Environmental Justice Biennial Report

2004

Integrating Environmental Justice

Preface

I am pleased to share with you the *Environmental Justice 2004 Biennial Report: Integrating Environmental Justice*. This report highlights the efforts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to begin integrating environmental justice into its programs, policies, and activities.

This report is based on the environmental justice action plans of each EPA office and region—first developed and implemented in 2003. These action plans serve as strategic tools to help managers and staff ensure that environmental justice considerations are integrated into all of the Agency's work and result in measurable environmental and public health outcomes. Although this report does not identify all of EPA's environmental justice initiatives, it discusses a wide range of approaches and projects being pursued by the Agency to effectively implement environmental justice Agency-wide.

EPA looks forward to working with all stakeholders involved in the environmental justice dialogue to ensure that all people are able to live in a clean and healthy environment. Thank you for your continued interest in environmental justice. We welcome your participation in, and support for, our efforts to integrate environmental justice considerations into the work we do every day to protect the environment and human health of all communities, including minority and/or low-income communities.

Barry E. Hill, Director
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Introduction

At the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), our vision is for all people in all communities to enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental risks and health hazards and to have equal access to the government's decisionmaking processes regarding environmental and public health. The overarching goal for the Agency's Environmental Justice Program is to integrate environmental justice considerations effectively into all EPA programs, policies, and activities, to achieve measurable benefits to the environment and/or public health of affected communities.

On August 9, 2001, former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman issued a memorandum expressing the Agency's commitment to environmental justice. This memorandum directed EPA offices and regions to incorporate environmental justice throughout the Agency, including the planning and accountability process. To respond to the Administrator's request, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) and the Environmental Justice Executive Steering Committee—an EPA senior-level management committee representing all EPA program and regional offices—requested each Headquarters office and each region to submit an environmental justice action plan detailing environmental justice-specific commitments to integrate environmental justice more fully into the Agency's work.

EPA recognizes that in order for the environmental justice action plans to be effective, the Agency must modify its approach to administering its regulatory programs. To effectively implement the environmental justice action plans, the Agency is focusing on the following six objectives:

1. Risk Reduction — To ensure equal implementation of environmental laws to achieve significant risk reduction in affected communities.

2. Outreach and Communication - To provide opportunities for meaningful involvement and ensure effective communication between Agency decisionmakers and stakeholders, including all affected communities.

3. Training - To educate EPA managers and staff on ways to incorporate environmental justice considerations into their decisionmaking processes.

Environmental Justice Action Plans

The Agency's first comprehensive environmental justice action plans were developed in FY 2003. Inherently strategic in nature, the action plans outline environmental justice commitments for the next five years. For a copy of the various environmental justice action plans, visit: <www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/reports/actionplans/ej/index.html>.

4. Federal State Tribal/Local Coordination – To ensure effective coordination across all levels of government to address the environmental and public health concerns of affected communities.

5. Grants and Contracts Administration – To promote effective and efficient management of all grants and contracts related to environmental justice activities.

6. Environmental Justice Assessment – To conduct an assessment of the environmental justice indicators (e.g., environmental, health, social, economic) within affected communities as part of the environmental decisionmaking process.

EPA's 2004 *Environmental Justice Biennial Report* documents key developments, activities, and accomplishments created and/or implemented by each program and regional office during the 2003 and 2004 calendar years. This report highlights the Agency's efforts—in collaboration with its state and tribal co-regulators—to provide environmental and public health protection for all communities where people live, work, and play, including minority, low-income, and tribal communities. This report is not intended to capture all of the Agencies' environmental justice work, but is intended to stimulate thought, discussion, and action to provide for environmental justice throughout the country by enabling others to learn from the Agency's efforts and build upon its successes.

This report is organized into six chapters, corresponding to the six objectives of the environmental justice action plans. Within each chapter, project descriptions are organized into three categories: Headquarters, regions, and international. For more information on the specific items discussed in this report, please contact the appropriate environmental justice coordinator listed in Appendix A.

Chapter 1: Risk Reduction

The Agency's understanding of risk reduction has evolved significantly over the past decade from a focus primarily on natural sciences and risk assessment, to evaluating cumulative risk and the role of social sciences and ethics (e.g., cultural impacts, pathways of exposure, vulnerabilities, and trans-generational equity).[1] EPA recognizes that risk reduction involves a range of interrelated elements.

This chapter describes the Agency's efforts to reduce risk and thereby better protect public health and the environment in all communities, including minority, low-income and tribal communities. EPA is engaged in many activities to reduce risks, such as the Clean School Bus USA initiative, Lead-Safe campaigns, pesticide reduction projects, air toxics pilot projects, and safe drinking water initiatives. The Agency seeks to ensure equal enforcement of environmental laws to reduce risk and thereby improve the environment and/or public health of affected communities.

Children's Health

Headquarters

Children's Health Valuation Handbook

The National Center for Environmental Economics, along with the EPA Office of Children's Health, published the Children's Health Valuation Handbook[2] in November 2003. The handbook is a reference tool for those conducting economic analyses of EPA policies that could affect children's health. The document makes recommendations that are meant to be informative, rather than prescriptive, as economic science has not reached conclusion on many issues related to children. Some of the discussions contained in the handbook include:

- Guidance on qualitatively describing the likely over- or under-valuation of reduced child risk resulting from the transfer of risk values estimated for adults to children.
- A description of how economic methods used to assess values for adult health effects can be applied to value children's health effects.
- Instructions on when and how to transfer value estimates derived for adults to scenarios involving children, as an alternative to actual child values.

Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) is developing the Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP) to assess the risks to children from 20 chemicals to which they are disproportionately impacted.

[1] "Toward Integrated Environmental Decision-Making," USEPA Science Advisory Board, Integrated Risk Project Steering Committee, 2000

[2] This document can be found online at http://yosemite.epa.gov/EE/epa/eed.nsf/pages/HandbookChildrensHealthValuation.html.

VCCEP's Peer Consultation Documents (i.e., hazard, exposure, and risk assessments) for four chemicals (vinylidene chloride, pentabromodiphenyl ether, decarbromodiphenyl ether, and octabromodiphenyl ether) were submitted to EPA and underwent peer consultation in FY 2003.

National Children's Study

Substantial public health and related environmental justice concerns exist regarding the effects of contaminants on children's health and development. Children, especially those located in substandard living environments (e.g., living near heavy concentration of industries/traffic and resulting air pollution) can be more vulnerable to environmental threats, but little comprehensive research exists to identify which factors are harmful, harmless, or helpful. Research with a "life-course approach" is needed to explore the links between multiple exposures over time and multiple health outcomes.

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) is involved in the National Children's Study, which will "...investigate basic mechanisms of developmental disorders and environmental factors, both risk and protective, that influence health and developmental processes." A sample size of approximately 100,000 participants is planned to allow the evaluation of links between low-level environmental exposures and social and behavioral factors with less common outcomes, as well as the interaction between genetics and the environment. The study will focus on children's environmental health themes of major public health concern that are best suited to this type of longitudinal study, such as pregnancy outcomes, neuro-behavioral development, asthma, obesity and altered physical development, and injury. Pregnant women from across the United States will be enrolled as early as possible in pregnancy (or before pregnancy), and their children will be evaluated during prenatal development, through birth, childhood, and into adulthood. Strong partnerships between federal and non-federal scientists and community, parent, advocacy, and industry groups are being emphasized throughout the planning process. This study will provide a legacy for future generations on the role of environmental factors on children's health, development, and well-being.

Clean School Bus USA

In April 2003, EPA launched Clean School Bus USA , a new children's health initiative aimed

at reducing air pollution from school buses. The program is an outgrowth of EPA's Voluntary Diesel Retrofit Program. Across the country, 24 million children ride school buses daily to and from school. The average time spent on these buses can range from 20 minutes to several hours a day. Unfortunately, older buses can pollute up to six times more than buses using clean technology. Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of diesel emissions, which can cause respiratory disease and exacerbate long-term conditions, such as asthma. Reducing pollution from school buses will help improve local air quality and reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust, particularly in communities with environmental justice concerns.

Clean School Bus USA has three primary goals:

- Reduce unnecessary school bus idling by 100 percent by 2010.
- Retrofit and upgrade 100 percent of existing 1990 to 2003 diesel buses by 2010.
- Replace 100 percent of pre-1990 buses with clean buses.

To financially support this effort, $5 million was included in EPA's FY 2003 budget for a cost-shared grant designed to assist school districts in upgrading their bus fleets. EPA's Office of Air and Radiation awarded 17 demonstration grants across the country in October 2003. In FY 2004, Congress allocated an additional $5 million to school bus demonstration grants.

Region 3

Compliance Assistance to Schools

Region 3 is piloting an Integrated Strategy for Schools to reduce and prevent potential health and environmental hazards to students and school personnel by measurably improving their understanding of requirements, compliance, and environmental performance at schools. Regional staff conducted surveys of schools throughout the region and found that, in general, they lacked knowledge of environmental regulations that exist to prevent or reduce potential hazards to students and school personnel. Some of the areas of concern relate to proper handling, storage, and disposal of chemicals and disposal of laboratory wastes, asbestos management requirements, toxics leaking from fluorescent ballasts, lead in drinking water, pesticides application, and permitting requirements for boilers.

EPA has been working with the Washington, DC Department of Health, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Philadelphia School District to address con-

[3] <www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus>

cerns with the potential for health hazards at schools. Region 3 will be measuring the effectiveness of the outreach by tracking the number of schools reached through training, measuring the increased awareness of the importance of compliance with various regulations to prevent problems, measuring understanding after workshops, and surveying the schools to determine if their understanding has increased and whether any changes have occurred as a result of the outreach.

Region 4

Vision 2020—Children's Health Project, Anniston, Alabama

Region 4 awarded a CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, otherwise known as Superfund) Research Grant to *Vision 2020—For the Children of Anniston: Children's Health Environmental Justice Project* located in Anniston, Alabama. This award is benefiting the children's health project by advancing its early detection and early intervention research initiative. In January 2004, Vision 2020 held a ceremony to celebrate the $65,000 award at Anniston's City Hall. Additionally, on July 17, 2004, Region 4 staff and other state and local agencies participated in a Children's Health Fair in Anniston sponsored by Vision 2020. The fair focused on children's health and social and environmental concerns. This event was the third outreach educational event to link children to identified health care services in Calhoun County and West Anniston, Alabama. Vision 2020 is continuing to develop its capacity to provide project sustainability.

Region 5

Working Toward a Lead-Safe Cleveland

EPA, the city of Cleveland, the Ohio Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have been attempting to curb the incidence of childhood lead poisoning for more than 30 years. Significant progress has been made, as measured by the reduction of Cleveland children with elevated blood lead levels. Whereas 47 percent of Cleveland children tested in 1994 were found to have elevated blood lead levels, only 16 percent of the children tested in 2003 reached the action level. Nevertheless, the nearly 2,500 Cleveland children that were found to have elevated blood lead levels in 2003 are still at risk for a variety of possible maladies, including delayed intellectual development, loss of IQ points, anemia, and future behavioral concerns.

Recognizing the critical nature of the health concerns associated with exposures to lead and the uneven distribution of exposures to lead, the city of Cleveland and EPA undertook a project in 2004 to assess and address continued lead hazards in at-risk communities. EPA and the city have identified target neighborhoods/census tracts based on elevated blood lead level data and other available demographic data. The city, working in close

partnership with local organizations such as community development corporations, will systematically assess lead hazards in housing units in the target areas. The project goal is to conduct approximately 1,500 housing unit assessments over the two-year project period.

Region 6

Childhood Pesticide Exposure Reduction Project, Texas-Mexico Border Region

Region 6 has funded the Childhood Pesticides Exposure Reduction Project with the goals of evaluating pesticide exposure in a sample of children, conducting public education on exposures to pesticides, and empowering families in a rural community (*colonia* of Rio Bravo) to take actions to reduce exposure and improve children's health. The project is being conducted by Texas A&M System Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health in Bryan, Texas.

Asbestos-in-Schools Inspections in New Mexico and on Tribal Lands

The asbestos-in-schools (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)) regulations were promulgated in the mid-1980s to protect children from the hazards of asbestos exposure, as well as to notify maintenance, janitorial, and school staff of the potential hazards in their workplace. The regulations require all schools (public, private, and secondary) to determine the presence of asbestos-containing building materials (e.g., floor tile, acoustic ceilings, spray-on acoustic, mastic), to manage the materials accordingly, and prepare management plans that recommend the best way to reduce the asbestos hazard.

Region 6 has initiated a targeted enforcement strategy to inspect and provide compliance assistance to public, private, and secondary schools in New Mexico and on tribal lands. Funding for this effort was partially provided by EPA's Office of Children's Health, State and Tribal Air Grants, and the Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division. Inspectors targeted schools in the states of Arkansas and New Mexico for compliance with the AHERA regulations. In New Mexico, during FY 2003 and FY 2004, inspections were completed in 58 schools—14 on tribal lands or at the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. In Arkansas, a total of 55 schools were inspected. Improved compliance with the law means that fewer children will be exposed to asbestos hazards. More than 80 percent of the schools inspected were in partial compliance or

noncompliance with the regulations, indicating a more widespread issue for the states and tribes.

Clean Air

Headquarters

Detroit Exposure and Aerosol Research Study

The Detroit Exposure and Aerosol Research Study is a residential and personal exposure monitoring study being conducted by ORD over a three-year period, from 2004 to 2007. The primary goal of the study is to evaluate and describe the relationship between air toxics, particulate matter, particulate matter constituents, and particulate matter from specific sources measured at a central site monitor, and measurements of residential and personal concentrations. Emphasis is placed on understanding the impact of local sources (point and mobile) on outdoor residential concentrations and the impact of housing type and house operation on indoor concentrations. Personal monitoring will be conducted to determine the impact of time spent in nonresidential locations and personal activities on exposure.

Monitoring will be conducted at 120 residences for five consecutive days in a summer and winter season. Measurements of air toxics, particulate matter mass, and particulate matter constituents will be made indoors and outdoors at each home and from one participant in each home. The data will be used by ORD epidemiologists, who are interested in using central site monitoring data to quantify health risks to particulate matter and air toxics, and to better extrapolate those data to local neighborhood and household exposure scenarios. EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards will also use these data to develop standards that are protective of human health for particulate matter, particulate matter components, and air toxics.

Air Quality Training for Tribes

ORD has established a new cooperative agreement with the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA). This agreement provides funding for onsite training for tribal communities on asthma, second-hand smoke risk reduction, indoor air quality, and mold. To date, more than 100 tribal council members, other tribal representatives, or service providers have been trained.

Health Effects of Air Pollution

In July 2004, EPA awarded the University of Washington a $30 million grant to study the connection between air pollution and cardiovascular disease. The grant is the largest ever awarded by the EPA for scientific research and will contribute to a better understanding of the long-term health effects of breathing air contaminated by particulate matter and other pollutants. The study will track 8,700 people, ranging in ages from 50 to 89, from varied ethnic groups and from cities across the country. The researchers will evaluate whether long-term exposure to fine particles is associ-

ated with specific changes in atherosclerosis (buildup of plaque in the arteries) and other factors associated with heart disease.

Premature death and other health problems are strongly related to sulfates in the air and ambient concentrations of fine particles less than 2.5 micrometers. Long-term exposure to ambient, airborne particulate matter is associated with increased mortality, largely due to cardiovascular causes and serious respiratory problems. In addition, chronic exposure to particulates can cause decreased development of lung function among school-age children. The work is relevant to environmental justice communities because they are often located near sources of air pollution, such as heavy concentrations of industry and traffic. The grant is funded through ORD's Science To Achieve Results (STAR) competitive grants program.

Region 6

Air Quality Improvement in Beaumont/Port Arthur, Texas

The Community In-Powerment Development Association (CIDA), which represents minorities in the Beaumont/Port Arthur area of Texas, along with several other environmental groups, Region 6, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and five local industrial facilities, entered into an innovative, collaborative effort to improve the air quality in the Beaumont/Port Arthur area and ensure that it meets the ozone standard in a timely manner. As a result of this precedent-setting agreement, the five industrial facilities in the area voluntarily agreed to reduce emissions beyond what would otherwise be required by law. In addition, these industries committed to fund a series of workshops for the local community to examine the sources, controls, and effects of local air pollution, and purchased two state-of-the-art air quality monitors, which are under the ownership of the community. This equipment and training will allow CIDA to independently verify ambient pollutants and understand the impacts of pollution.

Air Toxic Assessment in Corrales, New Mexico

With support from EPA Region 6, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted an air toxics assessment for the village of Corrales. The objective of the project was to work cooperatively with the local and county governments, residents of Corrales, and area industrial complexes to identify and analyze potential air quality health risks due to toxic air pollution in Corrales. This project was initiated in response to citizen concerns regarding health effects from emissions in the area. A task force consisting of interested stakeholders was formed, and a series of facilitated public meetings and forums were conducted to provide community input for the direction and focus of the project work plan. From December 2002 to June 2004, 21 task force, subcommittee, and public meetings were held in the Corrales and Rio Rancho

areas. Based upon available data, NMED did not find evidence that any of the modeled or measured chemicals are associated with increased acute or chronic health risks.

Region 9

West Oakland Community Air Toxics Pilot Project

The West Oakland Community, located in the city of West Oakland, California, is a predominately low-income and minority community. The area has significant levels of air emissions and high rates of childhood asthma. The community is surrounded by major freeways and is the site of several major industrial uses, including the Port of Oakland. In 2003, Region 9 continued its air toxics reduction-related activities that began in 2002. Significant environmental results were attained, including: 1) One of the major sources of air emissions —Red Star Yeast—has closed, 2) a $70,000 community study of options for reducing the impacts of diesel trucks at the port is underway; and 3) an additional $70,000 will be used to address all diesel emission sources and to support more stakeholder involvement in a collaborative problem-solving process.

