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Editor's Note

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SYMPOSIUM

ACID RAIN AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Editor's Note

In the past few decades the problem of acid rain has grown from a relatively obscure concern to a major international environmental hazard. Damage to plant and animal life and to aquatic ecosystems is occurring on a large scale in North America, Europe, the Soviet Union and in many other areas of the world. The severity of the problem has only recently been recognized.

The precise causes and effects of acid rain are the subject of much public debate, scientific research and political controversy. Efforts to control acid rain in international and national arenas are not yet sufficiently substantive or coordinated, in part because of the conflict between industrial development and environmental concerns. Local efforts are forthcoming (i.e. New York State's recently enacted curb on sulfur dioxide emissions from in-state sources), however, in many instances the local areas suffering the worst environmental degradation are not the major polluters.

To encourage debate on these issues, a symposium was held at New York Law School on February 20, 1982. The focus of the symposium was acid rain and international environmental law, global perspectives on pollution and practitioners' remedies. The sponsors were the New York Law School Environmental Law Society and International Law Society. This issue of the *New York Law School Journal of International and Comparative Law* is comprised of papers presented at the symposium and articles prepared especially for inclusion herein. The articles provide international, Canadian and domestic perspectives on the acid rain debate. It is the purpose of this symposium issue to generate further legal analysis and development in the areas of acid rain and international environmental law.

We wish to reiterate the sponsors' stated purpose to encourage "a greater understanding of global environmental problems . . . [and to] enable society as a whole to move one step closer to achievement of a world public order of the environment."