

An Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda Preface

Across the nation, communities are working hard to address a range of environmental, public health, economic and social concerns, known as environmental justice issues. They are struggling to better understand the complex relationships between the environment, the economy, and equity. Through the efforts of many governmental and non-governmental organizations, communities are beginning to fashion strategies that result in healthy and sustainable communities which are environmentally sound and economically revitalized.

Environmental justice is a complicated issue and the concept is not yet well understood. It is not a static concept but a dynamic process. However, important lessons are emerging. One such lesson is the need for greater Federal Agency collaboration. Without focused and concerted efforts on the part of multiple agencies, singularly directed initiatives, no matter how well intentioned, fall short in the face of the overwhelming challenges presented by the combined ills of environmental, social and economic distress. Another lesson is the need to involve all stakeholders in the development of the solutions. All groups in a community must be mobilized to truly make a lasting difference. While relatively simple lessons, these concepts are not easily implemented—especially when distressed communities are burdened with so many needs.

The Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is an attempt to break through the cycle of despair. It represents an important step in the implementation of Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.” The Executive Order focuses the attention of Federal agencies on the human health and environmental

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SECTION I

**INTEGRATED FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION AGENDA
GOAL
BACKGROUND
COMPONENTS**

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An Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda

GOAL

The Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda (Action Agenda) seeks to build dynamic and proactive partnerships among Federal agencies to benefit environmentally and economically distressed communities. Increased coordination and cooperation among Federal agencies will enhance identification, mobilization and utilization of Federal resources. Increased coordination and cooperation also will enable distressed communities to improve environmental decision-making and more efficiently access and leverage Federal government initiatives. The Action Agenda will result in improved quality-of-life for minority and/or low-income populations suffering disproportionate environmental impacts. These populations may include indigenous/tribal communities.

The Action Agenda intends to accomplish the following:

- Ensure that no segment of the population, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, suffers disproportionate adverse human or environmental effects, and that all people live in clean, healthy and sustainable communities.
- Create opportunities for building partnerships between specific Federal agencies to promote comprehensive solutions to environmental justice issues.
- Promote models based in an integrative approach, and

BACKGROUND

This Action Agenda is consistent with the direction set forth in the President Clinton's Executive

ACTION AGENDA COMPONENTS

The Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is an ongoing, “living” framework. The key areas of the Action Agenda are:

Promote Greater Coordination and Cooperation Among Federal Agencies

- Continue to support Regional Interagency Task Forces responsible for commitments made at the CEQ listening sessions in Los Angeles and New York City.
- Conduct national Federal Interagency Working Group meetings on a regular basis.
- Coordinate communications among Federal agencies on national and regional levels.
- Encourage regional Federal interagency strategies or action plans.
- Develop new models for Federal interagency collaboration on regional, state, tribal, and local levels.

Make Government More Accessible and Responsive to Communities

- Ensure that core values and principles of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Model Plan for Public Participation are incorporated into Federal environmental justice activities.
- Develop a directory of environmental justice contacts. Initially, for Federal agencies; future editions to include state and local environmental justice contacts.
- Compile a set of web-based environmental justice success stories from Federal agencies.
- Conduct interagency listening sessions in local communities throughout the nation.
- Conduct ongoing dialogue with state, tribal, and local governments.

Ensure Integration of Environmental Justice in Policies, Programs and Activities of Federal Agencies.

- Promote agency-specific initiatives to benefit environmental justice communities.
- Compile summary of notable Federal government environmental justice accomplishments.
- Develop and conduct national and regional environmental justice training, which are agency-specific and interagency-focused.
- Promote opportunities for community-based assessment, intervention and prevention strategies to reduce health disparities among Tribal, and local communities.

- Develop opportunities

Initiate Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects to Develop Integrated Place-Based Models for Addressing Community Livability Issues. (A fact sheet on the selected projects can be found under Section II.)

Demonstration Project Objectives:

- Learn how Federal agencies can better collaborate to ensure local problem-solving.
- Achieve concrete beneficial results for affected communities.
- Ensure meaningful participation of affected communities in decision-making process.
- Enhance existing assets within affected communities.
- Promote greater partnership with state, tribal and local governments.
- Develop a template for integrated community-based solutions to environmental justice issues.
- Document lessons learned to positively impact more communities.
- Recommend changes in Federal policy, where appropriate.

Demonstration Project Selection Criteria:

- Areas selected are composed of predominantly minority or low-income populations that face negative environmental, public health, and/or socio-economic effects.
- Selected projects should be community-based where there is a strong community interest in participating in all phases of the project, including its conception, implementation, and completion.
- Communities selected may have existing resources sufficient to sustain the project through completion and beyond and where the demonstration project will contribute to building upon and enhancing existing assets within communities.
- Communities selected have potentially taken steps to address and/or seriously consider environmental justice, rural community development and capacity building, brown field economic redevelopment, and/or other related issues.
- At least two Federal agencies will commit to participating in each demonstration project initiated; there will be meaningful participation by community-based organizations; academic institutions; non-governmental organizations; state, tribal, or local governments; and/or the private sector.