Barrio Logan Environmental Justice Demonstration Pilot Project

Since 2000, Region 9, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and San Diego's nonprofit Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) have participated in a Federal Interagency Working Group for an Environmental Justice Demonstration Project to assist the Barrio Logan neighborhood of San Diego, California. This project mobilized all levels of government, as well as community and local business, to improve Barrio Logan's air quality and public health. By 2003, this collaborative project had made substantive progress. A chrome, nickel, and cadmium plating facility next door to homes was found to emit high levels of airborne hexavalent chromium, a carcinogen by the state of California. After receiving several citations for violating hazardous waste regulation, the facility closed in October 2002. EPA and other government partners provided technical support during the removal of toxics from the site. Community residents have reported that since the shutdown health conditions have improved. They have also reported fewer asthma attacks, respiratory illnesses, and hospital visits. In addition, the partnership has worked with the community to address air quality issues related to truck idling and parking in residential areas and near schools, which resulted in changing the local parking enforcement policy to minimize truck parking and idling.

International

Clean Fuels and Vehicles

Since September 2002, EPA has been a committed partner with governments, international organizations, industry, and non-governmental organizations in the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles

launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. EPA and its partners have implemented many projects that promote clean fuels and vehicles and the adoption of cleaner vehicle technologies. Many developing countries have achieved, or are working to achieve, the elimination of lead in gasoline and the phasing out of sulfur in diesel and gasoline fuels. In South Africa, the unleaded gasoline target date is 2006, and more than 16 other African countries are either already using unleaded gasoline or working toward the same goal.

United States—Mexico Border Air Monitoring

As part of the Border 2012 Program, EPA signed a binational air monitoring agreement and committed up to $13 million toward the cleanup of a wastewater treatment plant in Mexicali, Mexico. This project will remove up to 20 million gallons of raw sewage per day from the New River, a binational river that originates in Mexicali, Baja California, and ends at the Salton Sea in Imperial Valley, California. To date, EPA has contributed approximately $475 million to more than 50 water and wastewater projects along the United States–Mexico border, providing access to potable water and sanitary treatment systems for some 6.5 million area residents.

To promote coordination, a number of regional workgroups and policy forums collaborate with local communities to set priorities and plan and implement projects. These groups also assist in establishing objectives, defining indicators, and measuring progress. For example, the Environmental Health Workgroup seeks to address environmental health concerns to reduce exposures and other factors associated with the increase in disease rates along the border. The workgroup's focus includes strengthening health surveillance capabilities, conducting research on high-priority issues that have binational and border-wide applications, and enhancing training, education, and communication.

Safe Drinking Water

Headquarters

Arsenic Rule Training for Water System Advisors

The Office of Water (OW) developed and implemented satellite training for interested stakeholders on the Arsenic Rule at 10 locations across the country in FY 2003. A Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule "Train-the Trainer" course was developed to train technical advisors for small water systems. Tribes attended both the Arsenic Rule and the Train-the-Trainer course.

Region 3

District of Columbia Lead in Drinking Water

Failed corrosion control treatment in the District of Columbia's drinking water system has resulted in lead levels substantially above the allowable levels prescribed in the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). While water treatment changes have been implemented to correct the problem, lead levels are not expected to show a decline for at least six months to one year. Ensuring a resolution to the problem remains among Region 3's highest priorities. The relatively abrupt rise in lead levels coincided approximately with a switch in disinfection chemicals used by the Washington Aqueduct. The new chemicals are being used to reduce levels of disinfection byproducts in treated water to comply with prospective EPA standards. This correlation of events prompted many to speculate that this change caused the lead increases, although the actual cause remains unclear.

EPA established a Technical Expert Working Group (TEWG) in February 2004 to step up investigations of the cause and potential solutions to the problem. OW also established an independent Peer Review Panel, consisting of additional experts to advise the TEWG deliberations and Region 3 actions. The health effects of lead are especially significant for pregnant and nursing women and young children. EPA and the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) signed a Consent Order on June 17, 2005, which commits WASA, among other actions, to provide water filters (and replacements) to homes with lead service lines or demonstrated high lead levels, accelerate replacement of lead service lines, and enhance public education and outreach.

Region 6

Mescalero Apache Tribe Drinking Water Compliance Assistance

Since the inception of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), 14 community water systems owned and operated by the Mescalero Apache Tribe in New Mexico have been in and out of compliance over many years. These systems provide potable water to a variety of publicly utilized facilities, including housing, campgrounds, casinos, and restaurants. Approximately 85 percent of the total population of the 4,350-member Mescalero Tribe receives drinking water from community water systems. A successful collaboration among Region 6, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and Indian Health Service (IHS) staff has resulted in a dramatic reduction of violations under the SDWA in the

public water systems. Region 6 staff discussed water quality problems and Orders on Consent with the Mescalero Apache Tribe officials and the Indian Health Service representatives on several occasions throughout FY 2003 and FY 2004. Technical and compliance assistance was provided to the Mescalero Tribe by Region 6 and the Environmental Finance Center (EFS), an EPA contractor at New Mexico Tech University. This is the first time in 15 years that the people of the Mescalero Apache Tribe are enjoying safe and clean drinking water—a positive milestone for the tribe in achieving environmental excellence.

Region 9

Pacific Island Efforts

In 2003, the Marpi landfill opened in Saipan, making it the first fully compliant landfill in the Pacific Islands. In Guam, the Ordot dump closed as a result of an EPA lawsuit. Additionally, after the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed on behalf of the Region to place Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) under receivership in 2003, Region 9 worked with a federal judge, the government of Guam, and DOJ to sign a stipulated order. Under the order, GWA agreed to take numerous steps to improve its water service. For decades, GWA had been unable to provide one of the basic services most Americans take for granted—access to safe, reliable drinking water. Guam residents have seen improvements in drinking water as a result of the actions.

International

United Nations Millennium Development Goal

In 2003 and 2004, projects have continued through the United Nations Millennium Development Goal, which aims to reduce the risk of sickness and death worldwide by halving the number of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation in key countries by 2015. More than 2.2 million people—mostly children—die each year from preventable waterborne diseases. EPA continues to work in many countries on this issue. Specifically, in the Americas, cooperation with counterpart organizations in Central America, Mexico, and Canada has improved the quality of shared water bodies, such as the Rio Grande, as well as the capacity of institutions to monitor drinking water quality, protect source waters, and implement cost-effective solutions that lead to improved protection of human health.

Safe Drinking Water in Africa

EPA initiated its "Water for Africa Program" to improve access to safe drinking water in urban and peri-urban areas through community-based capacity building. In Phase 1 of the program, EPA, in partnership with Water for People, a Denver-based non-governmental organization (NGO), provided grants to NGOs in five countries (Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia) to build capacity of communities in a variety of different ways.

Approaches that these NGOs took included community mobilization, health and hygiene education, advocacy training, and public information dissemination. Notable results include the establishment of Community Water Committees that are working to sustainably manage and operate water kiosks and maintain the kiosks through the reinvestment of water charges. The project has resulted in the maintenance of piped-in water for communities, lowering the cost of water for poor communities. As a result of the success of Phase 1, additional resources are being leveraged to build upon this work.

Water Quality

Headquarters

Colonias Self-Help Project

"*Colonias*" is a designation that is applied to low income, unincorporated subdivisions in Texas and New Mexico along the United States—Mexico border, characterized by inadequate or lack of safe, potable water and sewage disposal systems. More than 1,400 *colonias* exist along the border with an estimated population of more than 400,000. EPA's Office of Wastewater Management works with the Rensselaerville Institute, a nonprofit organization that provided $900,000 in funding in 2003 to implement a methodology to assist *colonias* residents in solving their water and wastewater infrastructure challenges through self-help projects. The objective of the project is to utilize resources and expertise in the community to build sustainable partnerships and protect the environment and the public health at considerable cost savings. The self-help approach to local water pollution problems has been implemented in 600 projects across the United States.

Tribal Workshops on Preparing Nonpoint Source Control Management Programs

OW has developed detailed multi-day tribal workshops to assist tribes in preparing Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Management Programs under the Clean Water Act section 319. The workshops are also intended to help tribes become eligible for obtaining program grants available to all federally recognized tribes and to implement successful watershed projects. These workshops cover requirements that must be met before tribes become eligible for project grants authorized by Clean Water Act sections 319(h) and 518. In addition, as more and more tribes have attained eligibility for and received Section 319 grants (more than 70 percent of Indian country is now eligible), the workshops are increasingly focusing upon the development and implementation of watershed projects. Since 1998, almost 20 tribal workshops have been held throughout Indian country. OW has also increased the amount of Section

319 funding for tribes, from $6 million in FY 2003 to $7 million in FY 2004.

Region 2

Health Initiative for Harm Prevention Among Vulnerable Populations in the San Juan Bay Estuary System

Region 2 awarded a grant to the Caribbean Environment and Development Institute (CEDI) to conduct socio-cultural research on exposure prevention practices among vulnerable populations. CEDI is partnering with the University of Puerto Rico School of Public Health to focus on those practices concerning the recreational water usage and biota products (consumption) of the San Juan Bay Estuary System. A culturally relevant health communication model will be produced.

Region 3

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Justice Forum

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Justice Forum, held in March 2003 in Washington, DC, was a multi-stakeholder meeting designed to highlight the diverse group of partners active and participating in various environmental justice-related activities around the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. An Environmental Justice Listening Session was one of the activities conducted by the Task Force as a part of the day's activities. The forum and listening session were joint activities sponsored by Region 3, the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the West Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (WVDEQ), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ), and the Chesapeake Bay Task Force.

The forum focused on fish consumption and water quality issues, and a historical perspective of blacks in the Chesapeake Bay was presented as one of the keynotes. Panels discussed issues, research, and future visions related to the various aspects of the consumption of fish and shellfish. In addition, a number of compelling issues related to water resources, such as access to basic services, agricultural and industrial runoff, water quality assessment, and efforts to protect and renew bay resources were discussed. A highlight of the forum was the compelling presentation by a Bay View, Virginia, resident regarding her community's efforts to obtain public sewer and water services for the first time, and to raise the standard of living and quality of life in Bay View. After receiving an Environmental Justice Small Grant from Region 3 and working with environmental groups and organizations around the state, the citizens of Bay View were able to educate themselves and others regarding the water and sewer issues in the community. The state of Virginia funded the improvements for Bay View, and the community's accomplishments were

highlighted on the July 15, 2003 edition of the CBS News Show 60 Minutes (see <www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/11/26/60minutes/main585793.shtml>)

Region 6

Tribal Drinking Water System Performance-Based Training

Region 6 began a performance-based training pilot program with six New Mexico Pueblos (Isleta, Jemez, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, and Tesuque), teaching tribal drinking water system operators to optimize the performance of their public water systems, thereby improving public health protection for the tribal communities they serve. The training, offered quarterly over 18 months, teaches operators problem-solving skills and assigns homework for tribal operators to complete before and report during the following quarterly meeting. Four sessions were held in 2003 and 2004.

Economic Development and Tribal Health Training

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation, under a Region 6 grant and guidance, delivered a three-day workshop in November 2003 to help tribal administrators understand the linkage between sound drinking water infrastructure and economic development of their communities. Topics included master water planning, drinking water system management, operations and maintenance, accessing funding, and developing a scope of work for infrastructure projects.

Region 9

Mercury Emission Reduction

As a result of a $128,000 settlement for stormwater violations at five auto-wrecking and recycling yards in Chula Vista, Santa Paula, Sun Valley, and Wilmington (California), the Pick Your Part Auto Wrecking Company agreed to start removing and recycling mercury in switches from salvaged vehicles at its nine California yards—the first such program in the state. In the United States, an estimated 10 tons of mercury are released to the environment each year from mercury-containing light switches during the shredding and crushing of old vehicles.

Region 10

Development of Tribal Fish Consumption Survey Software

EPA's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory is supporting efforts by Region 10's Office of Environmental Assessment (OEA) to assist tribes through a project funded by the Agency's Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE). Scientists will work to develop tribal fish consumption survey software that can be used to assist tribes with making regulatory decisions to protect water quality and provide a means for developing standards using the best possible scientific fish consumption data. The primary objective is to develop and test an easy-to-use survey instrument and database to collect fish and shellfish consumption information. This

survey instrument and database would be based on commercially available software with analytical and report-making capabilities to facilitate easy compilation of the data for use by tribes. The project began in 2003 with development of the survey instrument, database, and ancillary guidance materials.

International

White Water to Blue Water

At the World Summit for Sustainable Development, the United States announced the establishment of the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW) for the Gulf of Mexico and the Wider Caribbean Region. The WW2BW partnership is working to: 1) protect human health, watersheds, and sensitive coastal and marine resources, 2) promote sustainable coastal development, and 3) improve capacity of countries throughout the region to implement best management practices for environmental strategies.

Waste Management

Headquarters

National Partnership for Environmental Priorities

Using information from the Community Action for Renewed Environment Workgroup and the TOXMAP Tool, the Hazardous Waste Management and Minimization Division of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) works to find facilities that generate high volumes of priority chemicals and are located on or near environmental justice communities. Once communities with possible environmental justice issues are identified, the division uses this information to identify potential National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP) members, and the regions can use these data to select facilities to pursue for enrollment.

Region 6

Tex. Tin Corporation Superfund Site, Texas City, Texas

The Tex. Tin Superfund site is located in Texas City, Galveston County, Texas. The city of La Marque lies approximately 2,000 feet west and northwest of the site. The site is a former tin and copper smelting facility that was constructed for the federal government during World War II to provide a source for tin material. The facility operated from 1941 through 1991. The site was listed on the National Priorities List on September 18, 1998. On August 25, 2004, cleanup activities for all four operable units of the Tex. Tin Superfund site were completed. The former smelter site encompasses approximately 140 acres, and plans call for the redevelopment of the site as a cargo container facility in conjunction with the $600 million expansion of the Texas City International Port Terminal. This redevelopment is expected to create hundreds of job opportunities for the local community.

Amarillo Mercury, Amarillo, Texas: Non-NPL Emergency Removal Action

On September 10, 2004, Region 6 initiated an emergency response at five residences and one school in Amarillo, Texas. Five Hispanic families, including 25 people (16 children) had mercury releases in their homes after children found and brought home containers of mercury from an unsecured junk/scrap yard. Region 6 mobilized the Emergency Response Removal Services contractor to the site to collect and secure free mercury, as well as set up temporary relocation assistance for three of the families. It was determined that these families could not safely reside in their homes, which exhibited mercury vapors above EPA screening levels. The other two homes will also require some decontamination efforts. No mercury vapor levels above EPA screening levels were detected in the school where a teacher initially reported that the children were in possession of mercury.

Region 9

Metales y Derivados Cleanup Project

Region 9 worked closely with the regional border effort to encourage increased community participation and involvement related to the cleanup process for the Metales site. Through active consultation with community members, leaders, and community organizations, the region supported an agreement establishing a joint community and government Working Group to plan and monitor the cleanup process. Composed of members of the *Colectivo* and officials of Mexico's environmental program (*Secretaria de MedioAmbiente y Recursos Naturales* - SEMARNAT), the Office of Integral Projects for Hazardous Materials and Activities, and the Office of Ecology, the Working Group was officially formed on July 7, 2004. As noted in the agreement, the Working Group is charged with overseeing the Metales y Derivados cleanup project.

Toxics

Headquarters

Environmental Justice Process for Reviewing Chemicals

The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) within the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances has continued work to ensure that all the risk assessments it prepares to register or re-register pesticides account for routes and patterns of exposure encountered by minority or other population sub-groups, such as migrant workers. Specifically, the Special Review and Re-registration Division (SSRD) now has an environmental justice process in place for reviewing all chemicals. The process includes outreach to stakeholders and registrants to determine if usage patterns might lead to disproportionate exposures. SRRD also has incorporated environmental justice-related questions in the rulemaking public participation process by asking for public comments regarding communities that might be disproportionately impacted by the use of a specific pesticide.

Lindane Review

OPP began using environmental justice considerations in the registration and re-registration process. For example, during the re-registration process, OPP identified that Alaska Natives were disproportionately exposed to lindane (i.e., they have a much higher estimated exposure to lindane in their diet than Americans in the lower 48 states). Lindane is a persistent organic pollutant, so these exposures might occur as a result of uses thousands of miles away. The Agency took action to lower the rate of lindane use, and several uses of lindane were cancelled. Although EPA's actions were not taken to address the subsistence diet population exposure, they will result in reduced exposure overall.

Elimination of Lead Poisoning by 2010

In 2004, OPPT reevaluated pending actions to reach the goal of eliminating lead poisoning by 2010. OPPT concluded that additional attention was needed to address lead poisoning in high-risk populations and areas. The office laid the groundwork to expand programs toward these areas and populations in the future, including developing a new grant program targeted to vulnerable populations.

Increase Awareness of Worker Protection Standards

In July 2003, the OECA provided training to 17 EPA headquarters and regional attendees, 10 state attendees, and one tribal representative on the worker protection standards (WPS) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The purpose of the training was to develop WPS enforcement infrastructure in the states, regions, and tribes. WPS are aimed at reducing the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. The WPS generally entail a state-authorized program, and many states have incorporated the federal regulations. Most of the attendees were case developers and attorneys who are responsible for developing and prosecuting WPS cases.

Region 2

Healthy Homes Study—Trenton, New Jersey

Region 2 awarded a grant to Isles, Inc. to improve substandard housing conditions in the Canal Banks section of Trenton, New Jersey, in partnership with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Isles will perform research and develop a report on the extent of multiple contaminant exposures that might exist in the area's older housing stock. As part of this effort, Isles will increase community capacity to address this problem by training community members in the collection of dust wipe samples (for metals, pesticides, and lead) from 75 homes. The university laboratories will analyze the samples. Information collected, along with the resulting data, will be communicated to occupants/renters, landlords, community and faith-based groups, and local officials to raise awareness and to encourage changes in household cleaning and maintenance practices.

Region 5

Cooperative Partnership Detecting Illegal Pesticides and Unlicensed Applicators

In December 2004, Region 5 worked with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to provide a two-hour basic training session on pesticides to some 45 field inspectors from the city of Chicago Department of Public Health. The training provided an introduction to poisoning symptoms and better methods to advocate for pest control. The purpose of this training was to solicit the assistance of the city lead and radon residential inspectors, public health nurses, and restaurant food protection inspectors in their detection of illegal pesticide products or illegal applicators during their normal routine environmental work. EPA and IDPH are working to foster relationships with many state and local agencies to secure assistance in this effort as a proactive means to prevent future pesticide misuse crises, as was experienced with methyl parathion misuse in Chicago.

