



January 27th, 2022

The Honourable Nils Clarke
Minister of Environment for the Yukon
Chair, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
123 Main St Unit 360
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A3

Dear Minister Clarke,

RE: Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards in Provincial and Territorial Jurisdictions

The Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) were designed as a key element of Canada's Air Quality Management System to monitor ambient air quality and to help drive improvements of air quality across Canada's airsheds. Documents were developed as guidance to reinforce the role of the CAAQS as non-statutory advice. Over this time, industry has continued to reduce its emissions and reduce any negative impact on overall air zone air quality. However, we continue to see the misapplication of the CAAQS at the provincial and local level for permitting and fence line monitoring of facility emissions.

The CCME Guidance Document on Air Zone Management clearly states that "CAAQS were not developed as facility level regulatory standards. Rather, they are used by provinces and territories to guide air zone management actions intended to reduce ambient concentrations below the CAAQS and prevent CAAQS exceedances". In our view, this principle is being ignored given the repeated messaging and concerns expressed by industry on the purpose and use of CAAQS.

Industry is deeply concerned that provinces and regional governments in some cases, are adopting CAAQS directly as regulatory limits without acknowledging the wording noted or considering the unique characteristics of specific air zones. The current situation is undermining the trust of industry generally, and specifically, is hurting the work of the CAAQS Development and Review Working Group, who have been given

assurance that the numbers developed are for ambient air monitoring stations within air zones and NOT for use as regulatory standards in permitting specific industry activities.

With this in mind, we urge provincial and territorial governments to reorient the application of ambient air quality “standards” back to their original intent and reinforce this with regional government who may have delegated authority for air quality management. In addition, it is critical that provinces and territories are mindful and explicit about the tradeoffs inherent in regulatory decisions made for climate action, impacts on air quality, and the overall strategic investments being made by industry. More collaboration with industry and other significant sectors such as transportation, is needed at the provincial and territorial level.


Of note, *“One of the key elements of the Air Quality Management System (AQMS) is the involvement of stakeholders in both the development of the system, and review of its implementation. AQMS is built on a foundation of collaboration, accountability and transparency, and broad stakeholder involvement continues to be a cornerstone of the System”*¹. Industry remains committed to working with federal, provincial, and territorial governments to review and provide recommendations for effective long-term air quality regulations and policies that help achieve emission reductions and air quality improvements without impeding innovation, undermining investment, jobs, and economic growth.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Shannon Watt
Vice President, Sustainability
Chemistry Industry Association of Canada



Greg D'Avignon
President and Chief Executive Officer
Business Council of B.C.



Paul Cheliak
Vice President, Strategy and Delivery
Canadian Gas Association



McKenzie Smith
Director, Stewardship & Regulatory Affairs
Fertilizer Canada

¹ The Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment
<https://ccme.ca/en/current-activities/air>



Steve Coupland
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Canadian Nuclear Association



Terry Abel
Executive Vice President, Canada Operations and
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Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers



Rob Hoffman
Director, Government & Stakeholder Relations
Canadian Fuels Association



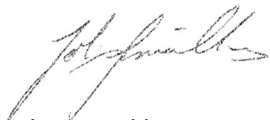
Chris Vervaeet
Executive Director
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Adam Auer
Vice President, Environment and Sustainability
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Michael Burt
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Dow Chemical Canada ULC



John Smiciklas
Director (Interim), Environment
Canadian Steel Producers Association



Mahima Sharma
Director, Environment, Innovation and Mill
Regulations
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c.c.: All Ministers of the CCME
The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health
CCME Secretariat