SECTION II

**INTEGRATED FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEMONSTRATION
PROJECTS**

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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

1. **Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership: “Connecting Community and Environment” (Boston, MA) *Lead Agency: EPA***
2. **Camden - City of Children Partnering for a Better Future (Camden, NJ) *Lead Agency: HUD***
3. **New York City Alternative Fuel Vehicle Summit (New York, NY) *Lead Agency: DOE***
4. **Addressing Asthma in Puerto Rico—A Multi-Faceted Partnership for Results (Puerto Rico) *Lead Agency: HHS/HRSA***
5. **Bridges to Friendship Nurturing Environmental Justice in Southeast and Southwest Washington, DC (Washington, DC) *Lead Agency: DOD (Navy)***
6. **Re-Genesis: Community Cleanup and Revitalization in Arkwright/Forest Park (Spartanburg, SC) *Lead Agency: EPA***
7. **Protecting Children’s Health and Reducing Lead Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships (East St. Louis, IL) *Lead Agencies: EPA & HUD***
8. **Bethel New Life Power Park Assessment (Chicago, IL) *Lead Agency: DOE***
9. **New Madrid County Tri-Community Child Health Champion Campaign (New Madrid County, MO) *Lead Agencies: EPA & USDA/NRCS***
10. **Easing Troubled Waters: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Sources in Migrant Farmworker Communities in Colorado (Colorado) *Lead Agency: EPA***
11. **Environmental Justice and Public Participation Through Technology: Defeating the Digital Divide and Building Community Capacity (Savannah, GA and Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, MT) *Lead Agency: DOE***
12. **Protecting Community Health and Reducing Toxic Air Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships in Barrio Logan (San Diego, CA) *Lead Agency: EPA***
13. **Oregon Environmental Justice Initiative (Portland and Rural Communities, Oregon) *Lead Agency: DOJ***
14. **Metlakatla Indian Community Unified Interagency Environmental Management Task Force (Ketchikan, AK) *Lead Agency: DOD***
15. **Environmental Justice in Indian Country: A Roundtable to Address Conceptual, Political and Statutory Issues *Lead Agency: DOE***

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Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership: “Connecting Community and Environment” (Boston, MA)

Project Summary Sheet

The overall goal of the Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is to increase efforts to identify, mobilize, and make use of federal resources to benefit environmentally and economically distressed communities. The Action Agenda is building dynamic and proactive partnerships that access the initiatives and resources of federal agencies to improve the quality of life of minority and low-income communities that suffer

Contacts:

Kristi Rea

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

*Camden — City of Children Partnering for a Better Future
(Camden, NJ)*

Project Summary Sheet

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Contacts:

Maureen O'Neill
U.S. EPA Region 2

Denise Notice-Scott
HUD

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

New York City Alternative Fuel Vehicle Summit, New York, NY

July 2000

Project Summary Sheet

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MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PROJECT:

Improving Children's Health

PROJECT PURPOSE:

A partnership of federal agencies, local officials, and community organizations will conduct a series of meetings culminating in an Alternative Fuel Vehicle Summit. The project goal is to accelerate the conversion of vehicular fleets operating in NYC metropolitan area to cleaner fuels. This is intended to result in better air quality for heavily congested environmental justice neighborhoods.

WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

As a member of the White House Interagency Task Force on Environmental Justice Issues in New York City, the Department of Energy (DOE) met in Spring of 1999 with the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, DOE agreed to lead the efforts of the federal government and community representatives in organizing an alternative fuels summit, focusing on accelerating the conversion to cleaner fuels of fleets operating in the New York City metropolitan area. During the Summer of 1999, DOE formed a planning committee of partners to determine the content of the summit on alternative fuels.

The existence of a planning committee on this issue has allowed the city to talk to community groups about current projects on alternative fuels and has given the community groups the opportunity to express their concerns about poor air quality and the need to do more. The planning committee has given the federal participating agencies the ability to rally together to try to change the bus purchasing plans of the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

The communities involved with this project are located in heavily congested environmental justice neighborhoods areas of Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn which have been affected by high concentrations of diesel burning vehicular traffic.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

The planning committee recommended holding a design charette to gather additional neighborhood and local and state government input on the issue of alternative fuels. Following that meeting, the planning committee put together an action plan for 2000 and 2001 based on input from participants and included the following tasks:

- Hosting neighborhood meetings to encourage local heavy-duty fleets to switch to alternative fuels;
- Sponsoring a city workshop on alternative fuel school buses;
- Sponsoring an airport meeting to encourage more fleets to use alternative fuels;
- Assisting with an alternative fuels workshop for local governments;
- Holding an alternative fuels summit to showcase successes and build on this work to lead to greater penetration of alternative fuel vehicles in heavy-duty niche markets located in designated environmental justice neighborhoods; and
- Identifying heavy-duty transportation fleets and establishing contacts or conducting outreach to representatives in order to get their participation in planned meetings.

PARTNERS AND THEIR COMMITMENTS

- **DOE** will serve as the project lead and co-coordinator of the Interagency Task Force on Environmental

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Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Addressing Asthma in Puerto Rico—a Multifaceted Partnership for Results

July 2000

Project Summary Sheet

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MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PROJECT:

Improving Children's Health

PROJECT PURPOSE:

A partnership of federal agencies, local health departments, community groups, foundations, and universities will seek local community input to gain a better understanding of what accounts for the high prevalence of asthma in Puerto Rico. The project will result in a geographic action plan that maximizes asthma prevention and augments current interagency efforts to develop a community asthma intervention program for children in Puerto Rico's low-income, under-served populations.

WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

A study conducted by the Puerto Rico Department of Health (in collaboration with ATSDR) found that 30 percent of Latino Puerto Rican children aged 13-14 and more than 40 percent of children aged 6-7 had been diagnosed with asthma, a serious and sometimes life-threatening respiratory condition. This project will take a collaborative approach to implement a comprehensive strategy to improve children's health by reducing the incidences of asthma. To this end, an asthma summit led by HRSA and cosponsored by EPA, Mt. Sinai Hospital, and Roberts Wood Johnson Foundation is being convened in New York City May 31 to June 1, 2000 to develop geographical action plans. The summit covers New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A special breakout session on Puerto Rico will be held.

Professional health providers and community activists will hold a dialogue to facilitate multiagency and community efforts toward next steps. This summit will complement and augment efforts currently underway by the sponsoring partners to develop a community asthma intervention program for Puerto Rico.



WHERE IS THE PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY?