Region 7

Informing People on Pesticides—Migrant Farm Workers Project

In 2002, Region 7 began work to research, identify, and address environmental and human health issues and concerns that face migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families living and working in the region. Harvest America Corporation (HAC) partnered with EPA to educate and inform migrant and seasonal farm workers in Kansas on pesticide safety and exposure risks through the Informing People on Pesticides (IPOP) Project.

The IPOP Project identified healthcare gaps in many farming communities in Kansas, a problem that plagues many farming communities in the United States. The data collected through IPOP also reinforces the fact that pesticides are being used in traditional agriculture as well as in non-traditional agricultural settings (e.g., feedlots) throughout Southwest Kansas. IPOP revealed disparities in pesticide education and awareness by the many people who apply pesticides, a problem exacerbated by language deficiencies. Through bilingual educational presentations, the people involved showed the desire and ability to learn pesticide safety. One of the goals of the project was to increase the knowledge gained by participants after a worker protection safety presentation. Participants experienced a 50 percent increase in knowledge in pesticides awareness as a result of the training.

Kansas City Targeted Lead Campaign

In the summer of 2004, Region 7 partnered with the Kansas City (Missouri) Health Department to conduct a pilot project called the Kansas City Targeted Lead Campaign. The campaign worked to educate communities in

Kansas City, Missouri, about the dangers of lead poisoning and the importance of having children between the ages of two and six years old screened for lead poisoning. Two targeted zip codes were selected because they had the highest number of elevated blood lead levels in children under six years of age and the highest number of houses built before 1969 in Kansas City.

The campaign included outreach and education to children in daycare settings, parents and adults, and faith-based organizations. To reach children in daycare settings, the campaign included early childhood demonstrations that featured interactive, hands-on lead awareness activities. During the campaign, a total of 123 children were educated about the dangers of lead. Adults and parents were presented with a more detailed lead awareness curriculum. Results from pre-tests showed that the majority of parents had no knowledge on the subject matter. The workshop post-test results indicated that the parents who had little to no knowledge on lead poisoning were able to grasp the concept on how to protect their family members from lead poisoning.

Region 7 also provided lead publications in church bulletins at seven churches within the area, reaching more than 4,000 people. In addition, the campaign conducted a direct mailing to 10,000 residents, placed newspaper articles and advertisements, and developed radio public service announcements. The campaign concluded with a health fair sponsored by EPA, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City, and the health department. In total, this project reached approximately 78,000 people within the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Region 8

Increasing Migrant Farm Worker Protections

Region 8 is undertaking a complex, multi-tiered effort to reduce migrant farm workers' exposure to pesticides and contaminated drinking water. There are approximately 45,000 migrant farm workers in Colorado, and this group constitutes one of the least powerful and most vulnerable populations in the state. The average migrant worker's income is about $7,500. In addition, access to health care is limited, and working conditions can be hazardous. Also, great differences exist in the social, cultural, economic, political, and regulatory positions of

each of the major stakeholder groups—growers, workers, and regulators. The tensions created by these differences make developing trust among all stakeholders a critical element in the success of this project. In 2004, EPA awarded $100,000 to the Colorado Onion Association, the Farm Bureau, and Colorado Legal Services to train and educate the farm worker community on the Federal Worker Protection Standards.

Region 10

Health Risks from Bioaccumulative Shellfish Toxins

Region 10 has been involved in an initiative to understand and respond to health risks from bioaccumulative shellfish toxins in the Swinomish Tribal Community. As a result of subsistence consumption and cultural and religious practices, tribes are often exposed to higher levels of contaminants in the environment than other Americans. ORD has funded a $1.1 million grant to the Swinomish Tribal Community to study the presence of, and potential adverse impacts from, low-level chronic exposures to bioaccumulative toxins in shellfish from traditionally harvested areas.

Twenty-one such areas have been selected for shellfish and sediment sampling. All of the samples will be analyzed for polyaromatic hydrocarbons, chlorinated dioxins and furans, polychlorinated biphenyls, and heavy metals. Researchers will use tribal shellfish consumption rates for Puget Sound to determine any connection between the calculated health risks from the toxics and prevalent health issues on the Swinomish Reservation.

The results of this project are expected to help improve the health of tribal communities under evaluation, as well as provide a basis for further evaluation of these communities and other tribes in the Northwest. In general, these projects will identify the extent of contamination of tribal environments, and the extent to which this contamination can result in adverse risks to tribal health and culture. With appropriate communication, risk management approaches will be developed to reduce health and ecological risks to tribes and on tribal lands.

Protegiendo Nuestro Futuro/Protecting Our Future

In March 2004, four Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Yakima, Washington, began training farm workers on protecting themselves from pesticide exposure on farms and in their homes. Churches in Royal City, Mattawa, Toppenish, and Yakima are participating in Protegiendo Nuestro Futuro/Protecting Our Future, which targets the education specifically towards women and teen Hispanic farm workers.

The training material was developed by a number of agencies, including the Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington Department of Health, Washington Labor and Industries, and EPA Region 10 Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs. Parish

volunteers are trained in the EPA WPS and present the material in Spanish, accompanied by a visual slide show. A verbal questionnaire is conducted during the class, which provides an opportunity for open discussion. Farm workers attending the class received a WPS card, a requirement for employment in areas where pesticides have been used. Funding has been provided in part by the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops.

Community Action for a Renewed Environment

In FY 2004, the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) awarded a $35,000 grant to expand the Spanish language program for Hispanic orchardists to include hands-on experience with irrigation management strategies that can reduce pesticide inputs and improve water quality. Staff from Capacity Assurance Plan (CAP) and faculty from the Wenatchee Valley Community College Hispanic Orchard Employees Program will provide training workshops in the future. These groups are uniquely qualified to conduct the site-specific agricultural production training in a language and culture appropriate for the Hispanic farmers. A portion of the funding will be made available to cost-share on irrigation monitoring equipment for four model farms in the region, which will be used in the training sessions. Desired outcomes of the training sessions will be increased familiarity with irrigation management techniques, identification of resource needs on Hispanic orchardists' farms, and increased success in receiving Farm Bill financial assistance to address resource concerns including pest management and water quality.

International

NAFTA *Pesticides Safety Training Program*

To address the risks and needs of the agricultural labor flowing between the United States and Mexico, EPA collaborated with a consortium of interested parties from Mexico to develop a pesticide safety training program under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). More than 2,000 workers have been trained under the program.

Arctic Council Action Plan

Under the Arctic Council Action Plan (ACAP), a multilateral project on environmentally sound management of obsolete pesticide stocks in the Northern regions of Russia was implemented in FY 2003 and FY 2004. Eleven Russian regions that directly impact the Arctic were selected to participate in the first inventory, screening analysis, collection, repackaging, and temporary storage of obsolete pesticide stocks. The project's ultimate objective is environmentally sound destruction of obsolete pesticides stockpiles

to remove the threat to the public health and the environment.

Enforcement and Compliance

Headquarters

Environmental Justice—OECA *Priority*

OECA now includes environmental justice as a required element in each of its National Program Priorities for FY 2005 through 2007. Previously, environmental justice was a self-standing priority for OECA. OECA's *National Program Managers Guidance to the Headquarters and Regional Offices* (May 2004) explains that integrating environmental justice into each National Program Priority will improve the ability of the Agency to protect minority, low-income, and tribal communities. The performance-based strategies developed by the implementation teams will also incorporate environmental justice into each of their associated measures and target commitments. The specific national enforcement priorities were selected after consultation with the Enforcement Subcommittee of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) and other stakeholder groups.

First OECA *Environmental Justice Policy*

On January 12, 2004, OECA issued its first environmental justice policy, which describes how the office will support the Agency's environmental justice goal of "ensuring that no community is disproportionately placed at risk from environmental and human health threats" through integration of "environmental justice as an operating principle throughout OECA's programs, policies, and activities." It calls on OECA to emphasize the use of data, compliance tools, and enforcement actions to identify and address problems in communities with environmental justice concerns to achieve optimal environmental outcomes. It also requires that environmental justice be integrated fully into OECA's planning and budgeting processes and calls for OECA-wide training for staff and managers who are asked to ensure that environmental justice is integrated into OECA's programs.

Expansion and Clarification of the Supplemental Environmental Projects Policy

On June 11, 2003, OECA issued the Memorandum, "Expanding the Use of Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)," which urged enforcement personnel to consider every opportunity to increase the use of SEPs, particularly those that are environmentally significant. On January 5, 2004, OECA issued a second memorandum, Recommended Ideas for Supplemental Environmental Projects," which included suggestions for types of potential SEPs that might benefit communities impacted by violations and which have environmental justice concerns. Taken together, these memoranda lay the foundation for more aggressive use of environmentally significant SEPs in communities with environmental justice concerns.

Environmental Justice-Focused Initiative Under the Lead Paint Rule

OECA continues its leadership role in the federal interagency initiative to investigate and promote compliance with the Lead Paint Disclosure Rule, under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). In FY 2003, there were 11 settlements nationwide that included lead abatement SEPs. Penalties totaled $395,264, and an estimated 2,982 units have now been certified as lead-free. Many of these units were in minority or low-income communities or were significant because they were occupied by young children. In FY 2004, there were 15 administrative settlements under the Disclosure Rule, which included SEPs aimed at eliminating lead-based paint, for a total value of $4,254,057.

Lead-Based Paint Abatement Work As a SEP

On January 22, 2004, EPA's Office of Regulatory Enforcement issued the Memorandum, "Treatment of Lead-Based Paint Abatement Work as a Supplemental Environmental Project in Administrative Settlements," which endorsed extending the use of SEPs beyond judicial settlements to administrative settlements as well.

Environmental Justice SEPs

EPA achieved 14 SEPs specifically aimed at addressing environmental justice concerns in FY 2003. EPA also achieved 26 environmental justice SEPs in FY 2004. For example, Sithe New England agreed to undertake five environmental justice SEPs at a total cost of $5,129,385. Of particular note is Sithe New England's commitment to spend $3,254,496 retrofitting 500 Boston school buses with particulate matter filters and supplying them with ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel to reduce particulate matter and other harmful air pollutants from diesel fuel exhaust.

What Is a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)?

A SEP is an environmentally beneficial project that a violator of an environmental regulation agrees to undertake in lieu of a portion of the monetary penalty from enforcement. SEPs are voluntary activities, and cannot be imposed upon violators. They are designed to compensate communities that are put at risk from the environmental violations.

Settlement from Oil Production Activities Affecting Tribes

EPA and the Department of Justice reached a settlement of $5.5 million with Mobil Exploration and Producing U.S. Inc. for numerous water spills from its oil production activities in the Navajo Nation in southeastern Utah. The settlement includes a $515,000 penalty and requires the company to spend about $4.7 million of injunctive relief on field operation improvements to reduce spill incidences. Mobil will also spend approximately $327,000 on SEPs, including building sanitation facilities and constructing a drinking water supply line extension. This extension will provide running water to 17 of the remote residences located on oil production fields, whose occupants have had to drive as long

as an hour to fill 55-gallon drums with drinking water.

Region 1

Creative Settlement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Promotes Environmental Justice

In 2004, Region 1 reached a $1.4 million enforcement settlement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) that will bring significant clean air benefits to the Boston area by reducing MBTA bus idling, reducing pollution from commuter rail trains, and providing land for a bike path. MBTA is the oldest and fourth largest mass transit system in the country. It has a poor record of compliance with environmental laws. The settlement stems from a federal enforcement action against MBTA for numerous violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Clean Air Act (CAA), including illegal discharges of process water; unpermitted stormwater discharges into six Boston-area rivers; and failure to develop and implement oil spill prevention, control, and countermeasure for at least 10 MBTA facilities. The CAA violations are for excess idling of diesel buses, as diesel exhaust is a probable carcinogen that can also trigger asthma and respiratory illness. Boston has one of the highest added cancer risks from diesel exhaust in the country, and several MBTA bus yards are concentrated in poor areas of Boston with asthma hospitalization rates up to 178 percent above the state average.

Region 6

Settlements Result in Cleaner Air for School Children

The Houston Independent School District in Texas and the Calcesieu Parish School Board in Louisiana will now be able to purchase new school buses or retrofit older diesel school buses as a result of three air enforcement cases in Region 6. Ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel for the bus fleet will also be purchased. Children are particularly susceptible to the harmful impacts of ground-level ozone and smog. Clean burning fuel buses will prevent emissions that contribute to children's air toxic exposure.

Continental Carbon Company, Ponca City, Oklahoma

In response to concerns from the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma and from PACE International Union AFL-CIO concerning allegations of noncompliance at Continental Carbon, Region 6 and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) jointly conducted a multimedia inspection at Continental Carbon on June 10 and 11, 2003. The inspection reports indicate potential air violations, such as failure to meet permit and Title V requirements, potential solid waste violations, and potential stormwater violations, including failing to meet stormwater permit requirements by having carbon black

residue outside the stormwater permitted area. As a result of the inspection, ODEQ issued a Notice of Violations, and ODEQ's Air Quality Division issued a Request for Information to address areas of concern noted during the inspection for the air, solid waste, and stormwater programs. Continental Carbon coordinated with ODEQ to take appropriate steps to address the potential violations.

Region 8

Addressing Environmental Justice Through the National Environmental Policy Act

As a cooperating agency, Region 8 and the project lead agencies (i.e., Federal Highway Administration, Colorado Department of

Transportation, Regional Transit District, and the city and county of Denver) prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) for major actions significantly affecting the quality of the environment and human health of communities along the I-70 East Corridor, the Northwest Corridor, and the US 36 Corridor. EPA is participating in the EIS review process by facilitating and attending project and public meetings. Region 8 will review the EIS to determine if unacceptable levels of environmental impacts will result from the proposed project or decision and ensure that Executive Order 12898 is implemented in the National Environmental Policy Act/EIS analysis.

Community-Based Supplemental Environmental Projects

Region 8 encourages the inclusion of SEPs in the settlement of enforcement cases across the region. Where possible, the region encourages the consideration of community-based SEPs to bring resources directly to local neighborhoods. This process is yielding positive results, such as the following two examples:

1. The Sand Creek Urban Trail in Denver, Colorado, is a 13-mile long trail that gives urban residents greater access to nature and wildlife. Through funds from a SEP, this trail will be enhanced to include interpretive signage and plantings and will support volunteer efforts.

2. Open Airways for School in Pueblo, Colorado, is the only statewide asthma education program in Colorado. This program will use SEP funds to expand the program to reach 220 asthmatic children and their families to educate them about management of their condition. It will also conduct two Asthma 101 sessions.

Region 9

Sewage Case Settlement Involving Community

In one of the largest sewage cases in U.S. history, EPA, the Department of Justice, the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board, Santa Monica Baykeeper, and a coalition of Los Angeles community groups reached a $2 billion settlement with the city of Los Angeles over years of sewage spills. This settlement includes a total of $8.5 million in SEPs for projects throughout the city to restore streams and wetlands and to capture and treat polluted storm drain flows. Under the terms of the historic agreement, the city of Los Angeles will rebuild at least 488 miles of sewer lines, clean 2,800 miles of sewer annually, enhance its program to control restaurant grease discharges, increase the sewage system's capacity, and plan for future expansion. With approximately 6,500 miles of sewer lines serving almost 4 million residents, the city operates the largest sewage collection system in the country. Since 1994, the city has experienced more than 4,500 sewage spills.

South Phoenix Multimedia Toxics Reduction Project

Region 9, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the city of Phoenix, Maricopa County, and Arizona Department of Health Services embarked on a project to reduce toxic pollutants and neighborhood exposures from multiple sources (air, water, and waste) in the South Phoenix area of Arizona. The area is home to mixed-use development of industry, residential, solid waste landfills, and commercial properties. In partnership with the community representatives, the groups formed a Community Action Council (CAC) to set priorities and develop pollution reduction strategies. The project has been instrumental in identifying early pollution reduction activities, including developing a partnership with a neighborhood brick-making facility to identify strategies to reduce toxic pollutants and odor.

Region 10

Enforcement of the Lead Disclosure Rule to Protect Tenants

Region 10 settled a Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA) case against a landlord for violations of Section 1018, Title X, of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 after working for more than a year on the case.

A tip and complaint against several Portland, Oregon, landlords came from tenants through the Portland Urban League, which had received a Region 10 environmental justice small grant for health-based outreach. The tenants of the building—who had not been informed of the lead-based paint hazards when they moved in—were concerned that

lead-based paint could pose serious health threats to children or pregnant women. The properties are located in low-income neighborhoods in Portland where there is an increased likelihood of children having elevated blood-lead levels from deteriorating lead-based paint. Region 10 alleged violations at four different properties, which resulted in an agreement to pay a $32,000 penalty to settle the case.

This case involved interactions with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Attorney's Office. It serves as Region 10's first significant deterrent, and administrative penalty, failure to disclose lead-based paint hazards where children and pregnant women are involved. It is expected that this settlement will encourage others to provide the required notification and prevent poisoning where children live and play.

Multimedia

Headquarters

Framework for Cumulative Risk Assessment

ORD sponsors and coordinates the Agency Risk Assessment Forum, which is a standing committee of senior EPA scientists established to promote Agency-wide consensus on controversial risk assessments. In 2003, the Forum completed its guidance document, *Framework for Cumulative Risk Assessment*, which identifies the basic elements of the cumulative risk assessment process and provides a flexible structure for conducting and evaluating cumulative risk assessment and for addressing scientific issues related to cumulative risk.

In 2004, EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (via its Cumulative Risks/Impacts Work Group) completed work on a report titled *Ensuring Risk Reduction in Communities with Multiple Stressors: Environmental Justice and Cumulative Risks/Impacts*. The Work Group states that combining the Agency's new Cumulative Risk Framework with a collaborative problem-solving approach is the fastest and surest way to bring about tangible and sustainable benefits for disproportionately impacted communities and tribes. The framework is important because, for the first time, it opens the scope of risk assessment to include the environmental, health, social, and cultural factors that are key to understanding community risk. Within this framework, the community can enter into a dialogue about risk that realistically incorporates the factors experienced by disadvantaged, underserved, and environmentally overburdened communities and tribes.

