

Environmental Justice Advisory Group Meeting
Illinois EPA
September 13, 2011 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Video Conference and Teleconference

Attendees:

Illinois EPA Headquarters:

Ken Page (EJ Officer), Kurt Neibergall (Office of Community Relations), Ed Bakowski (Bureau of Air), Scott Phillips (Bureau of Land), Jim Ross (Bureau of Air), Dan Merriman (Division of Legal Counsel), Amy Dragovich (Bureau of Water), Todd Marvel (Bureau of Land), Chris Romaine (Bureau of Air), Brenda Carter (Illinois Environmental regulatory Group) and Alec Messina (Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group)

Chicago-Thompson Center:

Elmo Dowd (Associate Director), Lara Lasky (USEPA/Region 5), Sabrina Purdis, (Intern/USEPA Region 5), Tammy Johnson (Earth Tone Env Group), Brian Urbaszewski (IL Env Council), Jack Ailey (Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization), Courtney Eccles (Protestants Common Good) and Raghav Murali (IEPA Chicago, Director's Office)

Teleconference: Greg Michaud (American Council of Engineering Companies), Dr. Sylvia Hood Washington (EJ Advisory group co-chair), Cheryl Johnson (People for Community Recovery) and Kellen Marshall (Blacks in Green "BIG").

- I. **Welcome:** Elmo Dowd/Thank you for attending on behalf of Lisa Bonnett and Agency which is committed to environmental justice.
Dr. Sylvia Washington – EJ Advisory Group Co-Chair, welcomed the group and pointed out her goals to talk about the creation of an environmental health disparities/EJ conference as well as the development of an environmental health informatics database (her recommendations to the group from November 2010).
- II. **Introductions:** Ken Page, IEPA EJ Officer
- III. **Presentations:**
 1. EJ Commission SB2193 – Courtney Eccles stated that on August 16, 2011 a law was signed by the governor to create an Environmental Justice Commission which will consist of 20 members. First meeting middle of November, 2011. October 1, 2011 first report due to Governor/General Assembly. **See attachment**
Question: Who to send suggestions to? Courtney Eccles
 2. Open Dumping (Todd Marvel/Dan Merriman) HB2001 and HR0056:
See attached power point presentation
 3. Permit Streamlining (Jim Ross) HB1297: See attachment for information
- IV. **New Business**
 1. Formation of a subcommittee to plan an EJ conference in IL. Looking for interested parties to work on committee. **Ken Page has sent out email regarding this to all EJ members. Dr. Sylvia Hood Washington will be the main contact for this subcommittee.**
 2. Formation of a subcommittee to develop a formal list of EJ concerns per EJ groups in IL.

Ken Page with Dr. Washington's input sent out an email regarding this to all EJ members requesting list of survey questions that will be sent to EJ communities.

Lara Lasky, Tammy Johnson and Cheryl Johnson have volunteered for subcommittee to plan EJ conference in IL. Dr. Washington also volunteered to lead the effort for the database creation.

V. Open discussion:

Dr. Sylvia Hood Washington wants to be more aggressive in 2012 with putting together a data base, meetings to plan EJ conference in IL and sharing information with EJ members. She would like issues for Director of IEPA documented in writing supported by evidence from communities.

Cheryl Johnson's area has various problems. Wants to improve overall health issues in her community. Dr. Washington suggested Cheryl document information. Dr. Washington had question on minutes from last meeting of April 26, 2011. Ken will email copy to her.

Dr. Washington wants a 30 day time frame for information regarding next meeting on the subcommittees, agenda with no more than 60 days to have next meeting. She would like to see the development of Region 5 EJ/environmental health conference for the state of Illinois similar to the one that she co-planned in Florida in 2007. University of MI also has been the site of previous conferences. Would like to start with IL and expand to Region V. Dr. Washington stated she has seed money needed to help the conference planning committee.

Dr. Washington also pointed out that this conference should focus on the environment and community health but not limited to "occupational exposures" since the history of EJ struggles has been more focused on environmental exposures outside of the workplace.

Question by Elmo Dowd: Who should be part of committee? Committee should consist of private sector, public, universities, individuals, regulators, grass roots groups and EJ members.

VI. Action Items:

1. Send (resend) out the minutes from the last EJ Advisory group (April 26th) meeting to the Advisory Group.
2. Send request to Advisory Group seeking participation on a subcommittee to plan an Illinois EJ Conference.
3. Send request to Advisory Group seeking participation on a subcommittee to develop a database of EJ community health concerns.

VII. Next meeting date and location:

To be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Attachments (SB2193; HB2001; HR0056; power point presentation on open dumping and permit streamlining HB1297)