



ALRIGHTA! INNOVATIVE METHODS FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: BASICS ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

- “Meaningful involvement and fair treatment of people, regardless of race, color, national origin, income or education with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, and policies affecting environment and public health”
- EPA recently expanded the concept of fair treatment to include both:
 - the consideration of how burdens are distributed across all populations, and
 - how benefits are distributed.
- EPA also encourages its staff to look at the distribution of the positive environmental and health consequences from our activities

SOURCES OF DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT



Proximity and Exposure



Susceptible Populations



Unique Exposure Pathways



Physical Infrastructure



Cumulative Impacts



Ability to Participate in Decision-Making (social capital)

THE BASIS FOR ACTION ON EJ IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS

- **Executive Order 12898**

“each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations”

- **Presidential Memorandum accompanying EO 12898**

“certain provisions of existing law that can help ensure that all communities and persons across this Nation live in a safe and healthful environment. Environmental and civil rights statutes provide many opportunities to address environmental hazards in minority communities and low income communities”

EPA'S ROADMAP: PLAN EJ 2014

ELEMENTS

- Rulemaking
- Permitting
- Enforcement
- Community Based Action
- Administration Wide Action
- Science Tools
- Legal Tools
- Information Tools
- Resources Tools
- Title VI
- Program Initiatives



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *EJ Legal Tools* Document
- EJSCREEN
- Rulemaking Guidance
 - Action Development Process
 - Technical Analysis
- Permitting - Public Participation Plans and Tools
- Enforcement Life Cycle - EJ Integration
- Community Based Programs - Promising Practices and Partnerships
- EJ Interagency Working Group - Reinvigoration

FEDERAL INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- White House Forum on EJ
- Community Dialogues
- Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898
- Agency EJ Strategies and Annual Reporting
- Focus Areas
 - National Environmental Policy Act
 - Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Climate Change
 - Goods Movement (Freight transportation and Supporting Infrastructure)



NEPA COMMITTEE (EJ-IWG): ILLUSTRATION OF BEST PRACTICE

Charleston Marine Terminal Expansion

- Goods Movement Issue
- Port Expansion in Charleston, SC
- NEPA: EIS by US Army Corp of Engineers
- Stakeholder Collaboration
- Outcome-Mitigation Plan
 - environmental monitoring
 - affordable housing trust
 - community park
 - employment training programs
 - expanded health care opportunities.



TEAM EJ OF THE HUD-DOT-EPA PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- Established as a working group in 2010
- Focus on how DOT, HUD and EPA can integrate environmental justice and sustainable community goals and use resources to address environmental justice needs.
- Accomplishments
 - Community Resources: increase funding and technical assistance
 - Education: conduct peer to peer learning, webinar trainings
 - Health: Centers for Disease Control joined effort 2011



CONCLUSION

- Critical foundation has been laid
- Environmental Justice walks on many legs
 - Prevent and mitigate environmental and health harms
 - Build healthy and sustainable communities