Tribal Information Management System

In FY 2004, the Office of Environmental Information worked with the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) to expand the Tribal Information Management System (TIMS) to incorporate data from other federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Reclamation and

the Indian Health Service. The purpose of TIMS is to integrate data across media and agencies to provide EPA and tribal managers a holistic picture of environmental conditions and environmental programs. This information can be used by tribal leaders to set priorities for addressing the environmental and public health concerns facing communities on the reservations.

Tribal LifeLine Risk Assessment Project

In 2004, EPA completed its Tribal LifeLine Risk Assessment Project. Working with a consortium of Alaska Native Villages and the Blackfeet Nation in Montana, EPA developed software modules to accurately model dietary and other pesticide exposures encountered in these two unique living situations. The Agency can now conduct a risk assessments for those groups based on their traditional lifestyles. The next step is to modify the software so it can be applied to other tribes.

Region 2

Rochester Community Environmental Project, New York

The Rochester Community Environmental Project (RCEP), which began as an environmental justice geographic initiative in Region 2, is a multi-program initiative, mixing voluntary and regulatory programs, aimed at minimizing and/or reducing environmental pollutant exposures among local residents, especially children.

To date, regional accomplishments of the RCEP include: 1) conducting more than 150 inspections in the area (covering each sector of the regulated community), 2) strengthening collaboration with the Rochester City School District on the Agency's voluntary health and environmental programs to sample school drinking water for lead and reduce asthma triggers in schools and homes where students learn and live, 3) providing $71,000 in EPA grant assistance to the Rochester City School District for removal of potentially dangerous chemicals from school labs and for the school district to implement an environmental management system, 4) offering compliance assistance to small businesses to better understand regulatory requirements, 5) engaging the Rochester Institute of Technology as a partner to identify pollution prevention opportunities, and 6) administering an effective outreach campaign to local community and business organizations.

Region 3

Cumulative Risk Workshop

In 2003, Region 3 held a highly successful Cumulative Risk/Impacts Workshop in Philadelphia, attended by more than 100 people representing federal, state, and local agencies; community organizations; academic institutions; professional organizations; and

other interests. Representatives from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and Hygiene, the Food and Drug Administration, EPA-Research Triangle Park, the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, private law firms, West Harlem Environmental Action, the Philadelphia Asian American Community, Jefferson Medical College, Temple University, Exelon, and Region 3 staff served as presenters and moderators for the workshop. The presentations focused on identifying potential methodologies that can lead to risk reduction, improved identification and assessment of risk, and improved communication and cooperation among impacted and interested parties. A proceedings document was made on the Region's Web site at: <www.epa.gov/reg3ecej/environmental_justice/cumriskwkshop.htm>.

The Vinyl Chloride Project

The Region 3 Vinyl Chloride Project (formerly known as the Media Shifting Project) is a targeting approach that focuses on the movement of a chemical—in this case vinyl chloride (a known carcinogen)—through a production process and into the air, water, and waste stream. The project utilizes public health and environmental data to focus the existing regulatory framework to resolve environmental problems. It uses a multi-regional process that demonstrates flexibility in sharing and shifting resources across regions, and it is demonstrating the ability to achieve measurable reductions in harmful air, water, and hazardous waste pollution.

On July 14, 2004, Region 3 announced a $1.2 million settlement with Occidental Chemical Corp. (Oxy), located in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, to reduce vinyl chloride emissions by 26 tons (the reportable quantity for vinyl chloride is one pound). Oxy agreed to pay a $150,000 penalty and complete three supplemental environmental projects worth more than $900,000. The Pottstown community is the subject of an alleged cancer cluster currently under investigation by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In addition to an increased cancer mortality rate greater than the state average, the community also has a higher than state average of lower respiratory infection mortality rate. Montgomery County, where Pottstown is located, is in severe ozone non-attainment and within the 95th percentile for ambient vinyl chloride levels for all U.S. counties. Subsequent to the EPA/Oxy settlement, Oxy approached Region 3 to discuss a global settlement for its remaining vinyl chloride facilities.

Park Heights

The Park Heights community of Baltimore City, Maryland, has an area of concentrated commercial auto body shops. The community has expressed concerns that these facilities are possible sources of environmental pollution that adversely impact public health in an already disadvantaged neighborhood. By their nature, many of these small businesses are not currently captured in the Maryland

Department of the Environment's (MDE's) permitted/regulated facilities databases. MDE and Region 3 are working together to address the problems auto body shops present in this community through an integrated strategy.

This project involves: 1) identifying the universe of facilities in this geographic area, 2) conducting inspections at a statistically valid number of randomly selected facilities to obtain a compliance rate for this sector in this particular area, 3) providing compliance assistance and pollution prevention outreach to the entire universe of auto body shops in Park Heights, 4) conducting a self-certification program, and 5) measuring the results of the compliance assistance efforts. MDE has received funding through EPA grants and has received assistance from Region 3 to implement this strategy.

EPA's inspectors have conducted approximately 46 inspections in an effort to determine a baseline of compliance and have conducted the follow-up inspections to measure the success of the compliance assistance. The Park-Reist Corridor Community Organization, which has been working with MDE, EPA, and the city of Baltimore and which first brought the concerns to light, is the recipient of a $100,000 Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant awarded by EPA's Office of Environmental Justice.

Region 4

Community Ranking Analysis

Region 4 completed a Community Ranking Analysis for minority and low-income communities. The Community Ranking Analysis was generated using the Risk Screening Environmental Indicators model, which is based on the relative risk-related values of each county's air releases. Relative risk-related values were generated by factoring Toxic Release Inventory releases with chemical toxicity weighting, the potentially exposed population, the surrogate dosage for individuals within that population, and local meteorological and geographical models. The results are relative risk-related values that can be compared to other relative risk-related values to rank geographical communities or, in this case, counties within EPA Region 4. Region 4 staff identified the top 40 counties in the region with the highest relative risk-related values. Community demographics information and a set of health and environmental indicators were added to the 40 counties to provide a set of indicators that could be used to screen priority communities within the region. Indicators used were: 1) cancer rate trends, 2) minority population, 3) economic conditions, which include unemployment rates, 4) concentration and location of Superfund sites, 5) Clean Air Act major and synthetic minor facilities, and 6) the National Ambient Air Quality Standard Designation for Ozone. The Community Ranking Analysis is being

used as a tool to select new regional geographic initiatives and risk reduction projects. These areas are also looked upon as priorities for education and outreach initiatives and community capacity-building efforts.

International

Technical Assistance Projects—China

EPA is working on more than 25 technical assistance projects in China to help the country manage the environmental impacts of rapid urbanization and economic development. Cooperative activities focus on reducing risk by managing air pollution, including vehicle emissions and tobacco smoke, protecting watersheds and sources of drinking water, reducing industrial pollution, and the consumption of water.

Chapter 2: Outreach and Communication

Through outreach and communication activities such as regional listening sessions, conferences, public meetings, Web sites, and informational materials, EPA seeks to provide opportunities for meaningful public involvement and ensure effective communication between Agency decisionmakers and stakeholders, including all affected communities. This chapter describes the various approaches and methods used by different Agency program offices and regions to provide effective outreach and communications to address a range of environmental justice issues and advance the integration of environmental justice within EPA.

Children's Health

Region 5

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Conference

In September 2004, more than 250 state and local agency staff and managers from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin participated in the annual meeting of the Region 5 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs, "Zeroing in on Elimination." The meeting was held at Region 5's office in Chicago and was jointly hosted by Region 5 and the Chicago Department of Public Health. The objectives of the meeting were to examine initiatives developed to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010, explore and critique techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of programs, discuss primary prevention activities aimed at high-risk groups for lead hazard exposure, examine strategies to improve blood lead screening, and develop and maintain collaborative relationships among programs. One of the highlights of the two-day conference was the dialogue among federal partners (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Housing and Urban Development, and EPA) that share the 2010 Elimination Goal. Plenary speakers included representatives from the CDC Lead Poisoning Branch, the Cincinnati Children's Environmental Health Center, the University of Cincinnati, and the Alliance for Healthy Homes.

Region 7

Children's Health Protection Month

In October 2003, Region 7 planned and coordinated Children's Health Protection Month, a month-long calendar of activities aimed at educating and highlighting EPA's efforts towards enhancing the lives of children. Included in the activities were: two brown bag sessions with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, a presentation with Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, outreach and education at Lincoln University, and the Children's Health Protection Symposium. The Children's Health Protection Symposium was an opportunity for Region 7 to highlight projects and activities that work

towards children's health protection. Region 7 invited the Area Resources for Community and Human Services, a 2003 environmental justice small grantee, to participate in the symposium and share information regarding its grant and to educate people about the importance of including children in environmental education.

Clean Air

Headquarters

Tribal Air Training

In FY 2003, EPA's Office of Radiation (OAR) and Indoor Air began work with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at Northern Arizona University and the Tribal Air Monitoring Center (TAMS) to develop training in environmental radiation monitoring. A quarterly outreach newsletter was developed as a segment of this work. The newsletter includes relevant articles on the mission of TAMS as well as ongoing projects and events and is distributed to tribal air coordinators.

Region 3

Community Listening Sessions in Baltimore

In FY 2003, OAR's Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ), the Baltimore Urban League, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, and the National Transportation Center at Morgan State University initiated a project to identify and develop practices and tools to complete an analysis of environmental justice and transportation-related issues in the Baltimore area. The goal of the project is to integrate environmental justice into transportation planning as an ongoing and daily activity with meaningful community involvement throughout the project. OAR has fully funded the first phase of the project, which consists of a series of community listening sessions to identify regional environmental justice issues related to transportation. Depending upon the findings of the first phase sessions, as well as research exploring other model efforts to address these issues and the availability of future resources, the second phase will consist of refining or developing new analytic tools to be used in the regional transportation planning process.

Water

Headquarters

Annual Forum on Contaminants in Fish

The "Annual Forum on Contaminants in Fish" took place January 25-28, 2004, in San Diego, California. Representatives of 48 states, 14 tribes, seven federal agencies, several Canadian provinces, and other interested organizations attended the forum. The forum provided an opportunity for risk managers to meet and discuss the latest science and public health policies regarding the risks and benefits associated with fish consumption. One of the primary agenda topics for the forum was

assessing effective outreach strategies for reaching high-risk populations, such as women and children and minority, as well as low-income, and tribal populations.

Mapping Tools

EPA has developed several mapping tools that can bring together water program data from multiple offices. For example, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System program has created a mapping tool that allows users to screen permitted facilities for discharges to impaired waters and identify whether these discharges might contain pollutants that contribute to the impaired waters.

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities

The National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities creates significant positive impacts in small and rural communities by developing and delivering training courses on wastewater, drinking water, and solid waste to environmental trainers and state and local officials. EPA provided approximately $4 million in grant funding to support the activities of this center from FY 2001 through FY 2004.

Rural Community Assistance Program

The Rural Community Assistance Program, a network of nonprofit organizations, provides community-specific information and technical assistance at no cost. The goal of the program is to improve the ability of rural communities to plan, design, operate, and maintain wastewater systems. EPA provided $6.5 million in grant funding to support the activities of this program from FY 2001 through FY 2004. During the past four fiscal years, this program has provided assistance to 728 wastewater projects and held more than 50 workshops for rural communities in 45 states, serving more than 400,000 rural residents.

Source Water Protection Outreach by National Black Environmental Justice Network

In FY 2004, EPA's Office of Water provided a $25,000 grant to the National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN) to develop a consortium addressing source water protection in communities with environmental justice issues. The NBEJN is a consortium of grassroots organizations that work nationally on environmental justice issues. NBEJN has an interest in drinking water issues from an ethnic and rural perspective. NBEJN also partners with black farmers to focus on farming and source water issues.

Outreach to Local Disadvantaged Communities Regarding Aquatic Resources

One of the most effective ways of achieving environmental justice is for community members to better understand the importance of water quality to their health and neighborhood. Such understanding encourages the community to take a direct role in protecting its aquatic resources. EPA's Office of Water

(OW) has an active program of conducting outreach to schools and other organizations in low-income and minority communities. For example, for the last three years, OW's Wetlands Division has partnered with Region 3, the District of Columbia Department of Health's "Living Classrooms," and others to conduct a "Wetlands Day" at a Washington, DC youth camp. OW also looks for opportunities to work with communities interested in restoring their wetlands and other aquatic resources. For example, staff worked with a group of fourth and fifth graders from PR Harris Education Center on an educational project to restore wetlands plants at Kingman Lake on the Anacostia River in Washington, DC. In addition, OW participates in community fairs in lower-income and minority communities.

Region 3

Environmental Justice/Chesapeake Bay Listening Sessions

An environmental justice listening session was held in conjunction with Region 3's Environmental Justice Forum, held in March 2003. Approximately 40 stakeholders representing community groups and organizations across the region; federal, state and local governments; academic institutions; business and industry; and private citizens attended the event. Action items included: 1) developing strategies to ensure the participation of minority and low-income residents in Chesapeake Bay activities, 2) identifying basic resource needs in low-income and minority communities around the Bay, and 3) continuing to educate and reach out to minority and low-income communities in the Bay watershed. Information regarding fishing advisories, fish consumption, water resources, and water quality provided attendees with valuable information regarding the risks associated with the consumption of locally caught fish, exposure to contaminants in Bay watershed waters, and opportunities to participate in projects designed to address these concerns.

Outreach to Academic Institutions

A major part of Region 3's environmental justice program is its outreach to academic institutions. The regional office believes that this outreach is important because it provides education and training to faculty and students on various issues related to environmental justice, and it provides opportunities to develop additional partnerships around the region. Over the years, the region has developed lasting and meaningful relationships with faculty and students attending these presentations. For 2003 and 2004, the region participated in forums, gave class presentations, and interacted in other ways with Morgan State University, the University of Delaware, Temple University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Region 6

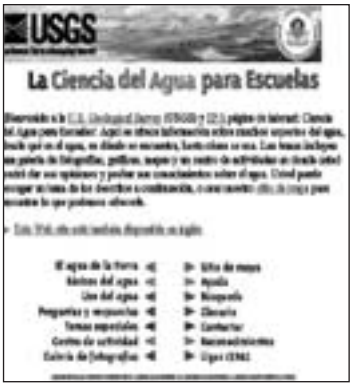
Hildalgo County, Texas, Safe Drinking Water Project

Through an Interagency Agreement, EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD),

OW, and the Department of Health and Human Services/Health Resources and Services Administration co-funded a project to educate health care providers, *promotores* and residents of Hidalgo County, Texas, on issues related to drinking water contamination. Within the first year of funding, the Hidalgo Safe Drinking Water Project helped educate 50 health care professionals, 23 *promotores*, and more than 500 households. The program included establishing a Border Safe Drinking Water Council, comprised of local water supplier officials, Texas Department of Health epidemiologists, physicians (Hidalgo County and Mexico), nurses (including school nurses), *promotores*, and representatives from sister cities in Mexico.

Water Science for Schools Web Site

As part of an ongoing commitment to foster an informed, educated, and supportive public sector, Region 6 and the U.S. Geological Survey collaborated to provide a Spanish translation of an Web site named "Water Science for Schools." This educational resource contains a wealth of information for anyone seeking to understand water resources. Teachers, students, community members, elected officials, and water professionals can find information tailored to their interests. The site includes photographs, maps, an interactive center to test users' water knowledge, and numerous links to other reliable sources of information. The site can be reached at: http://water.usgs.gov/gotita/ (Spanish) or http://water.usgs.gov/droplet (English).



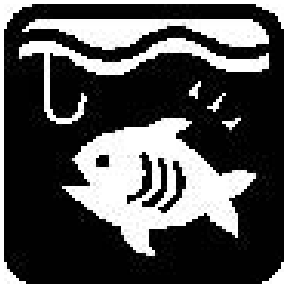
Tribal Drinking Water Newsletter

Region 6 began publishing and distributing a tribal drinking water newsletter for all Region 6 tribes that own or operate public water systems. The newsletter contains articles submitted by EPA-funded water quality technical assistance providers regarding technical assistance successes and future training opportunities for tribal water system operators. The newsletter also graphically presents tribal drinking water compliance trends over the previous 24-month period, discusses drinking water regulatory compliance issues, and highlights tribal drinking water utilities and tribal water system operators that are improving the quality and safety of drinking water served to their communities.

Region 7

Mercury Risk Communication and Fish Consumption Workshops

On July 8, 2004, Region 7 coordinated two Mercury Risk Communication and Fish Consumption workshops in collaboration with ORD. More than 50 people attended the workshops, which were intended to inform and educate people about the risk of mercury contamination in fish. Consuming fish that



contain mercury has the potential to cause health effects, especially for vulnerable populations such as women of childbearing age, pregnant women, and anglers that eat their catch. While ORD contractors facilitated the workshops, regional experts in mercury from EPA and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services served as additional resources.

Solid and Hazardous Waste

Headquarters

Annual Brownfields Conference

EPA's Office Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) sponsored an annual Brownfields Conference in 2003 and 2004. The conferences included a session on environmental justice and community caucus, which afforded conference participants the opportunity to meet with OSWER senior managers on issues that directly affect low-income and minority Brownfields communities. The conferences effectively incorporated community-based perspectives into a majority of the panel sessions.

All-Appropriate Inquiry Rule

OSWER's Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Revitalization (OBCR) held the Agency's first regulatory negotiation in more than a decade. OBCR formed a federal advisory panel to assist in the development of the All-Appropriate Inquiry Rule. The advisory panel included representatives from locally and nationally based environmental justice organizations.

Region 3

Pittsburgh Brownfields Pilot

In July 2004, Region 3 gave a presentation as part of a training for the Pittsburgh Brownfields Pilot Project that focused on environmental justice, Brownfields assessment and cleanup, and public and environmental health concerns. The training merged Brownfields and environmental and public health goal-setting objectives into a community development context. It also facilitated learning actual real estate development skills and techniques that can be deployed to redevelop Brownfields. The trainees included community organizations and community development corporations interested or engaged in redevelopment issues and projects. The workshop focused on: 1) environmental justice and community visioning, 2) environment and public health in the context of cleanup standards and environmental assessments, and 3) Brownfields financing via public and private sector funding sources/mechanisms including loans, tax incentives, and programs and grants. Approximately 25 people from community groups and organizations participated in the program, as well as state and local governmental personnel.

