International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

1818 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20433 U.S.A. Telephone: (202) 458-1534 Faxes: (202) 522-2615 / 522-2027 Website: http://twww.woddbank.org/icsid

October 26, 2005

By fax

Grand River Enterprises Six Nations, Ltd., Jerry Montour, Kenneth Hill and Arthur Montour c/o Mr. Todd Weiler 3007 Turner Road Windsor, Ontario Canada N8W 3L6 and c/o Mr. Leonard Violi 156 W. 56^h Street New York, NY 10019 and c/o Mrs. Chantell Macinnes Montour Inch Hammond Professional Corporation 1 King Street West, Suite 1500 Hamilton, Ontario L8P4X8

United States of America c/o Mr. Mark A. Clodfelter Assistant Legal Advisor and Ms. Andrea Menaker Chief, NAFTA Arbitration Division Office of International Claims and Investment Disputes 2430 E Street, NW Suite 203, South Building Washington, D.C. 20037-2800

Re: <u>Grand River Enterprises et al v. United States of America - NAFTA/UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules Proceeding</u>

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

As directed by the Tribunal, I write to you as follows:

- 1. After considering the submissions in the proceedings arising out of the Request for Bifurcation of Respondent United States of America, dated August 29, 2005, the Tribunal has decided that the only issue that should be bifurcated is the issue as to whether the claims are time-barred under Articles 1116(2) and 1117(2) of the NAFTA. The other objections raised as jurisdictional objections by the US in the above referenced Request for Bifurcation will be joined to the merits.
- 2. Further proceedings will now be scheduled as follows:
 - (i) Further pleading by the US on the preliminary point that the claim is time-barred, together with documentary and proposed oral evidence in support, if any: to be filed within forty days, i.e., by Monday, December 5, 2005;
 - (ii) Pleading in response by the Claimants together with documentary and proposed oral evidence in support, if any: to be filed within 40 days thereafter, i.e., by Monday, January 16, 2006 (January 14 being a Saturday);
 - (iii) Brief reply by the US to the Claimants' Response: 20 days thereafter, i.e., by Monday, February 6, 2006 (February 5 being a Sunday); and
 - (iv) Rejoinder (if any) by the Claimants to the brief reply: 20 days thereafter, i.e., by Monday, February 27, 2006 (February 26 being a Sunday).

- 3. Oral hearings on the issue of time-limitation will be held four months hence on dates to be advised by the Secretary of the Tribunal after consulting the parties and the Tribunal Members. Parties are hereby requested to confer and provide an estimate of the length of oral hearings that they envisage on this preliminary issue.
- 4. Although the objections other than the matter relating to whether or not the Claim is time-barred are joined to the merits, the parties are requested to indicate in their pleadings under paragraph 2 above under a separate heading ("Clarification") the evidence proposed to be led as to Mr. Arthur Montour's nationality (relevant to the third objection raised by the US) and whether this is disputed and if so why. The Tribunal wishes to stress that this will not be an issue for determination at the hearing of the preliminary issue of time-limitation since the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th objections in the Request for Bifurcation are joined to the merits. The only object is to clarify with documentary evidence if possible, the question of Mr. Arthur Montour's nationality at an early stage of the arbitral proceedings.

cc: Members of the Tribunal

Ucheora Onwuamaegbu Secretary of the Tribunal