The main population that this effort is intended to address is children in Puerto Rico. In the United States, Latinos are disproportionately impacted by asthma. Although within the Latino population there are variations in asthma rates depending on an individual's national heritage, a study conducted by the Puerto Rico Department of Health (in collaboration with HHS/CDC and HHS/ATSDR) found that asthma was fairly prevalent among children living in the Puerto Rico.

Contacts:

HHS/ATSDR
Dr. Henry Falk
(212) 264-2571

HCFA
(212) 264-3772

Maureen O'Neill
U.S. EPA Region 2
(212) 637-5025

Dr. Luz Claudio
Mt. Sinai Hospital
(212) 241-7625

Dr. Jose Rodriguez-Santana
Pediatric Pulmonary Clinic
(787) 754-8500

***Bridges to Friendship: Nurturing Environmental Justice in
Southeast and Southwest Washington, D.C.***

Project Summary Sheet

Contacts:

David Ouderkirk

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Cleanup and Revitalization through Collaborative Partnerships, Arkwright and Forest Park Community (Spartanburg, SC)

July 2000

Project Summary Sheet

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MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PROJECT:

Economic Development

PROJECT PURPOSE:

The project will assist Re-Genesis, a community based organization in the Arkwright/Forest Park area of Spartanburg, South Carolina, in involving a broad variety of stakeholders to foster identification, inventory, assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated sites. The project will also help build a community-based partnership to include local and state agencies in a dynamic process of stakeholder education, structured dialogues, and planning charettes to create short- and long-term development strategies.

The project is designed to involve a variety of stakeholders working together to foster identification, inventory, assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment in the Arkwright/Forest Park area of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Through a collaborative effort, the groups will be able to avoid redundancy and maximize the use of private monies and public grant dollars to best help this environmental justice community.

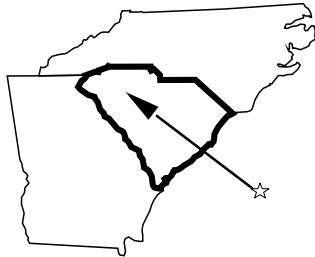
WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

The target community is within a one-quarter-mile radius of two Superfund sites. Other local areas of concern include an abandoned textile mill, an operating chemical plant, two dumps, and several suspected illegal disposal areas. These properties have brought concerns about public safety, blight,

health, and the environment for some time. The area has not enjoyed any substantial commercial development for years, and the vast majority of normal retail needs are not within close proximity.

Re-Genesis, an active, community-based group with 1,400 members, has taken the lead in establishing

WHERE IS THE PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY?



The City of Spartanburg, South Carolina has a population of 43,687. Approximately 53 percent of the population is white and 46 percent is African American. The targeted area — Arkwright/Forest Park on the south side of the city — has a 96 percent African American population.

partnerships to address local environmental and health issues as well as revitalization. Although these partnerships focused initially on cleanup issues (two abandoned toxic sites have been environmentally assessed since 1998 and one site has undergone a \$1 million voluntary cleanup), current plans represent renewed hopes for revitalization. The county has recently applied a \$20,000 environmental justice grant and a \$100,000 EPA Superfund Redevelopment Initiative grant, and plans to apply for a DOE Bright Fields grant. A recent forum on “Responsive Revitalization” was held with more than 60 diverse stakeholders in attendance.

Contacts:

Jewell Harper
U.S. EPA Region 4
(404) 562-8629

Rosalind Brown
U.S. EPA Region 4
(404) 562-8633

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Protecting Children's Health and Reducing Lead Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships (East St. Louis, IL)

Project Summary Sheet

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MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PROJECT:

Improving Children's Health

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Community groups, local hospitals, federal, state and local agencies in East St. Louis and St. Clair County will collaborate to implement a comprehensive strategy to improve children's health by reducing lead poisoning. The project will address both lead based paint hazards and uncontrolled lead releases to surface soil. Removal actions, where necessary, will promote opportunities for redevelopment in neighborhoods and eliminate illegal dumping.

WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

The St. Clair County region of Illinois is an area that

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

This project will take a collaborative approach to implement a comprehensive strategy to improve children’s health by reducing lead poisoning. It will address both lead-based paint and uncontrolled lead releases to surface soil. East St. Louis will benefit from the following activities:

- Conducting blood lead screening of children 0-12 years old and pregnant mothers;
- Providing appropriate medical care service referrals for cases of high lead blood content;
- Conducting lead-based paint hazard control throughout the county;
- Assessing uncontrolled lead releases to surface soil and homes with lead hazards;
- Conducting housing rehabilitation along with landscaping efforts and weatherization;
- Conducting site assessments on abandoned lots and following up with removal actions and demolition activities when necessary;
- Assisting in building community capacity to recognize lead hazards and ways to reduce the threats to children’s health as well as avenues to better communication and environmental decision-making;
- Promoting a healthy environment for the environmental justice community by offering a greater avenue for residents to become more involved in environmental issues in their community; and
- Hosting public meetings and availability sessions and distribute a quarterly newsletter to discuss the progress and next steps of the project.