Region 6

Booker Landfill, Houston, Texas

Region 6 conducted stakeholder meetings that included the Bureau of Epidemiology, the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (Houston and Austin regions), Harris County Water Production, the Harris County Health Department, and representatives from the Houston Mayor's office. The regional office also conducted a site assessment of the Booker Landfill located in Houston. An 800 number was established for the benefit of the local impacted community, which has an 80 percent minority population and a 30 percent low-income population.

Region 10

Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site

In Region 10, the Georgetown community near the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site is comprised of a low-income, minority, and tribal population. To help respond to the environmental justice concerns of the community, EPA created a document called Environmental Justice Resources for the Duwamish Community in March 2003. This document lists the EPA and Washington State Department of Ecology resources and was provided to a number of community contacts and posted on the EPA Web site. Also in March 2003, six EPA employees met with the director of the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ), a local community-based organization, to provide information about cumulative risk studies. After that meeting, EPA provided additional information to CCEJ, including a report on air toxics monitoring in Georgetown. Due to the diversity of the community, many of the educational and informational materials on the EPA site were translated into a variety of languages.

International

Solid Waste Management Planning in South Africa

As a result of the post-apartheid change in government in South Africa, formerly segregated communities now function as parts of newly integrated municipalities. Due to this new organization, areas that once received little or no municipal solid waste services are now part of larger municipal solid waste planning districts. In February 2003, two representatives from Region 3 traveled to Cape Town and Hermanus, South Africa, to conduct municipal solid waste management planning training for provincial, municipal, and local governmental officials, the Municipal Councilors, community and non-governmental organizations, and other impacted parties. This training was then followed by a facilitated planning discussion lead by EPA staff, designed to assist the Cape Town Regional governments in developing a municipal solid waste management needs assessment and management plan for developing an integrated solid waste management plan for the entire area.

Toxics

Headquarters

Toxics Release Inventory Report

EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI) manages the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), which is a publicly accessible EPA database containing information regarding toxic chemicals that are being used, manufactured, treated, transported, or released into the environment in the United States. This information is useful to those who feel their community might be a victim of environmental injustice. OEI created a report on how citizens and others can use TRI to understand information about toxic and hazardous chemicals in their communities. The report, *How Are the Toxics Release Inventory Data Used?* can be found at: <www.epa.gov/tri/guide_docs/2003_datausepaper.pdf>.

Pesticides Safety Training and Education

In 2003, more than 50 educators received training on pesticide safety as well as outreach techniques. These educators then used their knowledge to reach out to approximately 20,000 farm workers to provide safety training. Begun in 1995, this training is one of the Office of Pesticides Programs' largest programs to train farm workers. Through grants to the Association of Farm Workers Opportunity Programs, which trains full-time educators to teach agricultural workers and their families on how to reduce the risks from pesticide hazards, nearly 350,000 farm workers and their families have been trained.

Pesticides Guidelines for Health Care Providers

For the past five years, EPA has been working in partnership with the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation on a national initiative to improve the recognition, management, and prevention of pesticide-related health conditions by health care providers in the United States. As tools to help reach this goal, the National Pesticide Competency Guidelines for Medical and Nursing Education and the National Pesticide Practice Skills Guidelines for Medical and Nursing Practice were published in 2003.

Region 3

HUD 2004 *National Fair Housing Conference*

In June 2004, a Region 3 representative served on an environmental justice panel at the 2004 Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) National Fair Housing Conference held in Washington, DC. More than 2,000 participants representing HUD offices and facilities around the country attended the event. Representatives of two communities participated in a panel that focused on the history of environmental justice, case studies, environmental and public health, and visions for the future.

Region 5

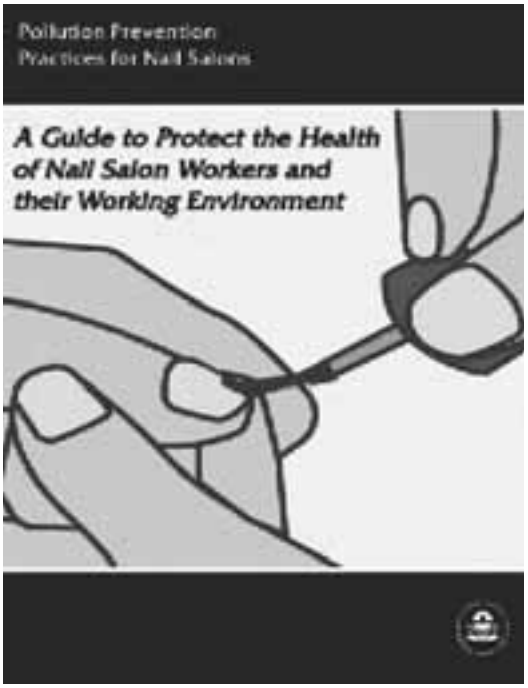
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Healthy Environments Conference

In September 2004, Region 5 co-sponsored the "Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Healthy Environments" Conference for nurses and other health professionals. The conference was a result of a collaborative effort, led by the Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety, and including Health Care Without Harm, the Maternal and Child Health Program at the University of Illinois School of Public Health, the Mid-America Public Health Training Center, Region 5, and others. The goal of the conference was to raise the awareness of nurses to reduce toxic waste generation in healthcare settings and to provide education about environmental risks to pregnant women and young children due to lead and mercury exposure and asthma. Approximately 60 attendees participated in the conference, including representatives from Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and the Mille Lacs Band of the Ojibwe Tribe.

Region 6

Nail Salon Project

In July 2004, Region 6, in collaboration with EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics and Office of Administration and Resources Management, released a booklet titled *Pollution Prevention Practices for Nail Salons: A Guide to Protect the Health of Nail Salon Workers and Their Working Environment* to educate nail



salon workers and owners about the potential hazards of chemical substances present in nail products and recommend best management practices to reduce or eliminate health and environmental risks in their shops. About 5,000 English and 13,000 Vietnamese copies have been printed and distributed to nail care stakeholders nationwide.

Region 7

St. Louis Environmental Justice Listening Session

Region 7 held an environmental justice listening session in St. Louis to provide an opportunity for the public to engage in meaningful dialogue with EPA to share their environmental justice concerns related to the environment, health, and quality of life. The listening sessions are a series of interactive, solution-oriented dialogues conducted with the community and in partnership with government representatives. Some of the major concerns identified and discussed were: 1) high blood lead levels in children, especially in minority and low-income populations, 2) air quality issues, 3) subsequent health problems such as asthma, and 4) community revitalization. As a result of the session, participants were able to voice their concerns to EPA and agreed to collaborate to address the issues most important to them. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources—a key participant—and EPA are continuing to work with the public to listen to and address concerns. Region 7 will continue to host listening sessions throughout the four states in the region.

Region 10

For Healthy Kids/Para Nina Saludables

In Region 10, the "For Healthy Kids/Para Nina Saludables" project brought pesticide safety education into Hispanic farm worker homes in the Yakima Valley, Washington. This intervention program was a combination of toxicology and sociology to qualitatively assess the pesticide residues taken home by farm workers to their children on clothing and in dust. Intensive, culturally appropriate educational messages delivered by local *promotores* in homes, in churches, and through community activities relayed work and home safety practices that the workers could implement to help protect their families.

Region 10 participated on the Community Advisory Board, developed by the project coordinators at the University of Washington Center for Children's Environmental Health Risks and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The second phase of the project was approved by ORD and the National Institutes of Health in 2003, and a grant award was finalized in 2004. This second phase will continue to evaluate the patterns of pesticide exposures in farm worker families, but it will expand to Hispanic workers on fruit packing lines and also look at exposure levels in non-agricultural populations of the Yakima Valley to establish background levels. A kickoff of the work was held on October 13, 2004.

Outreach and Education to Hispanic Populations in Northern Oregon

Region 10 has been involved with several outreach and education efforts, along with local partners, for the Hispanic population in the area. In 2004, information about perchlorate contamination of ground water in Ambitiously and Morrow Counties was translated into Spanish, carried in the Spanish media, distributed at Spanish-speaking churches, and distributed at a Cinco de Mayo event. In this same geographic area, a neighborhood education effort on nitrate in ground water, including a focused component for Spanish-speaking populations, was designed in FY 2004 and will be implemented in FY 2005. According to the 2000 census, 16.1 percent of Ambitiously County and 24.4 percent of Morrow County are Hispanic/Latino—approximately 15,000 people.

International

Lead Awareness Theater Production

Since September 2003, the Office of International Affairs has sponsored an annual theater production designed to reach the 60 percent of South Africans who cannot read or write. This comedic play relays the risks and dangers of overexposure to lead and educates citizens on South Africa's plan to phase out lead in gasoline by January 2006. EPA plans to professionally videotape the play for distribution to other African countries that are also making the transition to unleaded gasoline. Through this project, community awareness of lead is rising and health effects of lead, particularly on children's health, are being communicated to the affected community.

Enforcement and Compliance

Headquarters

Community Involvement in Supplemental Environmental Projects

On June 17, 2003, EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance issued the Interim Guidance for Community Involvement in Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). This document encourages EPA personnel to involve communities in SEPs by seeking their ideas for potential SEPs or identifying environmental or human health issues facing their communities that might be addressed through a SEP. Although not specifically an environmental justice initiative, this guidance is expected to help create bridges between EPA and communities with environmental justice issues that may be affected by facility violations.

Enforcement and Environmental Compliance Effort, Paterson, New Jersey

Identifying a high number of regulated businesses located in close proximity to residential neighborhoods in the city of Paterson in Passaic County, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection launched a two-phase compliance and enforcement effort in September 2003. The initial effort focused on

community outreach and on providing assistance to the city's known and potentially regulated individuals, businesses, and government operations. The New Jersey's Department of Commerce, the Paterson Chamber of Commerce, and Region 2 conducted a total of 98 compliance assistance visits and provided 425 facilities with assistance materials or informational sessions. The second phase of the enforcement effort, which was conducted with assistance from the Passaic County Health Department, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, and EPA, involved a large-scale inspection of more than 1,000 sites throughout the city.

Region 6

Border Compliance Assistance Center

In partnership with Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and the National Center for Manufacturing Science, Region 6 provides support to the Border Compliance Assistance Center. The Border Center is an innovative resource for providing compliance information (in both English and Spanish) to *maquiladoras* and small businesses involved in importing hazardous waste from Mexico to the United States. The purpose of the center is to eliminate the hesitancy of regulated entities in seeking information and assistance when trying to comply with environmental regulations. By doing so, the center seeks to ensure that hazardous waste is properly handled so that the communities in the area are not negatively impacted. Other partners in this program include Region 9, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the four border states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. To help evaluate its effectiveness, the center posted a survey and is seeking input from the public on its FY 2004 services and information.

Multimedia

Headquarters

Facility Registry System Improvements

The Facility Registry System (FRS) is a centrally managed database available on the EPA Web site that responds to the increasing demand for access to high-quality information and the public need for one source of comprehensive environmental information about any geographic location in the United States. FRS is set up to: 1) reduce the long-term reporting burden for facilities, states, tribes, and programs, 2) improve data quality by helping to reduce errors in state, tribal and Agency facility information, 3) provide better tools for cross-media environmental analysis, 4) provide better public access to the Agency's environmental information, and 5) give facilities the flexibility to

review and update their identification information. OEI recently completed a four-tiered strategy that includes near-term steps to improve data through acquiring better street source data, develop a locational application tool, integrate the locational tool into the Central Data Exchange, improve the locational policy and standards associated with collecting locational information, and ensure that this policy is implemented in new technologies, such as global positioning systems. These improvements will help both the Agency and the public to better assess the potential impacts of facilities on communities. This information is useful to those who feel their community might be a victim of environmental injustice.

Research Apprenticeship Program for High School Students

Together, ORD in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, and Shaw University in Raleigh created a Research Apprenticeship Program for high school students in 1990 to address the under-representation of minorities in the fields of science and engineering. The objective of the program is to encourage students to pursue advanced degrees in math, science, and engineering. This goal is accomplished by: 1) enriching the scientific and mathematic concepts that students study in the classroom, 2) providing students the opportunity to interact with scientists and engineers, 3) developing effective scientific research and technical skills, and 4) enhancing students' motivation, self-confidence, and desire to achieve in the fields of math, science, and engineering. Students participating in the Research Apprenticeship Program must live in Wake County, North Carolina, and be in grades 9 through 12. Students must maintain high academic performance in high school in order to remain in the program.

Minority Institution-Based Centers

Two university centers focusing on minority issues, originally established as targeted programs, are now being supported through EPA's annual budget, primarily to serve the particular research needs of minority and disadvantaged communities. The centers address issues such as environmental justice, risk perception and risk communication, and correlations between socio-economic status and exposure to environmental contaminants. The Center for Environmental Resource Management at the University of Texas at El Paso focuses on education, outreach, and research to support analyses and remediation of critical Superfund-related environmental issues. The Institute for Environmental Issues and Policy Assessment/Center for Energy and Environmental Studies at Southern University at Baton Rouge supports research on environmental issues and policy assessments, including environmental justice.

Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban Environments

The Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban Environments is led by Johns Hopkins University, along with the University of Maryland, Morgan State University, the University of Connecticut, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The center, headquartered at Johns Hopkins University, has identified "urban livability" as a strategic research priority for EPA Regions 1, 2, and 3. The center has developed a research program to promote a better understanding of physical, chemical, and biological processes for detecting, assessing, and managing risks posed by contaminated soil, water, sediments, and airborne particles. The center is also presently offering training and technical assistance on Brownfields, which is especially relevant to communities with environmental justice issues. The program is managed by ORD through the Science To Achieve Results (STAR) grants program and is jointly funded by ORD and OSWER.

Indigenous Environmental Higher Education Network

EPA is assisting the American Indian Higher Education Consortium in developing an Indigenous Environmental Higher Education Network to include about 40 key points of contact in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Latin America. This network of environmental educators is intended to help address common challenges and goals of indigenous populations.

Greening Indian Country

In 2003 and 2004, under a general heading of "Greening Indian Country," EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics sought to enhance awareness and use of pollution prevention in Indian country. Specific elements of its initiative included developing a brochure on the world-class casino Mohegan Sun as a pollution prevention success story. Also in 2004, EPA completed a design for a "tribal portal" for the Pollution Prevention Exchange Internet Information Network to establish a tribal sector hub to provide pollution prevention information access to Indian country.

Region 1

Science of Environmental Justice Conference

Region 1, in conjunction with the Boston University School of Public Health, hosted a two-day working conference sponsored by ORD's regional science program, "Science to Action: Community-Based Participatory Research and Cumulative Risk Analysis as Tools to Advance Environmental Justice in Urban, Suburban and Rural Communities." The conference was held at Boston University on May 25-26, 2004, with the goal of providing an interactive forum for scientists, technical experts, community leaders, nonprofit groups, academia, and government representatives. Participants discussed current, national, and community-based participatory research efforts helping to assess, address, and resolve environmental and public health risks in potential environmental justice areas of con-

cern. Plenary forums addressed the two major conference themes: 1) assessing and understanding cumulative risk in environmental justice communities and 2) community-based participatory research in urban, suburban, and rural environmental justice communities. Concurrent panel sessions focused on the topics of air toxics, asthma, children's environmental health, land-based risks, and water quality. Information and details regarding the conference proceedings and final outcomes can be found at: http://epa.gov/osp/regions/workshops.htm.

Outreach Efforts to Small and Disadvantaged Businesses

Region 1 has strategically focused outreach efforts to the Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SDBE) companies. Such efforts have included: 1) participating in four trade shows in Bridgeport, New Haven, and Laddered, Connecticut, and in Manchester, New Hampshire, and 2) conducting informational sessions, business planning sessions, one-on-one counseling sessions, and a procurement seminar. Although the region has not awarded any contracts to date, more SDBE companies have expressed interest in doing business with EPA and have been added to an internal database of sources. In 2004, the region increasingly used simplified acquisition procedures to fulfill a number of Superfund site-specific requirements by using the issuance of purchase orders to SDBEs.

Region 2

EPA *and the University of the Virgin Islands Co-Host St. Croix Community Dialogue*

On March 17, 2003, Region 2, in partnership with the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) Cooperative Extension Services, convened a community dialogue event at the UVI-St. Croix

campus facility. The goal for this meeting was two-fold: 1) enhance and establish lines of communication among environmental regulatory officials and the public to become better educated on the issues facing the local communities and inform participants of the role government performs in addressing these concerns, and 2) identify, develop, and implement actions or activities for EPA and local government regulators to be responsive to the community. In comparison to previous EPA-sponsored public forums in the islands, this event had an exceptional turnout and level of participation from the community beyond the region's expectation. More than 100 participants attended, representing civic organizations, environmental justice advocates, local government departments, academicians, leg-

islative officials, and the public. In addition, local newspaper and radio media covered the event.

Bovoni Housing Community, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Region 2 and other government officials met with members of the Bovoni Homeowners Association to discuss potential environmental impacts and public health concerns attributable to the operation of industrial facilities within the area. This community listening session focused attention on the Bovoni Landfill. Officials from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) participated at the event, along with a Georgia-based community advocacy group, Citizens for Environmental Justice, to assist in facilitating the discussion. The session was successful in that ATSDR pledged to return shortly to train local physicians and nurses with the Virgin Islands Health Department on the topic of environmental health awareness. In addition, these same attendees will receive public health consultation and participate in EPA-sponsored training seminars. Support was offered to have the Virgin Islands Health Department conduct a health screening (such as was performed in St. Croix several years prior). Other steps promised by officials included educating residents on toxicology and checking the health records of animals in the area, seeking funding for a health survey and data analysis for local health ministries as well as privately funded grants for the Bovoni Homeowners Association.

Region 4

Environmental Justice Listening Sessions

Region 4 hosted an environmental justice listening session at the 2003 and 2004 Florida Brownfields Conferences. The August 2003 conference included a keynote address by Region 4's Regional Administrator, who addressed environmental justice as it relates to Brownfields redevelopment efforts. This session also included discussions on identifying environmental justice issues as they relate to Brownfields.

