

SESSION II: Research and Analysis - What the Reports Say

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MR. MELEWSKI: I am the legislative director and counsel for a not-for-profit organization in New York called the Adirondack Council.

Just a little bit about us. All we do is work to protect the Adirondack Park in New York. For the vast majority of you who are not from New York, the Adirondack Park is about six million acres. It is about 20 percent of the total land mass in New York State.

It is the largest park of any kind in the lower 48 states. It contains the largest accumulation of wilderness east of the Mississippi and it is systematically being destroyed by acid rain, despite the fact that we have had, for over 100 years, a provision in our state constitution that deems state land within our park, which is about three million acres now, as forever wild, to be forever protected.

So, we have a serious problem in the Adirondacks, and the Adirondack Council has called upon our Congressional Delegation to try to get Congress to pay attention to the issue and see if we can address it in the future.

One of the important tools for us has been the plethora of reports that have come out of a variety of sources since the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments.

Two of them, as we will discuss, with some forethought, were required by Congress, those from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and also from the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program.

We have three speakers here who are going to touch on some of these reports. I just wanted to give you a brief idea of the quite large number of reports that have come out.

In 1994, the General Accounting Office (GAO) reviewed air pollution and allowance trading. It concluded that a cap and trade allow-

ance program offers an opportunity to reduce emissions at less cost.

In 1995, the U.S. EPA released the "Acid deposition standard feasibility study" report to Congress.

In 1997, the U.S. Geological Survey, produced "Acid Rain in our nation's capital." It is actually a walking guide to the effects on buildings and monuments here in Washington, D.C. from acid rain.

In 1998, the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program, "The Biennial Report to Congress."

In 1998 the Adirondack Council released "Acid Rain – a Continuing National Tragedy."

In 1998, Trout Unlimited published "Acid Rain, Current and Projected Status in the Coldwater Fish Communities of the Southeastern United States."

In 1999, the U.S. Geological Survey, "Soil Calcium Deposition Linked to Acid Rain in the Eastern United States."

Again, in 1999 and released in 2000, the Ecological Society of America, "Acid Deposition, the Ecological Response."

In the year 2000, GAO again, "Acid Rain, Emissions, Trends and Effects in the Eastern United States." Also, EPA did an analysis of the acid deposition in the Acid Rain Control Act, which was then sponsored by Senator Moynihan, Senate bill number 172.

Most recently the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, "Acid Rain Revisited, Advances in Scientific Understanding since passage of the 1970 and 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments."

Many of these documents are available on the literature table or, if you ask any of our speakers, you can get access to these documents.

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