

We have just learned the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) is evaluating the proposed CEGIR facility to determine whether it meets the minimum requirements for eligibility of NADBank funds. I don't know more than this at this time, nor how the news regarding disapproval of the project by the local municipality will impact BECC's evaluation. I will find out more information and get back to you.

Here's what I know as of today:

The BECC web site lists the CEGIR project as "in the pipeline" for BECC certification.

I understand that this means that the project proponents have requested that the BECC certify their project. To be certified, the project would need to meet BECC's 7 criteria, including broad public participation. If certified, the project may be eligible for a loan from the NADBank.

(see NADBank web page <http://www.nadb.org/projects/projdevelopment.html>).

EPA, the State Department, and the Department of Treasury each hold seats on the governing board of BECC, so any project approved for certification would have to be approved by those agencies (as well as their Mexican counterparts, who also sit on the Board).

BECC does not typically notify its Board when projects are submitted for review. We learned of the project from our counterparts at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

We have asked BECC for updated information on the status of the proposal, and will share information as we receive it. We will also provide BECC with information on potential impacts to the United States, along with letters expressing opposition to the project.

You may contact BECC directly by calling or emailing:

Maria Elena Giner, Director of Operations
ph#: 011-52-656-688-4600
mginer@cocef.org.

Here's the link to the BECC website listing the CEGIR project:

<http://www.cocef.org/ppipeline.htm?imagen=1&link=1>

I have also attached some information about BECC from their website, for your information.

Please give me a call if I can be of any assistance, at (415)972-3785.

Clancy Tenley

Manager, Tribal Program Office
EPA Region 9

BECC_Background

The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) is an international organization created by the Governments of the United States and Mexico under the side agreements to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The purpose of the BECC is to help conserve, protect and enhance the environment in the U.S.-Mexico border region, through the development and certification of environmental infrastructure projects that incorporate innovative sustainability and public participation concepts. Once certified by the BECC, a project may qualify for funding from the North American Development Bank (NADB) or from other sources requiring such certification. The NADB was also established under the same side agreement to NAFTA. Information about NADB's programs can be found at www.nadb.org .

Project_Development

The BECC's primary role is to develop and authorize projects, which are subsequently funded by the NADB or other funding institutions. To fulfill this role, the BECC gives primary importance to technical and financial aspects of each project, such as the use of appropriate non-polluting technologies with low operating and maintenance costs, and a viable financial structure that reflects affordable rates. Additionally, BECC makes a significant contribution to the project development process by ensuring project information availability, broad public participation and implementation of sustainability principles. The Commission also facilitates coordination between different government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels, in order to ensure that projects comply with the requirements and standards of each institution.