Region 6

Border Environmental Justice Roundtable

The Border Environmental Justice Roundtable was hosted by Region 6, the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, and the U.S.-Mexico Border Program on September 16, 2003 in El Paso, Texas. The roundtable began with a tour of several El Paso areas with environmental challenges, providing participants with a first-hand look at several sites impacted by environmental problems and increasing everyone's understanding of the conditions in which the residents live. Twenty-five grassroots community representatives from various Region 6 border areas were invited to participate in the roundtable to discuss pertinent environmental justice issues affecting their communities. The meeting enabled EPA senior leaders to become better acquainted with border environmental

issues and the people who are most impacted by those problems. The issues raised by the attendees have been addressed by Region 6 staff, and an ongoing dialogue between Region 6 and the affected communities has been taking place since the event. Region 6 is planning a followup roundtable, which will include community and EPA representatives from Region 9.

Environmental Statutes Training for Border Communities

Region 6 assisted in a training course on the basics of the environmental statutes, held in El Paso, Texas in July 2004. The training, for grassroots community groups in the entire border area from both the United States and Mexico, was conducted bilingually. Funded by a U.S.-Mexico Border Program grant, this innovative, interactive training was conducted by the Environmental Law Institute, with the assistance of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice to demystify the law.

Region 7

Haskell Indian Nations University Recruitment

Region 7 participated in the Haskell Indian Nation University Career Fair, held at Haskell University in Lawrence, Kansas, on March 11, 2004. The Region's cross-media recruitment effort was supported by the Region 7 and Haskell Indian Nation University Memorandum of Agreement. The primary focus was to recruit students for summer employment as interns for EPA. More than 150 students received information on EPA's recruitment program, and more than 25 Native American

students interviewed and submitted resumes. Students toured Region 7's exhibit and visited with representatives from more than 40 federal agencies and state and local businesses that showcased educational and career brochures and pamphlets. Four temporary summer interns were hired in 2003 and 2004 as a result of recruitment.

Region 8

Earth Force Youth Summit

Region 8 reached out to more than 1,000 young people as part of the Youth Summit sponsored by Frontrange Earth Force, a local non-profit organization committed to youth education and environmental issues in their communities. The students, in grades 3 to 12, came together to share, learn, and speak out about their projects. Together with their partners, Denver Urban Gardens, Adams County School District, the city and county of Denver, the University of Denver, EPA Environmental Education, the National Renewable Energy Laboratories, the National Wildlife Federation, Denver Water, Colorado People's Environmental and Economic Network, and others, the students had an opportunity to learn about environmental justice and other vital environmental issues that affect their communities. EPA hopes that, with these experiences, the students will develop life-long habits of active citizenship and environmental stewardship.

Region 9

Presentations and Community Environmental Justice Tours

Region 9 offered its insights and observations on the issue of environmental justice in a number of California events, including: 1) a Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance Workshop in San Diego, 2) an Environmental Justice Forum in Clear Lake , 3) a Tribal Conference in Pechanga, and 4) an Environmental Justice Conference in Richmond. In addition, in 2003 and 2004, Region 9 participated in a number of community-led environmental justice tours in West Oakland, Contra Costa County, and Los Angeles, to help increase the understanding of environmental justice at a local level and make the issues confronting communities more tangible.

Region 10

Extensive Surveys on Indian Lands

EPA representatives visited each Native American reservation in Region 10 as part of the "Multimedia Applicability Study." The Agency conducted an inventory and compiled a list of facilities in cooperation with tribal members. Furthermore, EPA evaluated which environmental programs were applicable to each facility and mapped the location using the global positioning system. Hundreds of environmental issues have been addressed and rectified as a result of this effort.

Pogo Mine Project Near Delta Junction, Alaska

In August 2000, Region 10 received a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application for the Pogo Mine project near Delta Junction, Alaska. Because the mine was a new source, it was necessary for EPA to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to issuing a permit for the facility. To identify minority and low-

income populations in the potentially affected project area, EPA used the most recently available census data (1990). This analysis, coupled with the collection of anecdotal data in Delta Junction and the surrounding area, suggested that three population groups—Alaska Natives and Russian and Korean immigrants—warranted further research to ensure compliance with Executive Order 12898. EPA conducted special outreach efforts related to environmental justice in completing the EIS sections on socioeconomics, land use, subsistence, and cultural resources. EPA also made special efforts to encourage individual tribal members (outside of the government) to identify issues of concern during the scoping process. To make sure the Russian community could participate meaningfully, a translator was hired to translate information into Russian, and the Russian Orthodox minister served as a liaison with the Russian community. Because the Korean population in the area is fluent in English, EPA determined that its normal outreach efforts would adequately address this demographic group. The final NPDES Permit was issued in March 2004.

Other

International

Center for Environmental Cooperation-Indigenous Peoples Coordination

The Center for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and the Biodiversity Conservation Working Group are working to "explore innovative mechanisms to consider the compatibility of biodiversity conservation with traditional lifestyles and needs" (Council Resolution 03-06). In 2004, CEC held a meeting of indigenous groups and local communities aimed at the CEC's capacity-building efforts to address the challenges of biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in the region. This activity will: 1) explore mechanisms for exchange of information among indigenous and non-indigenous peoples from the United States, Canada, and Mexico on natural resource conservation and management policies and practices, 2) identify capacity-building, training, and networking needs and priorities for indigenous groups and local communities engaged in conservation and management practices related to CEC's biodiversity activities, and 3) identify means by which traditional environmental knowledge and local environmental knowledge can be incorporated into CEC's species and spaces initiatives.

Information Exchange Network

In 2003 and 2004, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and EPA strengthened a partnership to sponsor the Chemicals Information Exchange Network, which provides training on Internet-based chemical information for chemical management officials and global stakeholders. This access provides a forum for stakeholder discussion on chemicals management, strengthens the public ability to harmonize chemical

regulations, increases understanding of sound chemical management practices in the private sector, and assists chemical managers and non-governmental organizations in the development of targeted public awareness programs.

Environmental Training Program

In 2003 and 2004, EPA conducted 13 international environmental training courses in such countries as El Salvador, South Africa, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, Brazil, the Netherlands, Serbia-Montenegro, and the Philippines. EPA's international environmental training program consists of more than 20 modules, each using a three-step process and a combination of case studies, exercises, and other interactive methods to teach the fundamentals of specific environmental management techniques. Drawn from a broad range of public and private organizations within the host country, participants in the training typically include representatives from national, state, and local governments as well as universities, trade associations, and other non-governmental organizations. After completion of the training, host country officials are expected to follow up with participants at three-month, six-month, and one-year intervals to determine the extent to which skills acquired during the training have been used to achieve environmental results in that country.

Visitor Tours

In 2003 and 2004, EPA's Office of International Affairs sponsored or hosted several study tours for representatives from various countries to exchange information on environmental issues of mutual interest. For example, the United States hosted South African public, private, and inter-governmental officials in October 2003. The trip provided the group information on the U.S. experience regarding lead phase-out, broader air quality issues that can be addressed once lead is removed, emissions controls and pollution prevention options for refineries, and approaches to environmental justice issues. The arrangement also solidified business linkages between the United States and South Africa. As a followup, experts from the United States, including a representative of EPA's environmental justice program, traveled to South Africa to witness various issues first-hand and recommend strategies to address the issues.

Dignitary Site Visit to Chester, Pennsylvania

In February 2004, a site visit was coordinated among Region 3; the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; the city of Chester, Pennsylvania; and a number of community residents for the purpose of providing information and insight on environmental justice to a representative of the Italian Environmental Ministry. The Italian representative had indicated that environmental justice was a growing concern in Italy, and he had requested a first-hand tour of an area of environmental justice concern. The group assembled and took the Italian representative on a driving tour of Chester, followed by a meeting with representatives of the various groups in Chester, where he asked questions about the issues at hand. Citizen organizations, Region 3, the city of Chester, and a number of city residents gave presentations.

Chapter 3: Environmental Justice Training

EPA recognizes the importance of training its managers and staff to enable them to effectively incorporate environmental justice considerations into their everyday activities and decisionmaking. The Agency also recognizes the need to educate other government officials, the regulated community, and the public about environmental justice. For these reasons, the Agency sponsors or supports a variety of environmental justice training courses, workshops, and seminars. This chapter provides an overview of the various types of environmental justice training offered by the Agency and gives examples of how EPA's regional and program offices are using training to enhance the integration of environmental justice into the Agency's and other stakeholders' programs, policies, and operations.

General

Headquarters

Air Office Staff Training

Since May 2002, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, has offered voluntary training on the fundamentals of environmental justice to all of it is 300 staffers, as well as external stakeholders. In FY 2003, OAQPS met its goal of offering the workshop twice yearly and trained at least 60 individuals. OAQPS staff also assisted the Office of Environmental Justice in conducting four workshops at EPA Headquarters.

International Affairs Office Staff Training

In July 2004, EPA's Office of International Affairs provided environmental justice training to nearly 71 percent of its staff. In addition to training on the fundamentals of environmental justice, the course focused on environmental justice in the international context. Additional environmental justice training specific to international work is being planned.

Environmental Information Office Staff Training

In FY 2003, EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI) worked with a vendor to develop an environmental justice training program tailored to the unique mission, functions, and needs of OEI. OEI will deploy this training program in June 2005, with the assistance of EPA's Office of Environmental Justice's trainers. The training will be conducted to ensure that OEI employees understand how to integrate environmental justice into OEI's programs and operations.

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Office Staff Training

In 2004, approximately 340 employees in EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) received training on the fundamentals of environmental justice. The one-day training was provided to the OECA

offices and included how environmental justice principles can be specifically applied to the activities in each office. The environmental justice training is required of all OECA employees as noted in the January 2004 OECA environmental justice policy. The main goal of the training is to ensure that OECA personnel utilize the available opportunities to effectively, efficiently, and consistently address issues frequently associated with environmental justice in their daily work (e.g., targeting actions, assessing penalties, developing SEPs).

Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances Office Staff Training

In 2004, in collaboration with the Office of Environmental Justice, EPA's Office of Pesticides Programs taught more than 80 staff members and managers about environmental justice and the thought process for identifying environmental justice issues.

Solid Waste and Emergency Response Office Staff Training

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response's (OSWER's) environmental justice training team provided training to more than 100 people in FY 2003 and FY 2004. Participants included internal OSWER managers and staff, as well as outside stakeholders such as the state of Maryland's Department of Environmental Protection and participants at the EPA Community Involvement Conference.

Region 1

Region 1 Staff Training

As part of Region 1's environmental justice action plan, the region launched an internal environmental justice training program to raise awareness and understanding of environmental justice principles. Nearly 98 percent of Region 1's workforce has been trained. Based on staff feedback, the curriculum was modified to better reflect regional needs and interests. The training consisted of several modules ranging from defining environmental justice to role-playing in a public involvement workshop. Modules highlighted regional and national environmental justice cases and achievements. The training also included a presentation of Region 1's environmental justice desktop mapping tool to familiarize staff. The environmental justice Awareness Training Course has been added to the core curriculum for all new Region 1 staff to ensure that new employees have the same understanding of environmental justice.

Region 2

Albany Law School Workshop

In March 2004, Region 2—along with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and EPA's Office of Environmental Justice—provided a "Fundamentals of Environmental Justice" workshop for 20 local government officials at Albany Law School in Albany, New York. The two-day training covered topics such as

defining environmental justice; public participation activities; geographic information systems for environmental justice assessments; federal and New York State legislation; and environmental justice authorities and policies. A highlight of the training included a bus tour—arranged with assistance from Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corp., a local environmental justice advocacy group—of several communities in the Albany/Troy region. Based on the positive feedback received, Albany Law School has expressed a willingness to continue to collaborate with EPA and the NYSDEC on future environmental justice training events in New York State.

Region 3

Region 3 Staff Training

Region 3 continued conducting environmental justice training in October 2004. The region provides an introductory session, as well as office-specific training designed to address the needs of the individual offices and divisions.

Region 4

Train-the-Trainer Workshop

Region 4 hosted the National Environmental Justice Training Collaborative's "Train-the-Trainer" Workshop on January 13-17, 2003. Participants included EPA staff, state environmental agencies, local government, and grassroots/community-based organizations. As a result of this workshop, 32 new environmental justice training facilitators were certified to conduct the course. As more and more people become trained to provide environmental justice training, the more capacity the area has to bring important information to others.

Region 5

Fundamentals of Environmental Justice Workshop

In April 2003, members of the Region 5 Environmental Justice Training Collaborative, along with staff from Region 5's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance and Indian Environmental Office, conducted a two-day "Fundamentals of Environmental Justice Workshop." Trainers also included members of two community/grassroots organizations who had become certified environmental justice trainers after attending Region 5's Environmental Justice "Train-the-Trainer" course during the previous year. The 32 attendees of the workshop included members of Region 5 staff, state and local environmental agency representatives, and community members. The goals of the workshop were to raise awareness of environmen-

tal justice, provide introductory tools on how to identify and address environmental justice issues, effectively engage in productive dialogue around environmental justice issues, and promote constructive and collaborative problem-solving techniques.

Region 6

Using Environmental Laws and Alternative Dispute Resolution

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice funded and coordinated a training for grassroots community organization representatives from each of the five Region 6 states in September 2004 to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution. Region 6, the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, and the Southeast Community Resource Center assisted in the planning the training, which was provided by the Environmental Law Institute. The interaction among the 32 attendees and Region 6 staff was very productive and positive. Most of the attendees expressed a desire for further training in alternative dispute resolution.

Region 6 Staff Training

Since launching the "Environmental Justice Fundamentals" course in 2001, Region 6 has held 17 training sessions. EPA has trained approximately 324 EPA, state, federal, and community-based participants. In addition to offering the training internally, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality hosted the training in December 2003 for its managers and staff. The region will continue its environmental justice training initiative by offering the training twice each quarter to regional and state staff. Training participants have enthusiastically embraced the training and have consistently requested advanced training that addresses specific program responsibilities. Future planning includes development of program-specific materials and train-the-trainer focused sessions.

Region 7

Training in Missouri and Nebraska

In 2003 and 2004, Region 7 successfully provided two "Fundamentals of Environmental Justice" training sessions in the states of Missouri and Nebraska, with approximately 44 participants representing various stakeholder groups, such as state and county health departments. To accommodate and ensure that basic instruction is provided across all environmental protection programs, Region 7—along with states and partnering agencies—holds environmental justice training workshops that are open to all of EPA's partners. In Missouri, EPA helped train Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) employees, many of whom were branch managers, in understanding the fundamentals of environmental justice. MDNR and Haskell Indian Nations University representatives also served as trainers for this highly interactive workshop held in Jefferson City, Missouri. In

Nebraska, the audience included representatives from local government as well as community leaders. Topics covered included defining environmental justice; environmental justice history, controversies, and issues; legislation and authorities; and Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice. Region 7 is expanding the training to Kansas and Iowa and will also partake in a "Train-the-Trainer" workshop in the next two years.

Region 7 Staff Training

In 2003 and 2004, Region 7 facilitated several "Fundamental of Environmental Justice" training sessions for new staff and summer interns as part of a regional professional development series plan. The training included an environmental justice overview; environmental justice definition; a geographic information system demonstration approach to identifying and addressing environmental justice issues; and a panel discussion surrounding past environmental justice cases. Fifty-five EPA Region 7 employees received the training.

Region 9

California and Hawaii Training

During 2003 and 2004, Region 9 established partnerships with state and local governments to assist in the development of environmental training. The state of California, in collaboration with the Governors Office of Planning and Research, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Bay Delta Authority, the Department of Water Resources, and Region 9, trained approximately 300 state employees. In the state of Hawaii, Region 9 worked with Hawaii's Department of Health to provide training to staff and managers.

Region 9 Staff Training

In 2003 and 2004, the Region 9 environmental justice program offered monthly environmental justice training to staff and interested stakeholders, including representatives of federal, state, and community entities). Approximately 200 EPA staff and managers attended, in addition to approximately 100 external partners. During this same time period, the environmental justice program established partnerships with state and local governments to assist in developing training capacity within those entities. The state of California, in collaboration with the Governors Office of Planning and Research, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Bay Delta Authority, the Department of Water Resources, and others benefited from the partnership with EPA Region 9, and approximately 300 state employees were trained. In the state of Hawaii, the environmental justice program worked with Hawaii's Department of Health to provide training to staff and managers.

Enforcement and Compliance

Headquarters

Environmental Training to Law Enforcement Executives

EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance (OECA) entered into a partnership with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives to provide training on identifying environmental crimes. The officers, many of whom serve economically depressed and environmental burdened communities, will refer environmental violations to EPA and serve as new eyes on the street. Through this relationship, OECA can better target its resources to some of the communities where protection is needed most. In FY 2003, OECA initiated 97 cases with environmental justice issues. As a result, 80 defendants were charged in these cases and more than $8 million in fines and 318 months of incarceration were imposed.

Environmental Justice Seminar

EPA's Office of Site Remediation Enforcement (OSRE) conducted an environmental justice case study in June 2003 concerning a site in Anniston, Alabama. OSRE worked closely with Region 4 to bring the federal case team involved with this site to Headquarters for an all-day seminar. The federal team included the regional environmental justice coordinator, community involvement coordinator, on-scene coordinator, remedial program manager, regional attorney, headquarters attorney, and a Department of Justice attorney. The team presented a full-day overview of their experience working on this complex cleanup site located in a community with environmental justice issues. The vast majority (79 percent) of OSRE staff attended the seminar and identified a strong need to incorporate environmental justice and community involvement issues into work plans, projects, and management goals. Many seminar participants stated that they will factor the lessons learned into their daily work. Overall, the seminar raised awareness of environmental justice and the need for more detailed discussions of environmental justice issues and how to handle them at remediation sites.

Region 3

Far-Reaching Environmental Justice Training

More than 500 federal employees from 13 federal agencies have received environmental justice training through Region 3's efforts. The training and educational opportunities made available cover topics such as historical perspectives, research efforts, regional case studies in environmental justice, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and court cases involving environmental justice issues. The interactive, facilitated training incorporates a wide range of principles used in planning, scoping, and implementation of project plans.

Environmental Justice Training

Air

Headquarters

Environmental Justice and Air Permitting Workshop

In May 2004, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards convened an "Environmental Justice and Air Permitting Workshop," hosted by Region 5 in Chicago. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together staff from the environmental justice and air permitting fields to discuss opportunities for integration. The objectives and goals of the meeting included: identifying and discussing what the regions are doing to promote better environmental justice outcomes, both in federal- and state-issued permits (and how good environmental justice outcomes are being defined in practice); determining the barriers that states and regions encounter when seeking good environmental justice outcomes for communities through air permitting; discussing how to overcome these barriers; determining how Headquarters can assist the regions in achieving the goal of environmental justice in air permitting; and developing a list of recommendations or next steps to submit to Office of Air and Radiation management.

