

**SPECIAL MEETING OF
COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 3, 2017 (10:00 am – 11:30 am)

I. Introductions

• **Teleconference**

- Kim Wasserman, Chair
- Commissioner Keith Harley
- Commissioner Millard Driskell
- Stephanie Bilenko – NEIS
- Sharonda Williams - Sierra Club
- Commissioner Molly Lund - DCEO
- Commissioner Jerry Peck – IMA
- Commissioner Veronica Halloway- IDPH

• **Springfield**

- Commissioner Chris Pressnall- IEPA Environmental Justice Officer
- Commissioner Brenda Carter
- Elizabeth Rupel – ILEPA/OCR

II. Platform

- Discuss and revise draft letter to Illinois Power Agency Director Anthony Star; Recommendations for Definition of Environmental Justice Community under the Future Energy Jobs Act.

III. Full Discussion of Edits

Page 1: ¶ 1

Commissioners discussed and agreed to reword the first paragraph

Page 1: ¶ 2

Commissioner Carter- Commission has not vetted CalEnviroScreen

Sharonda Williams- stated that CalEnviroScreen is the gold standard

Commissioner Harley- CalEnviroScreen does not include race or ethnicity as a factor thus may lead to undesirable results if similar tool utilized in Illinois

Commissioner Wasserman- Asks if PA 99-2906 language should be deleted

Commissioner Harley- PA 99-2906 should not be deleted due to legal mandate

Page 2: (Statutory Requirement)

Opening statement under *Statutory Requirement* heading altered to introduce the relevant language from the Act (PA 99-2906).

Chair Wasserman- suggested to deletion of last paragraph Brenda Carter added under *Statutory Requirement*; found the sentence too wordy and suggested to decrease the context.

Commissioner Carter- Approves deleting the last paragraph under *Statutory Requirement*

Page 2/3 (Defining Communities of Potential Environmental Justice Concern):

Suggested that the Commission add/change two headings for clarification purposes: IEPA EJ Policy: Methodology for Identification of Communities of Potential EJ Concern and USEPA Criteria for Overburdened Communities.

Chair Wasserman - suggested moving USEPA definition to the USEPA portion of the discussion.

Commissioner Carter - explained that heading was changed to include IEPA and USEPA methodology

Commissioner Pressnall - (Under IEPA EJ Policy heading) move to add explanation of IEPA's EJ demographic screening tool, its methodology, and how the IEPA incorporates data to this system.

Commissioner Harley - should define USEPA criteria for overburdened communities

Commissioner Carter - need to incorporate a new heading which will introduce USEPA's definition of an "overburdened community." Directly above the sentence "Where IEPA's criterion focused..." the new heading will now read: "USEPA Criteria for Overburdened Communities".

Commissioners continued discussion of paragraph organization, wording changes and how the IEPA discussion should relate to the USEPA EJ SCREEN discussion

Chair Wasserman - inquired whether last sentence of the last paragraph (dealing with the Commission being unaware of other definitions of "environmental justice community") of the section can be deleted

Commissioner Carter - indicated that it spoke to the IPA's charge under the FEJA

Commissioner Harley - stated that the statement was inaccurate as last UC Hastings report identified EJ activities throughout the US

Commissioner Carter - clarified that the statement addressed other Illinois agencies and that the Commission was not aware of other Illinois agency definitions of "environmental justice community"

Commissioner Harley - stated that the point needed clarification

Page 3: (USEPA’s EJ Screen)

Suggested addition of a new first paragraph to explain USEPA’s development of the EJ mapping and screening tool called EJSCREEN.

Commissioner Harley- 3rd ¶ add “only” after basis; out of respect for the EJ community. Community to add information to an EJ analysis

Suggested that combine IEPA EJ Start tool and USEPA EJ Screen into one paragraph with the addition of the new heading “USEPA EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool.

Page 4: (Additional Indicators and Methods)

Commissioner Harley- questioned the statement suggested that CalEnviroScreen reflected a more inclusive set of factors as it does not consider race or ethnicity

Commissioner Carter- agreed and the point that it illustrates that commission had not vetted CalEnviroScreen

Commissioner Lund – suggested that a paragraph could be added concerning the limitations of CalEnviroScreen

Commissioner Harley – suggested an approach where communities are ranked on demographic data and then add overburdening factors

Chair Wasserman – indicated that the Commission will continue to work with IPA to determine an appropriate mix of factors

Commissioner Driskall - concurred

Commissioner Harley – concurred

Page 5: (Overview of Indicators: Illinois Data Available)

Commissioners discussed a reference to “the report” in the second full paragraph

Commissioner Pressnall - indicated that it referred to the IDPH report referenced earlier in the section

Commissioner Wasserman – stated that the letter should make consistent use of “USEPA”

Commissioner Wasserman – question/placeholder concerning implementation of CalEnviroScreen

Commissioner Carter – comment was addressed by deleted “CalEnviroScreen” and the FEJA

Sharonda Williams- Asks “why not Kim Wasserman as the contact person?”

Commissioner Harley- should Kim Wasserman as the contact for the letter

IV. Open Discussion/ Questions

Commissioner Pressnall- motioned to approve the letter conditioned on satisfactory edits as discussed during the Special Meeting

Commissioner Carter- seconded

All Commissioners present voted “yes”, with none voting “no”

Chair Wasserman – motion passes

Chair Wasserman – indicated that Commissioners will work on revising the letter with the goal of sending out the letter final letter on Tuesday the 9th

V. Next meeting date and location

June 21, 2017 – 10:00 am until 12:00 pm

VI. Adjournment

- At 11:30