

Illinois Commission on Environmental Justice, Aug 4, 2020 Meeting Notes

Welcome – Kim Wasserman

- Normally we would meet at IEPA/in person, but because of covid we can't
- Any questions chime in/chat
 - We want to make sure everyone understands everything

Chris – first agenda item

- Global roll call
 - Governor appointed officials
 - Chris Pressnall – IEPA EJ Commissioner
 - Donovan Griffith – IL manufacturers association
 - Alec Davis
 - Com. Driskoll
 - Keith Harley
 - Only one commissioner with active appointment
- Anything any commissioners want to talk about regarding agenda?
 - Re-appointment link was the one Chris sent?
- USEPA isn't doing inspections, IEPA has been, it's not comparing and contrasting but I think folks in Chicago area are aware of what USEPA is doing so we wanted to take an opportunity to have Todd and Chuck address
 - Chuck Gunnarson – IEPA compliance expectation statement, enforcement discretion activities during covid
 - Towards the end of March 2020 USEPA came out with an enforcement statement that explained how they were going to look at facilities might have had compliance issues. IEPA felt they needed to be more specific and individualized with compliance depending on facility; the statement is on our website. Outlines our approach to it- essentially, it's if there's a compliance related issue they would contact us and we would handle it on a case by case basis. Certain circumstances in drinking water for example that we would expect to remain in compliance no matter what. Want to track requests and responses to stay consistent and coordinated. We have excel spreadsheet on website of facilities that have requested relief and our response. Most requests fall into buckets – ongoing reporting and sampling requirements. Might have noticed USEPA compliance enforcement discretion policy is set to end the end of this month (Aug) as well as IEPA's.
 - Questions?
 - Keith Harley- is there any focus on communities that may be impacted disproportionately (by covid and air pollution), some flexibility but the flip side is that there are communities disproportionately impacted. Is the agency deploying its enforcement resources for these communities?

- Chris- we want to make connections so the materials aren't being dumped or drained, anyone who works with schools or knows admin should reach out
- Kim- can we have information to forward on to the commissioners to share?
 - James says yes
- Crystal- possibly a place to begin to make sure of equal opportunity would be to reach out to state board of education for a listing of those schools
- Commissioner Kyle- needs a visual and thanks for the presentation
- EJ working with hazardous waste education program, what else do we need to do, esp with covid. A lot of good things can come out of looking at EJ issues with the agency

EJ Appointments and Reappointments

- Chris- Email about appointments and reappointments- almost everyone other than Com. Kyle have lapsed. Folks on the call that are seeking appointment, talking to the gov office about this. Go to il boards and commissions website, there's a nominate yourself button if you click it, it asks you several questions. Do this if you want to get appointed or reappointed can let chris/kim know. Hopefully sooner rather than later, want to get back to getting up to a full functioning commission
- Kim- need folks statewide. Simple process, couple questions about experience and interest and then submit resume
- Donovan- I don't have a start or end date on my term, do I need to reapply?
 - Chris- assuming answer is yes but I'll follow up w you
- Stephanie- in the email it says something about a 1 or 2 year appt, how is that determined and can you see that if you want to apply?
 - Chris- I'm not sure, in the past I wasn't privy to the discussion with the governor's office, statute lays it out but I'm not exactly sure
- Com. Driskoll- do I take sexual harassment and ethics training again?
 - Chris- yes, do need to do every year. State employees and commission members must complete.
 - Request reappt first and then training afterwards
 - Chris- we want geographic diversity, all areas of the state have affected areas, want to go around and hear what people's needs are, meet folks where they're at and listen to their concerns and make connections
- Teresa haley – thank you for highlighting southern il. Reach out to the NAACP presidents from southern il, Waukegan, east st louis, need another way of reaching out to them to represent black and brown communities

New Old Business

- Stephanie- nuclear regulatory association trying to deregulate radioactive waste, trying to dump into any landfill and municipal garbage dump, they have comments due until oct 21st because this stuff is harmful, Wesley landfill radioactive waste (alton area) USEPA cleaned that out
 - Kim- send that out our way
- Keith- IPCB on the 11-13th next week and then again is going to be conducting rulemaking on coal ash surface impoundments, few pieces of legislation that talks about EJ and it mandates EPA to be developing active public participation programs to address this. Rare EJ opportunity

Meeting ended at 11:32