Other

International

Education for Development and Democracy Initiative, Africa

The Education for Development and Democracy Initiative (EDDI), a U.S. Presidential initiative, educates African middle school-age girls on an array of environmental and life issues. In 2004, two African schools in Ghana and Benin began sharing information about their communities and the environment. The project's goal is for students to learn to use the Internet to access information on smart and safe environmental stewardship practices, which will significantly improve their quality of life. The program started with a U.S. donation of nearly new computers to each school computer lab. Teachers and project leaders then constructed curriculum from EPA information on safe drinking water, clean air, solid waste management, food safety, environmental health (including AIDS prevention education), environmental justice, water management, forest management, energy, and indoor air.

Elements of Effective Laws Workshop

In October 2004, EPA included environmental justice in its "Workshop on Elements of Effective Laws and Components of Principles of Environmental Law and Enforcement" training, delivered in Botswana, Africa.

Chapter 4: Federal, State, Tribal, and Local Government Coordination

Federal, state, tribal, and local government coordination is essential to addressing the environmental and public health concerns of affected communities and ensuring proper integration of environmental justice considerations into government operations. As authorized by federal environmental laws, most federal environmental programs are delegated to states and tribes, when they develop their environmental management capacity and seek authorization to manage programs. To provide for environmental and public health protection, these three sovereigns (federal, state, and tribal governments) must collaborate and coordinate their environmental and public health programs, policies, and activities, especially when working to address the concerns of low-income, minority, and tribal communities. With these goals in mind, EPA is pursuing an ambitious initiative to promote and support collaborative and constructive partnerships to address the range and extent of environmental and public health issues facing communities. This chapter discusses the ways in which EPA is working with states, tribes, and other federal agencies to integrate environmental justice considerations into governments' operations.

Federal

Headquarters

Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

To help promote better interagency coordination on issues pertaining to environmental justice, Executive Order 12898 established the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) in 1994. The IWG is comprised of 11 federal agencies and several White House offices. Each agency, with leadership from EPA, is working to integrate environmental justice into its individual programs. The IWG currently has three active task forces: 1) Health Disparities, 2) Revitalization Demonstration Projects, and 3) Native American. To learn more about the IWG, visit: <www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/interagency/index.html>.

In March 2003, the IWG selected 15 Revitalization Demonstration Projects to showcase collaborative partnerships among federal agencies and other stakeholders in the area of community revitalization and environmental justice. These 15 projects are helping EPA refine its environmental justice collaborative problem-solving (CPS) model, which is serving to provide guidance to communities and other interested parties on a method for working through the complex and interrelated issues pertaining to environmental justice, with the expectation of developing effective plans and strategies for addressing these

issues within the affected communities. To learn more about these demonstration projects and the CPS model, visit: http://intranet.epa.gov/oecaftp/compliance/resources/publications/ej/iwg_2003_demo_projects.pdf.

Building Healthy Environments to Eliminate Health Disparities Symposium

On May 28-29, 2003, in Washington DC, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and EPA co-sponsored a symposium on Building Healthy Environments to Eliminate Health Disparities/Linking Health Disparities, for senior-level federal government employees. This symposium was the first to explore the intersection between health disparities and environmental justice and the ways in which federal agencies can develop proactive, comprehensive, and integrated strategies to build healthy environments in communities suffering from health disparities. Five panel sessions included information on federal agency perspectives, case studies of community efforts to address health disparities and environmental quality, ways that federal agencies can better address health disparities, healthy environments, and environmental justice, key initiatives that support building healthy environments, and integrating the environment into agency health disparities strategies.

Linking Health Disparities and Environmental Justice

Using the momentum created by the federal interagency Building Healthy Environments to Eliminate Health Disparities Symposium, the American Public Health Association (APHA), in conjunction with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services, conducted a set of special sessions on environmental health disparities at the Annual APHA meeting in Washington D.C., on November 9, 2004. A "town hall" meeting on environmental justice brought together representatives of community-based organizations, public health organizations, and government agencies to dialogue about national, state, tribal, and local strategies to address environmental justice and health disparities, particularly those that impact children. APHA is the largest public health professional organization in the world, with about 15,000 persons attending their annual meetings.

Interagency Coordination on Tribal Issues

EPA is one of the signatories to a four-party memorandum of understanding, along with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Indian Health Service. These agencies have agreed to coordinate their efforts to provide environmental protection for Indian health and the environment in Indian country.

State

Headquarters

Worker Protection Program

In collaboration with its stakeholders, EPA's Office of Pesticides Programs (OPP) completed a multi-year national assessment of its worker protection program. As a result, to improve program consistency and quality, OPP provided additional training opportunities for state compliance monitoring and enforcement staff. With stakeholders, OPP also developed better program guidance and improved communications and reporting. EPA plans to issue a report on the assessment, which will address the full range of stakeholder recommendations, as well as the findings from the enforcement review portion.

Region 1

Promoting Environmental Justice to States

In January 2004, Region 1 chaired a meeting for the states where it discussed the importance of incorporating environmental justice principles into state planning and identified specific followup actions. In September 2004, the region made a presentation to the interstate enforcement directors on the region's environmental justice mapping tool and its usefulness in setting targets for enforcement actions. In addition, the recently negotiated Performance Partnership Agreements between the agency and five of the six states in Region 1 contain specific language concerning the importance of environmental justice principles and detail numerous environmental justice-related activities that the states have committed to undertake.

Region 2

New York State Environmental Justice Protocol

In September 2003, Region 2 awarded $26,800 to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to support activities related to the state's environmental justice advisory group and the two newly formed workgroups, the Disproportionate Adverse Environmental Impact Workgroup and the Health Outcome Data Workgroup. The recommendations developed by the advisory group and its workgroups are being considered for adoption by the NYSDEC Commissioner.

Region 3

All States Environmental Justice Meeting

Region 3 supports and participates in the annual Regional All States Environmental Justice Meeting, with the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, to provide information, insight, and consultation on issues pertaining to environmental justice. The meetings also serve to build relationships among EPA and the states. Presentations are made by invited guests on various significant issues of environmental justice concern. Historically, speakers and presenters have been public interest lawyers, lawyers who represent

the regulated community, regional and EPA Headquarters personnel, state and local representatives, professionals from various public and private organizations, and citizens representing areas of concern. As an outgrowth of the annual meeting, Region 3 holds monthly environmental justice conference calls with the states.

Joint EPA Region 2 and 3 Site Visit to South Camden

In August 2003, EPA Region 3 hosted a joint All States Environmental Justice Meeting in Philadelphia. One of the highlights of the meeting was a site visit to South Camden to learn from and see first hand the concerns of the citizens pertaining to the Saint Lawrence Cement facility. The tour lasted approximately two hours and took the participants through the South Camden area where the citizens described the various issues and concerns at the various sites. The counsel for the Saint Lawrence Cement case provided a perspective on the history of the facility and the case and answered questions from the assembled group.

Maryland Public Listening Session and Dialog

On October 7, 2003, the Maryland Department of the Environment held an environmental justice listening session in Baltimore, in coordination with the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. Approximately 60 participants attended the listening session, including representatives from Region 3 and concerned citizens. The central topic of discussion was locally unwanted land usages. A number of presentations were made on this topic followed by discussions on issues such as ways government agencies can best address environmental justice issues and community revitalization. The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities made the following recommendations: 1) integrate environmental justice into all governmental efforts, 2) develop data applicable for use as a community outreach tool, 3) increase the effort to improve public participation, 4) prepare government agencies through environmental justice training, 5) include environmental justice as a basis for economic development, and 6) identify best practices.

Region 4

Alabama Environmental Justice Training

Region 4 staff assisted the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) in presenting environmental justice training to 60 ADEM managers on May 5-6, 2004. The training was well received and proved to be a great opportunity for environmental justice education and development. Region 4 is constantly working to strengthen relationships with the states, communities, and other key stakeholders in an effort to better coordinate, integrate, and address environmental justice issues. ADEM has supported

these efforts by working collaboratively with Region 4 and taking other proactive approaches towards achieving environmental justice.

Benedict College Environmental Justice Conference

Region 4 participated in the Benedict College Statewide Environmental Justice Conference in South Carolina from August 20-23, 2003. Regional environmental justice staff and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control staff served on the steering committee. Approximately 30 people attended, representing Benedict College, the University of South Carolina, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and environmental justice community organizations and environmental groups from across the state. The Environmental Justice Conference was the first of a series of activities in this area to be conducted in a way that provided communities and community organizations a forum to engage in dialogue specific to their geographic area and areas of interest and to ensure that proper followup occurs to address issues raised.

Region 5

Collaborating with Communities - St. Clair Superior, Ohio

Region 5, the Ohio EPA, the Cleveland Department of Air Quality (CDAQ), and the St. Clair Superior Neighborhood Development Association (SCSNDA) Environmental Committee have met regularly over the past several years to discuss the environmental concerns SCSNDA has identified within the community. As a result of the collaboration during 2003 and 2004, the Ohio EPA has used input from SCSNDA to identify and conduct an average of seven hazardous waste inspections each year within the neighborhood. Violations resulting from these inspections have led to one Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), which has already funded diesel school bus retrofits, as well as a second SEP that is still in negotiation. In addition, CDAQ has addressed all 21 listed facilities of concern for SCSNDA. The collaborative process has increased the community's public participation and input in the review of Title 5 Air Permits; increased the number of air and hazardous waste inspections at neighborhood facilities, which in turn provides a better assurance to the community that companies are in compliance and the community's environmental well-being is protected; increased the environmental knowledge of the neighborhood; and improved the relationships between the residents and the companies located around their neighborhood. The Ohio EPA is using the

SCSNDA collaboration as a model for conducting small business assistance on a local neighborhood level instead of on a broader and general state-wide basis.

Region 6

New Mexico Listening Sessions

Following its successful listening session in Houston, Texas, in 2002, Region 6 committed to assist states in funding subsequent state-led listening sessions. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) was the first to take up the challenge. Region 6, the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, and the University of New Mexico worked collaboratively to plan and implement this initiative. EPA committed $30,000 to support this effort and participated in the frequent planning sessions to coordinate the logistics, agendas, outreach, and followup. As a result, four listening sessions were held throughout New Mexico in the summer of 2004. The sessions focused on border issues, tribal issues, northern New Mexico issues, and statewide issues.

Region 7

2003 Federal Partners Meeting

On August 20, 2003, Region 7 hosted its annual Federal Partners Meeting to facilitate coordination and collaboration among federal partners to address the environmental and public health concerns of low-income, minority, and tribal communities. The meeting highlighted the importance of coordination, leveraging of resources, and collaboration in problem-solving. Representatives from the Federal Transit Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City (Missouri), Kansas State University, and the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association participated in the meeting. During the first portion of the meeting, each of the federal agencies presented a brief overview of their current environmental justice programs and initiatives. Background on the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice was provided to set the tone for collaboration and coordination. All agencies expressed a willingness and desire to work together to meet the needs of communities with environmental justice issues.

Region 8

Colorado Partnership

Although the number of children with elevated blood levels has continued to decrease, a significant number of children are still exposed to lead from paint and other sources. Principal sources of lead exposure are house dust contaminated by lead paint and soil contaminated by lead paint and decades of industrial and motor vehicle emissions. Significant health risks remain in pre-1978 housing, with the greatest risks from pre-1950 housing (25.8 million existing units, as of FY 2000). Region 8, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and local agencies, has formed a workgroup to develop an interagency strategic plan to meet the Agency's challenge of eliminating childhood lead poisoning by 2010. The Agency's national goals are to eliminate lead paint hazards in housing where children under six years of age live and eliminate elevated blood lead levels in children.

Region 9

California Environmental Justice Program

Since 2001, EPA Region 9 and the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) have partnered to develop the state's environmental justice program. As a culmination of several years of effort, on September 29-30, 2003, the Cal/EPA Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice finalized its report on environmental justice, which represents an 18-month public process, including 10 Advisory Committee meetings and five community workshops throughout the state. This historic environmental justice meeting was attended by nearly 300 participants representing communities from across the state and drew more than 100 public testimonies. The secretary of Cal/EPA, the director of the Governors Office of Planning and Research, as well as the California's Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, signed a resolution to endorse the report as a framework for the state environmental justice strategy.

California Environmental Health Tracking Advisory Committee

As a product of California Senate Bill 702, the state of California established an Environmental Health Tracking Program (EHTN). The goal of the program is to develop a comprehensive plan and a standards-based, coordinated and integrated EHTN at the state level that allows for linkage and reporting of health effects and environmental hazards data. A Region 9 representative has served as a member of the Expert Working Group in charge of developing recommendations to the State Legislature on how to implement the mandated statewide environmental health monitoring system. The report submitted to the State Legislature represents a collective effort from a multi-stakeholder group, including members of the community, academia, public health officials, industry, and state and local agencies.

Tribal

Headquarters

Tribal Science Council

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) sponsors the Agency's Tribal Science Council (TSC), which was created in partnership with tribal representatives. The TSC provides a forum for tribes and EPA to identify priority science issues and collaboratively design effective solutions. To date, the TSC has sponsored the following three workshops: Endocrine Disruptors (September 2002), Risk Assessment and Health and Well Being (February 2003), and Health and Well Being and Traditional Tribal Lifeways (May 2003). Tribes have raised numerous issues that stem from the need for tribal traditional lifeways (ways tribes closely relate to the environment in all aspects of their life) to be considered when the Agency seeks to protect the environment and public health. The health and well being paradigm is a new approach for the Agency that provides a tribal perspective of the environment.

Tribal Pesticide Program Council

EPA's Office of Pesticides Programs (OPP) sponsors the Agency's Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) to obtain input and advice from tribes on how to effectively work in partnership with tribes to address tribal pesticides and toxics issues of concern. In 2003, OPP hosted two national meetings with the TPCC to identify national and regional pesticide issues that are specific to Indian country. OPP also facilitated cooperative activities between the state FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group and the TPCC to encourage the development of common solutions for mutual pesticide-related concerns among states and tribes.

Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action

In 2003, OPPT's Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action/Tribal Affairs Project provided EPA with valuable program expertise from the

tribal perspective. In 2003, three meetings of the Tribal Affairs Project were held, which resulted in identifying areas for tribal involvement and inclusion in both pollution prevention and risk assessment. Also, the meetings served as a forum to discuss the options of developing risk assessment models, incorporating information regarding chemical releases on tribal lands that fall within the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI).

Region 1

U.S.-Canada St. Croix River Watershed Agreement

EPA's Office of International Activities (OIA) provided $25,000 and brokered an EPA cooperative agreement effort in 2003 with the Passamaquoddy Tribe to enhance the protection of the U.S.-Canada St. Croix River Watershed. The cooperative agreement helps the tribe engage U.S. and Canadian sectors to address non-point water pollution control and to improve science and information about alewives (fish) in the watershed. This cooperative agreement helps fulfill the spirit and intent of the U.S.-Canada 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty.

Region 6

Underground Injection Control Program on Tribal Lands

The population on tribal lands is generally tribal, rural, and disproportionately low-income. As part of its environmental justice goal of "assuring that all people receive the full benefits of clean and sustainable communities," Region 6 is responsible for direct implementation of the underground injection control (UIC) program on tribal lands in the region. The region provides financial assistance to the Osage Nation of Oklahoma to conduct its UIC program, which involves inspecting injection wells, maintaining an inventory of injection operations, conducting enforcement of tribal requirements, and maintaining a file of each injection well on the Osage Mineral Reserve. In addition, the region conducts inspections and enforcement of UIC requirements on injection wells on 12 Indian nations in Oklahoma and three in New Mexico. During FY 2004, the Osage Nation conducted more than 1,500 inspections of injection wells on its lands. The region reviewed inspection records provided by the Nation and determined appropriate enforcement. The region also reviewed almost 2,300 operations reports from injection well operators on tribal lands.

In addition, the region maintains a field office on the Osage Mineral Reserve, which investigated more than 25 complaints of oil field pollution during the year and conducted more than179 inspections of injection facilities. The reviews of injection reports from the Osage Nation, reviews of annual operations reports, and inspections by Region 6 staff resulted in the issuance of 40 administrative orders and two administrative penalty complaints during the fiscal year, as well as more than 465 informal notices of violation. As a result of this

effort, more than 95 percent of injection wells on tribal lands in Region 6 are compliant with UIC requirements.

Region 10

STORET *National Database Training*

Region 10 sponsored two STOrage and RETrieval System (STORET) national database training sessions for the Pacific Northwest Tribes, one in April 2004 and the other in October 2004. These training sessions provided instruction on how to access and use STORET, EPA's national environmental monitoring database, to technical representatives from nine tribes. Additionally, EPA's Office for Environmental Management and Information is supporting environmental justice geospatial issues on reservations throughout the Pacific Northwest with its intranet environmental justice mapping application, its Internet SiteInfo mapping application, and the development of paper maps for regional programs.

Alaska Case Studies

Region 10's Alaska Operations Office (AOO) helped develop and then participated in a session at the 2004 Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) entitled, "Environmental Justice Implementation-Alaska Case Studies." The session described projects in rural Alaska, supported through state and federal environmental justice efforts, and discussed the advantages and limitations of implementing environmental justice projects. The case studies included the Native Village of Selawik, which has been designated as an environmental justice Revitalization Community; the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA); the Traditional Foods Program—Dietary Benefits and Risks in Alaskan Villages; the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities—transportation projects and mapping effort; and the EPA environmental justice collaborative problem-solving grants. More than 80 participants attended the session.

Fort Hall Business Council (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes) MOU

Region 10 and the Fort Hall Business Council (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for consultation between the two parties. This MOU establishes a framework and process for fostering coordination and consultation on environmental protection issues and outlines the specific expectations and responsibilities of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Region 10 regarding consultation, including coordination, communication, information sharing, and the decisionmaking process.

Tribal/State and EPA *Agreements on Coordination*

In 2003, Region 10 signed an MOU with the tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation and the Idaho State Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) to develop total maximum daily loads on water bodies that lie within or adjoin the Fort Hall Reservation. This was a first of its

kind agreement between a state and tribe in Region 10.