PARTNERS AND THEIR COMMITMENTS

- **Army Corps of Engineers** will assist with project coordination, technical assistance and conduct site assessments at abandoned lots when necessary.
- **East-West Gateway Coordinating Council** will conduct lead soil sampling in approximately 30 residential yards in the city. The Council will work with homeowners to implement landscaping activities.
- **EPA** has provided a \$75,000 grant to conduct lead soil sampling in East St. Louis near many defunct, bankrupt industrial areas. EPA will continue to provide technical assistance, potentially fund

Contacts:

Noemi Emeric
U.S. EPA Region 5
(312) 886-0995

Richard Mark
St. Mary’s Hospital
(618) 482-7025

bankrupt industrial areas. EPA will continue to provide technical assistance, potentially fund

conducting site assessments on abandoned lots and following up with removal actions and demolition activities when necessary;

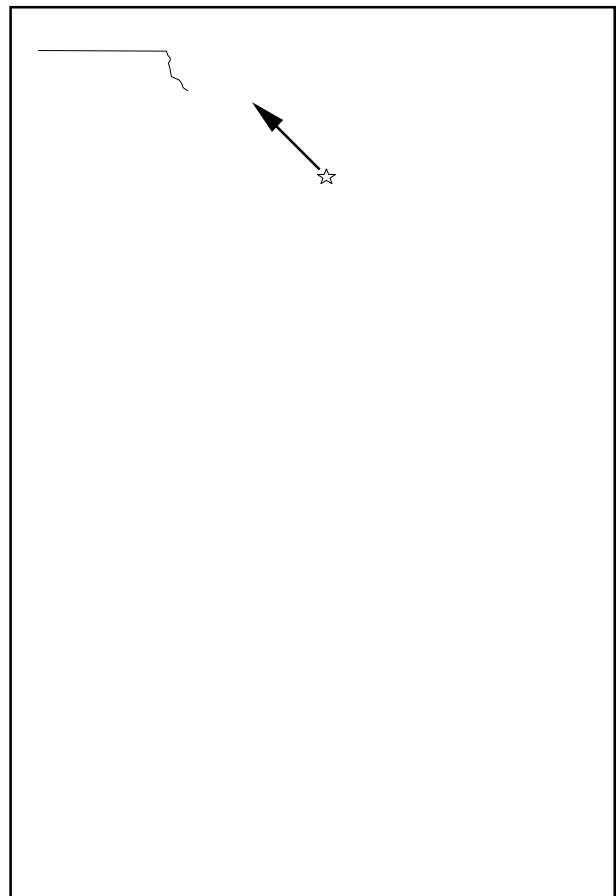
Assisting in building community capacity to recognize lead hazards and ways to reduce the threats to children’s health as well as avenues to better communication and environmental decision-making;

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Bethel New Life PEM Fuel Cell Deployment in a "Green"

July 2000

Project Summary Sheet



issues, such as electricity reliability, air quality, and transportation. By working with the Department of Energy (DOE) and federal, state, local, and private and nonprofit partners, Bethel New Life hopes to redevelop an area in the West Garfield Park community of Chicago along Lake Street and Lake Pulaski into a “power park,” which utilizes energy-efficiency technologies. A feasibility study for the proposed project will examine the incorporation of distributed energy resources (including on-site power generation) and whether development as a power park would address summer air cooling needs without further taxing the city’s power grid or generation capacity.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

Bethel New Life’s objective is to use the existing rail system links and convert a devastated abandoned industrial area into a revitalized economic center that provides much needed housing, jobs, commercial, and industrial redevelopment. The community will benefit from the following tasks associated with the project:

- Demonstrate the excellent energy-efficiency and environmental benefits of PEM fuel cells used in building applications;
- Assess the energy opportunities that could enable the design and construction of a mixed-use development in the target area;
- Conduct a feasibility study to look at how the Bethel New Life property could benefit from its development as a “power park” (in the long term, this study could be used to attract government grants and private development money for investment in this site); and
- Redevelop the area to include a commercial center at a major transit stop that will provide the surrounding community with comfortable access to the local rail line.

PARTNERS AND THEIR COMMITMENTS

- **Argonne National Laboratory** will provide overall project coordination, technical assistance and program resources to project development, use of research facilities, and project planning and development assistance.

- **Bethel New Life, Inc.**, will co-coordinate project activities and team development, contribute staff and resources, plan and organize building development project construction phases, collaborate with other partners to assemble project teams, and pursue grant funding and other financial instruments.
- **City of Chicago Department of Environment** will provide support to demonstrate the use of photovoltaics on the roof construction.
- **Commonwealth Edison** will provide project funding support through the City of Chicago’s Department of the Environment.
- **DOE** will serve as the project lead, provide technical assistance, and program support through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and solicit grant proposals.
- **Farr Associates** will serve as the building architect and as a member of the project development team.
- **HUD** will provide Bethel New Life with an Enterprise Zone grant award.
- **Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs** will demonstrate the use of photovoltaics on the development’s roof construction and assist Bethel New Life in assembling project teams.
- **Illinois Energy Office** will prepare and submit proposals to provide for the design, development, installation, field testing, and performance monitoring of fuel cell power system to support the project’s commercial center.
- **Institute of Gas Technology** will contribute to the design and development of the fuel cells to be employed in the project and serve as a development team member.
- **Mantaky Realty Group** will provide assistance in land development and use and serve as a development team member.
- **Mosaic Energy** will serve as a member of the project development team.

Contacts:

Martin Kurtovich DOE (202) 586-5196	Norm Peterson National Laboratory (630) 252-7229
Mary Nelson Bethel New Life, Inc. (773) 473-7870	

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

New Madrid County Tri-Community Child Health Champion Campaign (New Madrid County, MO)

July 2000

Project Summary Sheet

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MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PROJECT:

