

Environmental Justice Advisory Group Meeting
Illinois EPA
November 28, 2012 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Video Conference and Teleconference

Attendees:

Illinois EPA Headquarters:

Ken Page (EJ Officer), Ed Bakowski (Bureau of Air), Brad Frost (Community relations), Jim Ross (Bureau of Air), Rick Cobb (Bureau of Water), Al Keller (Bureau of Water), Chris Pressnall (Division of Legal Counsel), Chris Romaine (Bureau of Air), Brenda Carter (Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group), and Peter Wentz (retired professor, University of IL. Springfield)

Chicago-Thompson Center:

Lara Lasky (USEPA/Region 5), Mary Lou Martin (USEPA/Region 5) and Ron Deverman (Program manager for CREATE)

Collinsville:

Kathy Andria (American Bottom Conservancy)

Teleconference: Greg Michaud (American Council of Engineering Companies), Jerry Mead-Lucero (PERRO), Dhritinut Ratnapradipa, PhD. (professor at SIU Carbondale), Keith Harley (Chicago Legal Clinic), Danielle Stewart (IDOT) and Brian Urbaszewski (Respiratory Health Assoc. of Metro-Chicago)

- I. **Welcome:** Ken Page/Thank you for attending on behalf of Elmo Dowd, Associate Director, John Kim Director and Sylvia Hood Washington, Co-chair.
- II. **Introductions:** Ken Page, IEPA EJ Officer
- III. **Presentations:**
 1. Lara Lasky (USEPA/Region 5) update on EJ in permitting. Public comment period in the Federal Register is now closed. They did not get many comments from the EJ and Environmental groups. Looked at best practices working with communities at the fence-line. Mostly focused on public participation. This is for permits issued by the Federal EPA. USEPA Region 5 issues a total of 35 permits.
 - a. Kathy Andria appreciated the outreach done by USEPA for Veolia.
 - b. EJ screen and new EJ screening tool is being used internally at USEPA. Not yet ready to be released to the states and public. Screening tool to look at EJ concerns and enhance public participation in permitting process. Asking businesses to step up outreach up front to provide information to communities. Not public yet but should be April 2013.
 2. CREATE was presented by Ron Deverman (program manager for CREATE) and Danielle Stewart (IDOT) – CREATE is the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency program. The Grand Crossing Rail project and the 75th Street Corridor Improvement project were discussed. The Grand Crossing Rail project will reduce congestion on Chicago's South Side particularly in Englewood and Greater Grand Crossing neighborhoods. Please visit at:
www.grandcrossingrail.org.

The 75th Street Corridor Improvement project is the largest project in the CREATE. It is an effort to improve the efficiency of the region's rail infrastructure. The project is located in the Chicago neighborhoods of Ashburn, Englewood, Auburn Gresham and west Chatham along two passenger and freight lines. Please visit at:

www.75thcip.org.

(The CREATE information was sent to you under a separate email)

IV. Old Business

1. Status of the EJ Commission – members have been appointed by the Governor. Several are part of the IEPA's EJ Advisory Group. They are: Cheryl Johnson, Keith Harley, Kim Wasserman, Sylvia Hood Washington, Alec Messina and Jerry Mead-Lucero. The meeting of the Commission was not known at this time.

V. Open Discussion

1. Kathy Andria had question regarding the 401 Permit for the Metro East Area. Al Keller of IEPA's BOW explained that the 401 permit was for the rehabilitation of the existing levees to upgrade them to the 100 year flood plain.

Kathy Andria feels that the water should not be discharged without treatment. Al Keller discussed that the water was sampled and that there wasn't a problem especially with mercury that had been an issue.

2. Kathy Andria raised the issue of arsenic leaking from the coal ash pond at the Ameren facility in Venice. Rick Cobb of the IEPA's BOW explained that the arsenic was coming from upgradient of the coal ash pond. And the source of the arsenic was unknown at this time.
3. Jerry Mead-Lucero asked about the former Loewenthal Lead Smelter site and the IEPA's Right-To-Know. Rick Cobb of the IEPA's BOW explained how the Right-To-Know notification worked and this site did not trigger Right-To-Know.

The IEPA referred this site to USEPA Region 5 for further action. Region 5 is working closely with PERRO to address their concerns.

If the IEPA conducts sampling on another property and find elevated contamination levels...PERRO and other community environmental groups will be notified of those findings.

4. Kathy Andria was concerned about the high levels of PCB's in residential yards in East St. Louis. USEPA Region 5 RCRA program is over this sampling. Lara Lasky with check and get back to Kathy Andria on what's going on.

5. Keith Harley wanted to know about the status of the Geneva Energy Title VI complaint. Chris Pressnall of the IEPA's Division of Legal Counsel explained that the IEPA is still negotiating the settlement and the IEPA had recently submitted information to the USEPA Office of Civil Rights. And Geneva Energy has requested that all of their permits with the IEPA be withdrawn.

VI. Next meeting date and location

- **1st quarter of 2013**

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am