MEMO

25 September 2012

To: Dean Martin Cadwallader and the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee

From: Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies (Paul Zedler, Assoc. Director)

Subject: Request for discontinuation of the Air Resources Management Certificate

The Nelson Governance Committee met on 17 September 2012, and on the recommendation of the principals involved in the certificate and the Nelson Institute Instructional Committee, voted to discontinue the Air Resources Management (ARM) Certificate.

We request that this discontinuation be effective immediately. There are no students currently enrolled in the ARM certificate program. The Nelson Institute ceased advertising the program so that no notification of prospective students is required.

The rationale for the discontinuation is based on low enrollment and that the faculty involved with the certificate have not been recommending it. An important reason for the loss of interest in the certificate is its conflict with timely completion of a degree. Students have typically found themselves requiring one or two additional courses for completion at a stage in their graduate work which requires their full attention to finishing their thesis or dissertation. As a result, very few have completed the certificate requirements. Further, the faculty who have supported students in the ARM program in the past believe that it does not add a benefit to a student’s program commensurate with its cost in time and effort. Having a quality thesis with an advisor recognized as expert in the field is much more important to a student’s future prospects than possessing the certificate.

There are two inactive students who were in the past signed up for the certificate concurrent with a Nelson Institute degree program. It is uncertain whether they will re-enter into any Nelson Institute graduate program. Nevertheless, should they re-enter as Nelson Institute graduate students, they will not be allowed to pursue the discontinued certificate and will be counseled that their curricular and advising needs can be adequately addressed without the certificate.

The cancellation of the certificate has no direct implications on the curriculum, and therefore there are no significant curricular effects on students in any of the programs on campus concerned with air resources management.

Cc: Provost P. DeLuca, Nelson Director P. Robbins, Prof. T. Holloway, Ms. H. Simon, Ms. J. Milner, Ms. K. Haslam, Mr. J. Miller