Improving Children's Health

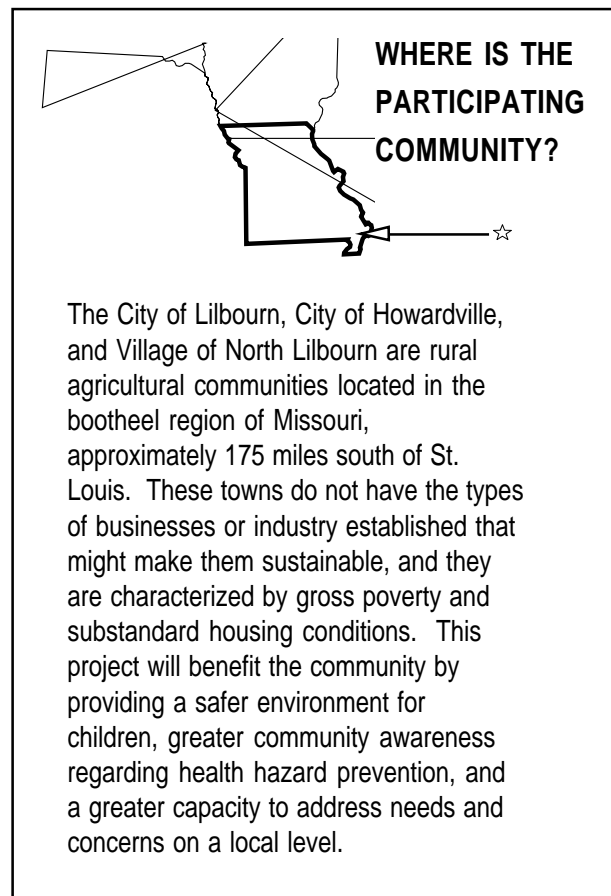
PROJECT PURPOSE:

An EPA-USDA partnership works with state and local agencies to address three areas that impact children's health: lead, asthma/allergies, and water quality. The projects came about when three rural towns in New Madrid County, Missouri, saw the potential benefits of working together. A subsequent request to federal and state agencies for assistance resulted in this project. While community education and capacity building is an ongoing part of this project, efforts will include proactive actions such as planting trees to decrease dust contaminants and improving stormwater drainage.

WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

EPA Region 7 and the Natural Resource Conservation Service Midwest Region have fostered partnerships based on their commitment to ensure that all communities receive the benefits of their programs and that no portion of the population be disproportionately impacted in a negative way by their policies, programs, and procedures. The first area in which these two organizations concentrated their efforts was in three small towns located in the bootheel of Missouri. The project began by identifying environmental hazards that might place community members (with an emphasis on children) at a health risk. Data were also

collected to evaluate whether there was disproportionate risk in these three communities compared to the rest of the state to consider environmental justice.



Contacts:

Althea Moses

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Easing Troubled Waters: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Sources in Migrant Farm Worker Communities in Colorado

Project Summary Sheet

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MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PROJECT:

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water

PROJECT PURPOSE:

A new partnership has been created among environmental and community groups, educational institutions, and government agencies to identify the location and assess the safety of drinking water sources for Colorado migrant farm worker camps. The network created by these partnerships will be used to more effectively deliver human health and environmental services in the future.

WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

Although many health problems found in the general population also affect migrant farm workers, in many cases the frequency or intensity of the problem is greater within the migrant population than in the population at large. Migrant farm workers in the United States represent a diverse group of people. About 85 percent are from minority groups—Hispanics (65 percent), African Americans,

contact with pesticides through residue from their parents' clothing, dust tracked into their homes, contaminated soil in areas where they play, food brought directly from the fields to the table, and contaminated well water.

Federal agencies, like the USEPA, are committed to bringing together the expertise, resources, and attention needed to address the human health risks facing this disenfranchised population.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

The community will benefit through the following efforts:

- Developing geographic information system (GIS) maps of migrant farm worker camps and water sources;
- Assessing available water quality data for these camps;
- Conducting additional water testing for identified sites;
- Recommending changes to federal policies regarding testing of migrant worker water sources as a result of data analysis and interagency/worker dialogue;
- Developing an interagency and community plan to address communication and education needs;
- Developing a database to track issues such as migrant farm worker camp locations, water source location and types of contamination, and the number

Contacts:

Jean Belille
U.S. EPA Region 8
(303) 312-6556

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Environmental Justice and Public Participation Through Technology: Defeating the Digital Divide and Building Community Capacity (Savannah, GA and Fort Belknap, MT)

July 2000

Project Summary Sheet

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MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PROJECT:

Community Education and Capacity Building

PROJECT PURPOSE:

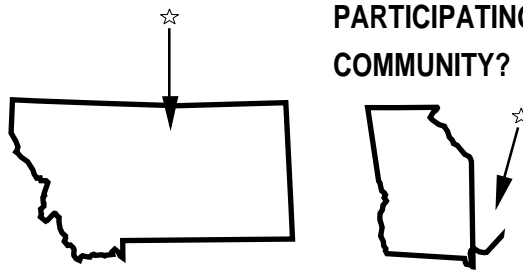
This partnership of federal, tribal, and local agencies, community organizations, and historically black colleges and universities will work to help communities gain access to information technology and gain capacity to participate in environmental decision making. Federal agencies will provide both computers and technical assistance to establish community technology centers. The project will target two communities: the first in Savannah, Georgia and the second at the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. These will serve as models for eventual replication by other communities and tribes. Along with federal agencies, Howard University will provide training and ongoing technical support.

WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

In 1992, the EPA chartered the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee (FFERDC) to examine issues surrounding environmental cleanup at federal facilities. The committee made a series of recommendations that were designed to improve environmental cleanup decision making at federal facilities. One such recommendation stated that federal, state, tribal, and local governments need to make special efforts to consult with groups that have been commonly excluded from this process, such as minority, low-

income, rural and inner-city residents, and Native American communities. The committee further stated that these groups need assistance to expand and develop their capacities where needed to participate in cleanup decision-making processes.

WHERE IS THE PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY?



The project will target two communities: the first in Savannah, Georgia, and the second at the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana. A partnership of federal, tribal, and local agencies, community organizations, and historically black colleges and universities will work to help these communities gain access to information technology and gain capacity to participate in environmental decision making. These activities will serve as models for eventual replication by other communities and tribes.

