Article 1.4
Public Comment Procedures

Each Party shall, in accordance with its laws and regulations and to the extent practicable, maintain public comment procedures with respect to any matter covered by this Agreement.

Article 1.5
Administrative Procedures

1. Upon receiving an application submitted by a person who seeks an administrative decision which pertains to or affects the implementation and operation of this Agreement, the competent authorities of a Party shall, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Party:

(a) inform the applicant of the decision within a reasonable period of time after the submission of the application considered complete in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Party, taking into account the established standard period of time referred to in paragraph 3; and

(b) provide, within a reasonable period of time, information concerning the status of the application, upon request of the applicant.

2. The competent authorities of a Party shall, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Party, establish criteria for reviewing the application referred to in paragraph 1. The competent authorities shall make such criteria:

(a) as specific as possible; and

(b) publicly available except when it would extraordinarily raise administrative difficulties for the Party.

3. For the purposes of reviewing the applications referred to in paragraph 1, the competent authorities of a Party shall, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Party:

(a) endeavor to establish standard periods of time between the receipt of the applications and the administrative decisions taken in response to the applications; and

(b) make publicly available such periods of time, if established.

4. The competent authorities of a Party shall endeavor to, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Party, prior to any final decision which imposes obligations on or restricts legal rights of a person, provide that person with:

(a) a reasonable notice, including a description of the nature of the measure, specific provisions upon which such measure will be based, and the facts which may be a cause of taking such measure; and

(b) a reasonable opportunity to present facts and arguments in support of position of such person,

provided that time, nature of the measure and public interest permit.

Article 1.6
Review and Appeal

1. Each Party shall maintain courts or procedures for the purpose of prompt review and, where warranted, correction of administrative actions regarding matters covered by this Agreement. Such courts or procedures shall be impartial and independent of the authorities entrusted with the administrative enforcement of such actions.

2. Each Party shall ensure that the parties in any such courts or procedures are provided with the right to:

(a) a reasonable opportunity to support or defend their respective positions; and

(b) a decision based on the evidence and submissions of record.