issues and concerns. These will be reproduced and available the next morning.

November 7 AM (8:30 – 9:15) Rapporteur Reports and Discussion

The break out group reports from November 6 (16:00 – 17:30) will be presented followed by a plenary discussion. At the conclusion of this plenary session the conference should have a unified, although rather messy, concept of the science that informs on air policy; what is known, what is not known, and what the uncertainties are.

November 7 (9:15 – 11:45) Science-Policy Integration for Effective Clean Air Strategies: International Policy Perspectives

In 8 presentations, the current policy options under consideration and the critical science-policy interface issues will be presented by those active in policy development and assessment.

November 7 PM (13:30-14:45) Break-Out Group Discussion "Selection of Priority Policy Strategies for Clean Air and Health"

The same break-out groups as the previous day will reconvene to identify possible policy strategies for air quality improvement with respect to health. Participants may wish to collectively identify criteria for "best" strategy options, however the general criteria and working premise is that there are two factors i) health benefits and ii) feasibility including cost and political will. It is suggested that these policy strategy options be listed and then the priority or "best" strategies selected by the group. This will be a daunting task for the group, the chair and the rapporteur – experience indicates that it can be done and that a list of 3-5 "best"

policy strategies will emerge. In previous similar exercises, group members have used dots or post it notes to record on tear off sheets their individual preferences.

The key focus question in this session is:

What are the 3 or 4 priority policy strategies that should be implemented over the next 5 years to achieve improvements in air quality and public health?

The rapporteurs and chair will end the break-out session with a recorded set of priority strategies in preference order. These are presented in the plenary session (15:00) described on page 121.