The development of community technology centers to provide access to computers and the Internet for these underrepresented groups is one way to empower them in environmental decision-making processes. These technology centers will enable the target communities to participate in information exchanges and policy-formation dialogues. The proposed community technology center three-year project will allow federal and nonfederal partners to combine resources to develop model community technology centers in an environmental justice community and a Native American community that will have applicability across similar stakeholder communities.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

The objective of this effort is to help targeted communities gain access to computers and the Internet in order to expand and develop capacity to participate in environmental decision making. Specific activities associated with this objective which will benefit the community are as follows:

- Create community technology centers to give communities access to federal agencies and a wide range of environmental information on the Internet;
- Conduct training programs that include computer-

Contacts:

Dr. Mildred McClain
Citizens for Environmental Justice
(912) 233-0907

John Rosenthal
Urban Environment Institute
(703) 922-7653

Mervyn Tano
International Institute for Indigenous
Resource Management
(303) 733-0481

Melinda Downing
DOE
(202) 586-7703

Ben Speakthunder
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council
(406) 353-2205

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Protecting Community Health and Reducing Toxic Air Exposure through Collaborative Partnerships in Barrio Logan (San Diego, CA)

July 2000

Project Summary Sheet

The overall goal of the Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is to increase efforts to identify, mobilize, and make use of federal resources to benefit environmentally and economically distressed communities. The Action Agenda is building dynamic and proactive partnerships that access the initiatives and resources of federal agencies to improve the quality of life of minority and low-income communities that suffer disproportionate environmental impacts.

MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PROJECT:

Improving Children's Health

PROJECT PURPOSE:

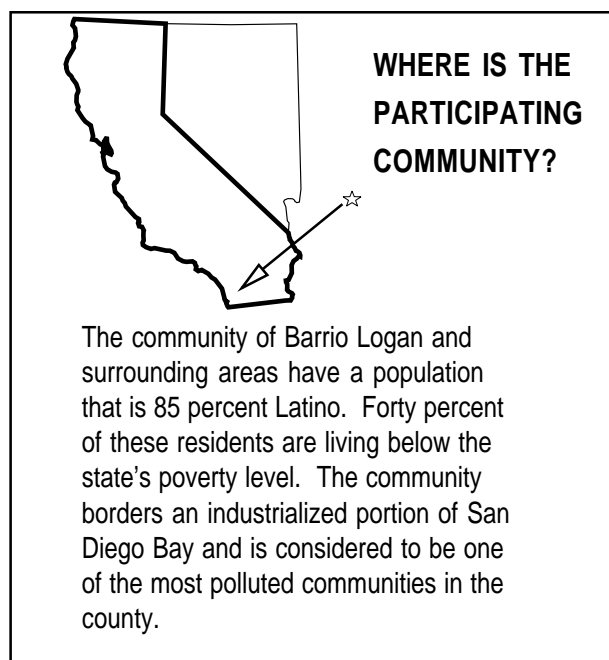
Federal, state, and local agencies will work with local partnerships led by the Environmental Health Coalition to conduct a model project on ways to improve air quality in the predominantly Latino community of Barrio Logan. The project will provide information to the community by utilizing an air monitoring station in a local high school recently established by California Air Resources Board (CARB). CARB envisions the project providing a model for the new Neighborhood Impacts Program and plans to duplicate this community involvement and participation effort in other low-income, minority communities in California. The project also will involve clinical studies to substantiate the high rate of asthma and will work to improve health care delivery.

WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

The Barrio Logan community is a low-income Latino community plagued by substandard housing, over crowded schools, a lack of health care and social services, and high unemployment rates. Criss-crossed by two major freeways, this community is subject to the release of three million pounds of toxic air pollution each year from numerous small industries, large shipyards, naval installations, and waste storage facilities adjacent to the area. Poor air quality has been attributed to the high incidence of asthma (28 percent compared with a national average of 7 percent) and other respiratory illnesses in the

children living in these communities. The respiratory health hazard index for the area is 100-200 times above acceptable levels and is rising, however, there are no air monitors in the immediate area to assess the kinds of toxins impacting these communities.

Federal, state and local agencies will work together to create a model project that examines ways to improve air quality in this community. The project will provide information to the community by utilizing an air monitoring station in a local high school recently established by the CARB, and will also involve clinical studies to substantiate the high rate of asthma and work to reduce health risks in this community.



WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

The Barrio Logan Air Monitoring Workgroup is studying how to improve air quality in the Southeast San Diego County community of Barrio Logan and surrounding communities. This project will provide a range of benefits to the Barrio Logan community by doing the following things:

- Building community capacity and skills to understand environmental impacts on their health and how to effectively deal with local, state, and federal authorities to change their communities and environment;
- Encouraging local, state, and federal authorities to more aggressively inspect, regulate, and enforce environmental laws in small businesses that are located right next to residential areas;
- Identifying major pollutant sources in Barrio Logan and helping the community/local authorities reduce or eliminate these sources. For instance, Barrio Logan is working with all industries in the area to implement pollution prevention strategies and/or relocation to industrial zones. Also, trucks should be rerouted from going through the Barrio Logan community to prevent dust and other particulate exposure to residents;
- Showing a reduction in the asthma and respiratory illnesses of children living in Barrio Logan once pollution sources are identified and cleanup is initiated; and
- Identifying a process to allow local communities to have a meaningful voice in selecting their community for the city's redevelopment effort.

PARTNERS AND THEIR COMMITMENTS

- **American Lung Association (ALA)** will conduct Open Airways training in school and is working to provide scientific input on source identification for air pollutants.
- **Air Pollution Control District (APCD)** provided staff, a web site, and data/information to a workgroup and their community on air station; is comparing information with other parts of city; and has modified behavior on granting air variances in area.
- **California Air Resource Board (CARB)** will use the Barrio Logan Air Monitoring Project as a model for a new Neighborhood Impacts Program and duplicate the community-based involvement approach in other low-income, minority communities. CARB will also develop methods and protocols for identifying, monitoring, and reducing air pollution impacts in communities affected by multiple emission sources. CARB provided \$500,000 in resources (staff and

equipment) to set up a monitoring station and conduct emission inventory in the Barrio Logan community.

