

Commission on Environmental Justice

Non– State Agency Commissioners (Discuss the EJ Questionnaire from state agencies)

Minutes

Wednesday, May 8, 2014

CONFERENCE CALL-IN: 888-494-4032

Access Code: 6552044636

- I. Welcome**
Kimberly Wasserman – Chairman, EJ Commission

- II. Introductions**
 - A. Teleconference**
 - Kim Wasserman
 - Keith Harley
 - Alec Messina
 - Ken Page

- III. Discussion about Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) environmental justice questionnaire**
 - Wasserman – discharges from mines/NPDES permits. What is the process of issuing a NPDES permits with IDNR? What is the process for IDNR to provide information to the public?
 - Wasserman – who are the IEPA EJ contact persons for:
 - a. EJ Officer – Ken Page
 - b. EJ Liaison – Sharonda Williams
 - c. BOA Community Relations – Brad Frost
 - d. BOW Community Relations– Bard Leiberoff
 - e. BOL Community Relations – Mara McGinnis
 - Harley – The agency should highlight more of examples of their efforts in EJ areas. Example: open dump sites (Markham) and ongoing tire cleanup in the East St. Louis areas.

- IV. Discussion about Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) environmental justice questionnaire**

- **Harley – what is IDPH’s role in lead poisoning? They did not highlight their lead poisoning program. How do they work with local health departments?**
- **Wasserman – Where is IDPH on cumulative impact?**
- **Harley – What stressors does IDPH look at that impact the community?**

V. Discussion about Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) environmental justice questionnaire

- **Need further review**

VI. Written Comments

- **See attachment “A” from Keith Harley**

VII. Next Meeting(s)

- **Wednesday, May 14, 2014 Agency Oversight @ 10 am**
- **Wednesday, May 14, 2014 Brownfields Redevelopment @ 12 noon**

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

Attachment “A”

(Comments from Keith Harley)

In anticipation of tomorrow's call, I thought it might be helpful to compare-and-contrast the environmental justice strategies of the federal agencies that parallel our Illinois counterparts:

Department of Transportation:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/

Department of Commerce:

<http://open.commerce.gov/news/2013/02/21/department-commerce-environmental-justice-strategy>

Department of Health and Human Services:

<http://www.hhs.gov/environmentaljustice/>

Department of Interior:

<http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepc/environmental-justice.cfm>

Department of Energy:

<http://energy.gov/lm/services/environmental-justice>

I'm also attaching a summary I prepared of the U.S. EPA EJ strategies circa 1995, 2005 and today.

- Keith (312) 726-2938

1995 U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Strategy

1. Public participation, accountability, partnerships, outreach and communication with stakeholders.
2. Health and environmental research.
3. Data collection, analysis and stakeholder access to information.
4. Enhance the role of American Indian, Alaskan native and indigenous environmental protection.
5. Enforcement, compliance assurance and regulatory review.
6. Model projects:
 - a. brownfields
 - b. public health assessment pilot project
 - c. southeast Chicago initiative
 - d. Mississippi Delta project
 - e. New Mexico and Colonias Border Project
 - f. Pennsylvania Risk and Enforcement Projects
 - g. Baltimore Urban Environment Initiative
 - h. lead abatement training and employment (Boston, MA)
 - i. community emergency preparedness training (Kellogg, Idaho)
 - j. water projects for rural communities
 - k. Louisiana initiative
 - l. open airways for schools
 - m. master home environmentalist program (Seattle, WA).

2005 Memorandum by U.S. EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson, Integrating Environmental Justice Into U.S. EPA's Strategic Plan for 2006-2011

1. Reduce asthma attacks.
2. Reduce exposure to air toxins.
3. Increase regulatory compliance.
4. Reduce elevated lead levels.
5. Ensure that fish and shellfish are safe to eat.
6. Ensure that water is safe to drink.
7. Revitalize contaminated sites.

Plan EJ 2014

I. Goals

- A. protect environment and health in overburdened communities
- B. empower communities to protect environment and health
- C. establish partnerships to achieve healthy and sustainable communities

II. Cross-Agency Focus

- A. incorporate EJ into rulemaking
 - 1. finalize interim guidance regarding incorporating EJ during action development
 - 2. implement this Guidance
 - 3. develop technical guidance – incorporating EJ in rulemaking
- B. consider EJ in permitting
 - 1. develop tools to enable full and meaningful community participation
 - 2. develop tools to enable permitting agencies to incorporate EJ
 - 3. implement these tools
- C. advance EJ through compliance and enforcement
 - 1. prioritize EJ in national enforcement priorities
 - 2. target compliance and enforcement actions based on EJ
 - 3. prioritize EJ in regional enforcement priorities
 - 4. seek EJ-appropriate remedies to enforcement cases
 - 5. communicate with EJ communities regarding EJ aspects of enforcement
- D. foster administration-wide EJ action
 - 1. assist federal agencies to integrate EJ into their actions
 - 2. assist federal agencies to integrate EJ aspects of NEPA and Title VI
 - 3. foster healthy and sustainable communities
 - 4. strengthen community access to federal agencies

III. Tools Development

- A. science
 - 1. apply transdisciplinary, participatory, multi-media, cumulative, equity-based research
 - 2. incorporate community perspectives into research
 - 3. leverage partnerships to address health disparities
 - 4. enhance agency-community communication on research
 - 5. build community technical capacity to address health disparities and sustainability
- B. law – provide legal assistance to U.S. EPA in its EJ efforts
- C. information
 - 1. develop GeoPlatform
 - 2. develop a national EJ screening tool
 - 3. incorporate EJ screening into GeoPlatform
- D. resources
 - 1. enhance transparency of grant opportunities
 - 2. improve delivery of technical assistance
 - 3. strengthen grant training
 - 4. improve awareness of grant competition process
 - 5. revise restrictive grant processes
 - 6. encourage program offices to dialog on community-based grants
 - 7. improve timeliness of brownfield grants
- E. workforce diversity
 - 1. increase diversity of applicants
 - 2. integrated One EPA approach for recruitment and outreach

IV. Program Initiatives – tailor existing EPA programmatic initiatives to produce greater EJ benefits

V. Civil Rights – pursue long overdue, vigorous, robust and effective implementation of Title VI - Civil Rights Act