- **Environmental Health Coalition** is working aggressively with the city and City Council on the Redevelopment Zone for Barrio Logan to make the area mainly residential.
- **EPA** is working with local CUPAs to make sure inspections and enforcement efforts are occurring and has quarterly meetings with EHC to address broad-ranging issues in community.
- **HUD** will assist the local authorities in securing adequate, safe housing for Barrio Logan residents.
- **Industrial Environmental Association** represents many of the industries in Barrio Logan and tries to encourage pollution prevention strategies.
- **Mercado Tenants Association** provides meeting space, translates, and disseminates information to the community on the project, and arranges community meetings and field trips to the monitoring station for residents.
- **NIEHS** will provide support to conduct clinical studies on asthma incidence and work to reduce health risk related to environmental exposures.
- **San Diego School District** is working with the American Lung Association to conduct Open Airways training in schools and using Tools for Schools to identify indoor air pollution sources in schools.
- **USC Health Center** will provide scientific and medical investigation in the area (particularly as it relates to the children in the area). The Center has been involved in family education projects on air pollution sources in Barrio Logan.

Contacts:

Clarice Gaylord
U.S. EPA Region 9 California Air Resource Board
(619) 235-4767 (916) 445-3742

San Diego County Air Pollution Control District
(619) 694-3358

Fred Tyson Frank Riley
NIEHS HUD, San Diego
(919) 541-0176 (619) 557-5310

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Oregon Environmental Justice Initiative (Portland and Rural Communities, Oregon)

July 2000

Project Summary Sheet

The overall goal of the Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is to increase efforts to identify, mobilize, and make use of federal resources to benefit environmentally and economically distressed

Improving Public Health

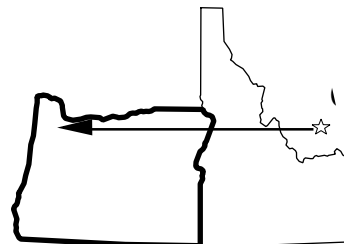
PROJECT PURPOSE:

A partnership comprising federal, tribal, state, and local government and community partners will work to accomplish three community-identified needs in the State of Oregon that impact public health: reduce lead exposure in urban areas, reduce pesticide exposure in rural areas, and eliminate illegal dumping on tribal lands. The Initiative will include targeted inspections. It will also include community-based research, outreach, and education projects such as a mobile lab for blood lead testing; development of PC-based geographic information system profile of Oregon consisting of environmental and health databases; community-based environmental monitoring; two federal-tribal-state summits; and "Safe Food"—a farmworker, youth-designed research project to identify pesticide residues.

WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

The Environmental Justice Initiative for the District of Oregon is a multiyear partnership comprising federal, tribal, state, and local government and community partners. Through the support of state government and community-based organizations, the Initiative has generated sustainable support to achieve a goal of the Children's Health Initiative: reducing the risk of lead paint exposure.

By helping communities educate themselves and establish relationships with agencies that can help them positively affect their environmental concerns, the federal partners hope to increase the lead-safe housing stock, increase testing for lead poisoning for at-risk children, and reduce pesticide exposure for farmworkers and their children through state-led inspections and appropriate judicial authority.



Although the Oregon Environmental Justice Initiative is focusing on the needs of children, farmworkers, and tribes in Portland and surrounding rural communities, the Initiative responds to

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

The participating communities and tribes will benefit from this project through activities that will achieve the following:

- Promote place-based partnerships with grassroots community groups, local, state, and tribal governments, business, unions, community service non-profit organizations; the academic community; and the media;
- Leverage federal resources to address three community-identified needs--reduction of lead exposure in urban areas, reduction of pesticide exposure in rural areas, and elimination of illegal dumping on tribal lands;
- Provide a framework for interagency, multimedia, collaborations with communities, with concrete measures of success;

Contacts:

Monica Kirk
U.S. EPA Region 10
(503) 326-3269

Okianer Christian Dark
United States Attorney for
the District of Oregon
(503) 727-1013

Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Demonstration Projects

Metlakatla Indian Community Unified Interagency Environmental Management Task Force (Annette Island, AK)

July 2000

Project Summary Sheet

The overall goal of the Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda is to increase efforts to identify, mobilize, and make use of federal resources to benefit environmentally and economically distressed communities. The Action Agenda is building dynamic and proactive partnerships that access the initiatives and resources of federal agencies to improve the quality of life of minority and low-income communities that suffer disproportionate environmental impacts.

MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PROJECT:

Address environmental concerns on Annette Island.

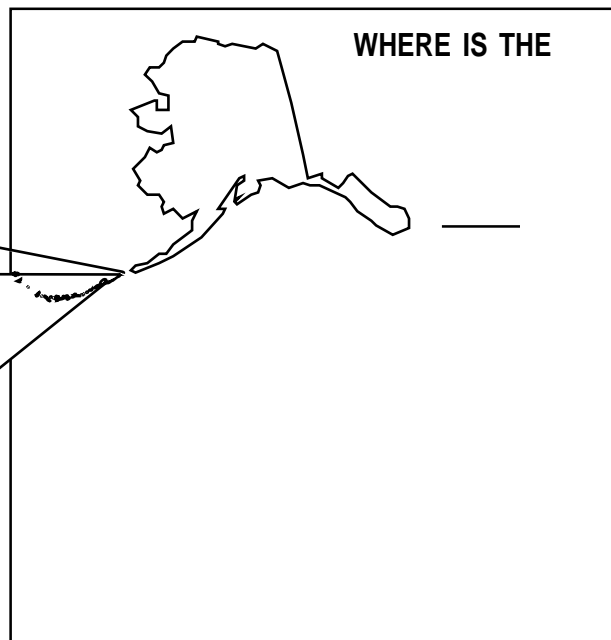
PROJECT PURPOSE:

The formation of a partnership of federal, tribal and local government agencies and organizations to address areas of contamination and to develop and implement the Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) Master Plan. This Master Plan will address land use, areas of contamination, and future development on the peninsula.

WHY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED?

Government activities on this land began in 1940 with the lease of 10,000 acres to the Department of War for building a World War II defense base; establishing a minor U.S. Navy base; establishing a major U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) base; creating a

and oilshe islaning polychlorinated biphenylsh (PCBs) have been found at building sites formerly leased by the government where abandoned government vehicles, airplane parts, drums, and other wastes now sit. To date, four federal agenciesh (COE, BIA, FAA, and USCG) have spent approximately \$5 million investigating and cleaning up contamination on the peninsula, however, it is estimated that an additional \$62 million may be needed over the next 10 years.



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orage sites. In addition, lead, asbestos,

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

Through a coordinated federal effort to resolve environmental concerns, this project will achieve the following:

- Collaborative relationships between tribal and federal officials;
- Mitigation of environmental impacts in order for the tribe to use its property in an economic and beneficial way;
- Protection of the customary and traditional use of food resources;
- Development and implementation of a Master Plan for cleanup and restoration of the Metlakatla Peninsula;
- Building tribal capacity to manage and conduct environmental programs;
- Providing federal technical assistance as needed and monitoring of the tribe's performance; and
- Planning development in order to promote economic growth through the tourism and commercial fishing industries.

PARTNERS AND THEIR COMMITMENTS

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)** will provide assistance

***Environmental Justice in Indian Country: A Roundtable to
Address Conceptual, Political, and Statutory Issues***

Project Summary Sheet

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

This Roundtable will be structured to bring discussion and attention to the pressing issues of environmental justice in Indian Country, including addressing negative perceptions of current federal policies. The specific tasks associated with this objective are as follows:

- Conduct research in order to produce a source book on environmental justice in Indian Country. The source book will be a compendium of news articles, statutes, treaties, books, and other works of differing opinions, positions, and philosophies;
- Distribute findings and recommendations of the Roundtable to the elected or appointed official of all tribes and tribal colleges;
- Design an implementation strategy for a research agenda, communication strategy, and tribal capacity-building program as identified in the roundtable;
- Create a working group composed of tribal leaders, tribal colleges, and other interested parties to develop research issues set out in the roundtable;
- Develop tribal college capacity to become a clearinghouse for environmental justice issues in Indian Country; and
- Use recommendations and findings from the Roundtable for the development of resource management, environmental protection, environmental restoration, and cultural risk management curricula for workshop training and future tribal college courses.

PARTNERS AND THEIR COMMITMENTS

- **DHHS Indian Health Services** will provide information on barriers they face in building infrastructure and how they handle waste disposal of their own facilities in tribal areas.
- **DHHS Administration for Native Americans** will provide financial assistance for the Roundtable.
- **DoD** will provide information on their Indian policy and how their Department is implementing that policy in the course of cleanups on Indian lands. DoD will also provide information on how they manage waste disposal facilities in Indian Country to comply with federal laws.
- **DOE** will assist with the planning and implementation of the roundtable, provide information on their programs and how they have worked to increased tribal capacity through their activities, and provide personnel to assist in IWG's Tribal Outreach Plan.

- **DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs** will play a major role in the planning of the roundtable and assist with ensuring follow-up and implementation of action items identified during the roundtable. DOI will also provide expert knowledge of the federal trust responsibility to tribes, give insights to how environmental justice impacts the trust responsibility, and explain how they manage their facilities on tribal land to comply with all federal environmental laws.
- **DOI Bureau of Reclamation** will provide information on how the Bureau implements DOI's Indian policy during projects that may impact tribes.
- **EPA** will assist with the communication and tribal capacity-building component of the roundtable, provide technical and policy expertise on environmental laws and regulations in Indian Country, and explain the difficulties associated with enforcing federal environmental laws on tribal lands.
- **HUD** will provide information on their Indian programs and how they have assisted tribes with economic development.
- **USDA** will provide information on how their rural development programs assist economic development in Indian Country. They will also discuss potential grant programs for tribal

Derrick Watchman DOE (202) 586-0211	Clifford Mahooty DOI - BIA (505) 346-7507
Jessica Alcorn DOE (202) 586-0798	Roy Miller DHHS-IHS (301) 295-1522
Danny Gogal EPA (202) 564-2576	

SECTION III

**FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
WORKING GROUP
KEY CONTACTS**

**FEDERAL INTERAGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
WORKING GROUP
KEY CONTACTS**

AGENCY	NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
EPA/OEJ	Charles Lee, Associate Director, OEJ Environmental Protection Agency	202/564-2515 Fax: 202/501-1163	lee.charles@epa.gov
DOC/NOAA	Roan Conrad, Director Office of Sustainable Development Department of Commerce	202/482-3384 Fax: 202/482-2663	roan.conrad@hq.noaa.gov
DOD	Len Richeson Environmental Protection Specialist Department of Defense	703/604-0518	richeshl@acq.osd.mil
DOE	Robert Moore Environmental Justice Coordinator Department of Energy	202/586-4758 Fax: 202/586-9260	robert.moore@hq.doe.gov
DOJ	Quentin C. Pair, Attorney Department of Justice	202/514-1999 Fax: 202/514-2583	quentin.pair@usdoj.gov

AGENCY	NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
HHS/HRSA	Jeanean Willis, MPH Senior Health Advisor Health and Human Services	301/443-0943	jwillis@hrsa.gov