Federal Air Rules for Reservations Promulgated

Now that the federal air rules for reservations have been promulgated, Region 10 will be taking a major step toward filling the regulatory gap that exists regarding implementation of the Clean Air Act (CAA) on Indian Reservations in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The tribal communities on these reservations, as well as on many other reservations, have been without many of the air quality protections that exist outside of reservations, where state regulations implement the CAA mandates. Because the states have no authority within the boundaries of reservations to implement the CAA, it is the responsibility of the federal government to implement this program until tribes either establishes their own rules or are authorized to implement the federal rules. These new rules will regulate outdoor burning, a major source of air pollutant on reservations, particularly in rural areas.

Nez Perce Tribe Participation in Clearwater Airshed Intergovernmental Group

EPA is working with the Nez Perce Tribe and the state of Idaho's departments of agriculture and environmental quality, through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to cooperatively implement a smoke management plan within the Clearwater airshed. The Smoke Management Plan seeks to prevent agricultural burning, primarily blue grass, from adversely impacting human health. The plan calls for the use of meteorological and air monitoring data to control the timing of the burns, so the smoke can be directed away from major population centers. The Nez Perce Tribal Air Staff have become integral players in this cooperative effort.

Local

National Small Flows Clearinghouse - Wastewater Treatment Solutions

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) collects and distributes information to rural communities and others about small wastewater treatment solutions. Services include a toll-free technical assistance hotline, an Internet-based discussion group, computer databases, newsletters, and other publications. EPA provided $7.6 million in grant funding to support the activities of the NSFC for FY 2001 through FY 2004. In FY 2003, NSFC activities included: 1) responding to more than 13,000 technical assistance calls, 2) distributing more than 72,000 products, 3) receiving 766,000 unique queries of its Web site, reaching 1,386 subscribers for the NSFC Listserv, 4) conducting numerous community technical assistance field visits, 5) adding 49 new products to NSFC offerings, and 6) publishing two quarterly publications reaching more than 50,000 subscribers.

Decentralized Septic Systems

Decentralized septic systems, often called septic onsite systems, are close to the source of the wastewater they treat and typically use small pipes for collecting domestic wastewater from individual homes or businesses. They can include large capacity septic systems, clusters of systems, and small collection and treatment systems. Decentralized systems serve 25 percent of the U.S. population, are used in about one-third of all new housing and commercial developments, and are utilized in rural and small communities.

During the past four years, EPA determined that existing large capacity systems subject to Class V well regulations under the Underground Injection Control program are adequate to protect drinking water. The Agency published its Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual and released the Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Clustered Wastewater Treatment Systems. EPA also has a Web site for the onsite/decentralized wastewater systems, http://cfpub.epa.gov/owm/septic/home.cfm, which provides information on management, funding, technology, and public outreach to assist small communities when using or considering decentralized systems to manage their wastewater needs.

Operator Onsite Technical Assistance Program

The Operator Onsite Technical Assistance Program provides hands-on assistance to small municipal wastewater treatment plant operators to address compliance assistance, maintenance, and performance improvement. EPA provided $5.7 million in grant funding to support this work from FY 2001 through FY 2004, assisting approximately 2,800 facilities in small communities.

Wetlands Five Star Program

EPA, along with the National Association of Counties, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Wildlife Habitat Council, established the Five Star Restoration Program as a mechanism to work with partners on community-based wetlands restoration projects in watersheds across the United States. As part of the larger program, the Five Star Challenge Grants Program develops knowledge and skills in young people through restoration projects that involve multiple partners, including local government agencies, elected officials, community groups, businesses, schools, youth organizations, and environmental organizations. Its objective is to engage five or more partners in each project to contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support, or other in-kind services that match the program's funding assistance. Consideration for funding is based on the project's educational and training opportunities for students and at-risk youth,

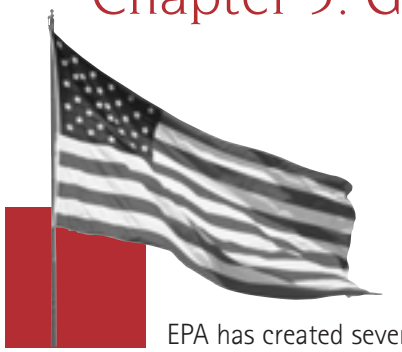
the ecological benefits to be derived, and the project's social and economic benefits to the community. Because of this consideration, the Five Star Program helps promote environmental justice.

Region 6

Regional Health Awareness Board, Corpus Christi, Texas

At the request of an environmental justice community-based organization, Citizens for Environmental Justice, Region 6 played a key role in the development of a citizens/local government/industry advisory board in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Regional Health Awareness Board (RHAB), provides a forum for identifying and addressing citizens' environmental and public health concerns in the Corpus Christi area. Through this process, citizens are able to engage in dialogue with regulators and industry to work to address concerns.

Chapter 5: Grants and Contracts



EPA has created several financial assistance programs to support and build the capacity of community-based grassroots organizations. The Agency recognizes the critical role that these types of organizations play in addressing the environmental and public health concerns in their communities. By providing grants and other financial assistance, EPA can help support these organizations' activities, such as actively participating in governmental decisionmaking processes, leading local environmental projects and activities, and participating in local collaborative problem-solving efforts with other interested stakeholders.

Effective and efficient management of all grants and contracts is also an important element for success. Because some community-based grassroots organizations are either new to, or have limited understanding of, the federal grants application and management processes, EPA offers training on these processes, such as how to effectively develop grant applications and manage the awarded grants and cooperative agreements. This chapter discusses some of the specific financial assistance programs available from EPA and other types of broad support.

General

Headquarters

Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Grants Program

In 2003, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice initiated the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement Program. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to affected community-based organizations that want to find viable solutions for environmental and/or public health concerns. Specifically, the program supposes those that want to engage in constructive and collaborative problem solving by utilizing tools developed by EPA and others. The Office of Environmental Justice, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG), developed an Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model, upon which the CPS Program is based. The following are the seven elements to the Model: 1) issue identification, community vision and strategic goal setting, 2) community capacity building, 3) consensus building and dispute resolution, 4) multi-stakeholder partnerships and resource mobilization, 5) supportive and facilitative role of government, 6) management and implementation, and 7) evaluation, lessons learned, and replication of best practices. For FY 2004, EPA awarded 30 CPS cooperative agreements, in the amount of $100,000 each, for up to a three-year period. A description of each proj-

ect can be found at: <www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants>.

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program provides financial assistance to eligible affected community-based organizations working on, or planning to work on, projects addressing local environmental and/or public health concerns. An affected local community-based organization is an entity/organization that is: 1) at the most basic level of the organizational hierarchy, such as a grassroots group or neighborhood organization that is not affiliated with a larger national, regional, or state organization, 2) located in the same area as the environmental and/or public health problem that is described in the application and where the residents of the affected community reside, 3) focused primarily on addressing the environmental and/or public health problems of the residents of the affected community, and 4) comprised primarily of members of the affected community. For FY 2003, EPA awarded 56 grants, totaling $858,907. For FY 2004, EPA awarded 17 grants, totaling $423,454.

Environmental Justice Internships

Through an Office of Environmental Justice grant, the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) has been fostering environmental opportunities for students since 1992, providing them with practical work experience in fields such as science, engineering, law, computer science, and political analysis. To date, more than $36 million has been invested in this program, called "Furthering Environmental Careers," and more than 2,200 students have had the opportunity for on-the-job training and community involvement. By nurturing these students, the Office of Environmental Justice also hopes to ingrain the concept of environmental justice in the next generation of environmental professionals.

This program is now ubiquitous in EPA; nearly every office has had an ECO intern. The Office of Environmental Justice further maintains its commitment by hiring at least two interns for the immediate office and provides additional funds for two interns to work in each of EPA's 10 regional offices. The success of the EPA/ECO partnership has spawned another program with direct benefit to communities. Since the Office of Environmental Justice launched its Community Intern Program in 2000, 134 students have gained work experience at the grassroots level. This program has allowed students to assist community organizations on environmental issues. To learn more about the program, visit <www.eco.org>.

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program

The EPA Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) is administered by the American Indian Environmental Office and delegated to the regional offices. This program provides financial assistance to federally rec-

ognized tribes and inter-tribal consortia to build capacity to administer environmental regulatory programs in Indian country. In addition, it provides technical assistance from EPA to develop multimedia programs to address environmental issues in Indian country. GAP offers tribes the opportunity to develop an integrated environmental program, develop the capability to manage specific programs, and establish a core program for environmental protection. The financial assistance agreements provide the opportunity to define and develop administrative and legal infrastructures and conduct assessments and planning.

Grants Writing/ Management Training

Region 6

Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Training

In August 2003, Region 6 held a community-based grassroots organization training on the environmental justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement program. Several environmental justice community representatives came to Region 6 for the training and several attended via conference call.

Grants Writing Workshop

On May 22, 2004, Region 6—in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Education, and Vietnamese community leaders in the local area–provided a grant writing workshop to the Asian-American community in Dallas, Texas. Participants learned how to apply for EPA's environmental justice small grants, which provide funds to non-profit and community-based organizations for activities that address environmental justice issues in minority and low-income communities.

Region 7

Grants Workshop

Recognizing the national emphasis on effective grants management, Region 7 sponsored the first region-wide small grants workshop in Kansas City, Kansas, in October 2003. The

workshop included overviews of several EPA grant programs, such as the Brownfields Environmental Education Grants and Environmental Justice Small Grants programs. This two-day workshop provided information on the application process, grant eligibility, selection and award processes, pre-award process, post-award responsibilities of grant recipients, and funding opportunities, in an effort to provide regional stakeholders a comprehensive look at financial assistance opportunities. In addition, award recipients could work directly with project officers and grants specialists. The workshop also reviewed the rules and requirements regarding financial management and procurement guidelines, provided information regarding measurement of tangible environmental benefit, and allowed project officers the opportunity to engage in post-award monitoring. Approximately 70 stakeholders attended the workshop.

Region 8

Targeting Tribes and Tribal Organizations

Each year, Region 8 provides environmental justice grants training to community-based grassroots organizations at various locations throughout the region. During FY 2004, the region decided to focus on tribes, due to a significant decline in tribal applications for environmental justice grants. The first of these trainings was held on the Spirit Lake Tribal Reservation in Fort Totten, North Dakota, and the second was held on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota.

Air-Related

Headquarters

Vehicle Anti-Idling Program

In FY 2003, the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) established a program to reduce air pollution and conserve fuel from idling trucks and locomotives. As part of this program, the Office of Transportation and Air Quality continues to organize regional coalitions of communities, state and local governments, and trucking and truck stop companies to install idle reduction systems along major interstate corridors. The major criteria for selecting and identifying locations include the proximity of minority and low-income areas heavily impacted by these facilities. To date, two locations—a truck stop in Gary, Indiana, and a locomotive switch yard—have received a combined grant of $185,000 for anti-idling device installation. Additional federal transportation funding has also been secured. OAR plans to develop case studies for both projects.

Radon Testing and Mitigation

In 2003, the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air made more than $800,000 available in matching grant funds to tribal nations through the State Indoor Radon Grant pro-

gram to support radiation testing and mitigation and the development of radon-resistant construction material.

Water-Related

Headquarters

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program

All 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico, operate loan programs that provide low-interest financing for wastewater treatment and other water quality projects. By offering financial assistance to small and rural communities, these programs provide affordable financing for municipal wastewater infrastructure improvements needed to achieve water quality standards and to protect public health. In addition to financing infrastructure needs, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) provides assistance to small communities, individual homeowners, and farmers to control runoff from failing decentralized systems and to implement agricultural best management practices. For FY 2001 through FY 2004, communities with populations less than 10,000 received more than $3.5 billion in low-cost financial assistance.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loans

In FY 2003, 71 percent of the loans made in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund were provided to small systems. EPA's Office of Water's (OW's) goal is to provide 75 percent of these funds to small systems by 2005. OW expects to achieve this goal and increase the cumulative percentage by providing loans to systems serving small communities.

Tribal Funds Distributed

Approximately $6 million was set aside from the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) State Grant Program to support tribal PWSS programs. Specifically, funds were distributed to the Navajo Nation to support its primacy program; the Standing Rock Sioux for a Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreement; the Region 10 Alaska Native Village program; and the EPA regional offices. Priorities for funding included operator certification, capacity development, and source water protection. In addition, approximately $13 million was distributed among the regions from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund tribal set-aside. The regions distributed the funds to tribes for infrastructure improvement projects and capacity development. A few projects funded included the development of a geographic information system (GIS), circuit riders for tribal systems, infrastructure replacement, and assistance with developing source water assessment and protection plans.

Clean Water Act Tribal Grants Program

Section 106 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) provides funds for tribes, states, and interstate agencies to develop and implement water quality management programs, including water monitoring and assessments, development of water quality standards, permit issuance, devel-

opment and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads, compliance and enforcement, groundwater and wetland protection, and nonpoint source control activities. Currently, 229 tribes are eligible for grants under Section 106 and have received at least one grant. Through FY 2003, 116 tribes are conducting water quality monitoring activities, 120 tribes have approved Quality Assurance Project Plans, 23 tribes have EPA-approved water quality standards, 90 tribes have adopted tribal water quality standards, and eight tribes have voluntarily submitted Section 305(b) reports.

Other

Headquarters

Health Effects of Environmental Contaminants on Tribal Populations Grants

EPA—in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry—awarded $2.2 million in grants to establish research partnerships to study the health effects of contaminants in the environment on tribal populations. Tribes can be at especially high risk for environmentally caused diseases because of their subsistence lifestyles (e.g., hunting, fishing), their occupations and customs (e.g., medicine, ceremonies), and/or environmental releases impacting tribal lands. Tribal-academic partnerships will focus on subsistence issues related to mercury, PCBs, pesticides, and other chemicals, producing management strategies leading to a reduction in risk from exposure to these and other chemicals. The projects are funded through EPA's Office of Research and Development's Science To Achieve Results (STAR) competitive grants program.

Exchange Network Grant Program

In FY 2003 and FY 2004, the Exchange Network Grant Program provided 37 grants to tribes and five grants to U.S. territories to support and establish the capability to share environmental information. The funding helps tribes and territories develop the information management/technology capabilities needed to connect to the Exchange Network and electronically submit or receive environmental information that they can use to protect and enhance human health and the natural environment within their communities.

Chapter 6: Environmental Justice Assessments

Environmental justice assessments are an important component of the Agency's environmental justice program, by serving as a primary tool for the integration of environmental justice. These assessments are used to evaluate environmental justice indicators (i.e., environment, health, social, and economic) within affected communities to ensure they are included in the environmental decision-making processes. Environmental justice assessments are conducted in a variety of ways, depending on the environmental and public health issues being addressed. This chapter discusses some of the tools EPA uses to conduct environmental justice assessments and provides examples of some of the assessments that have been conducted.

General

Headquarters

Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool

EPA's EnviroMapper provides public access to a wealth of environmental information through the Internet. Not only is this tool used to map various types of environmental information—including air releases, drinking water, toxic releases, hazardous wastes, water discharge permits, and Superfund sites—but it also includes an environmental justice Geographic Assessment Tool. This effort is lead jointly by EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI) and the Office of Environmental Justice. EPA staff and the public can use this tool to conduct an environmental justice assessment. Factors relevant to an environmental justice assessment generally fall into four sets of indicators: environmental, health, social, and economic. The conditions these indicators seek to illuminate include, but are not limited to: adverse health or environmental impacts, aggregate or cumulative impacts, unique exposure pathways, vulnerable or susceptible populations, or lack of capacity to participate in decisionmaking processes. The tool takes inputs about these indicators and provides the information necessary to conduct a comprehensive preliminary analysis of any area of concern.

In March 2003, the Agency deployed an Intranet version of the tool, and in August 2003, the Internet version became available to the public. In 2004, OEI enhanced the tool by adding the following reporting capabilities: Ability to Speak English Report, National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) Cumulative Risk Report, Percent of Population Who Speak English Less Than Well map layer, Link to NATA mapping pages, Homeowners vs. Renters Report, Male/Female Ratio Report, Ethnic/National Origin Report, Urban vs. Rural Population Report, and Urban Area map layer.

A Framework for Integrating Psychosocial and Environmental Concepts

EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovations (OPEI) presents a multidisciplinary framework that integrates many of the ideas being discussed and debated about environmental effects on low-income, minority, and indigenous populations. Although many people acknowledge that social and environmental factors interact to produce racial and ethnic environmental health disparities, how this occurs is still unclear. The environmental justice movement has provided some insight by suggesting that disadvantaged communities face greater likelihood of exposure to ambient hazards. The "exposure disease paradigm" has long suggested that differential vulnerability might modify the effects of toxins on biological systems; however, relatively little research has been conducted to specify whether racial and ethnic minorities have greater vulnerability than majority populations and what those vulnerabilities might be (e.g., psychosocial stress). OPEI contends that residential segregation leads to differential experiences of community stress, exposure to pollutants, and access to community resources. When not counterbalanced by resources, stressors may lead to heightened vulnerability to environmental hazards.

Region 1

New Desktop Environmental Justice Mapping Tool

In May 2003, Region 1 launched its new Environmental Justice Mapping Tool, a computer mapping application available to all regional employees at their desktop. The tool is designed to enhance the quality of EPA Region 1's work by identifying and analyzing potential environmental justice issues and providing easy access to consistent and reliable environmental justice-related data. By having demographic data readily available to help characterize communities throughout Region 1, EPA staff and management can better ensure that the principles of environmental justice, such as fairness and meaningful involvement, are incorporated into the region's everyday work. The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool provides a visual representation of areas in Region 1 where significant numbers of minority and low-income populations live. It also uses race and income thresholds to identify potential environmental justice areas of concern, since race and income are widely recognized as strong indicators of populations that might bear elevated environmental burdens.

Evironmental Justice Guidance for Staff

The EPA New England Environmental Justice Functional Guidance Compendium was finalized n February 2004 and is accessible on the Intranet to all regional employees. The com-

pendium provides function-specific guidance for regional staff on how to integrate environmental justice principles, including fair treatment, meaningful involvement and public health protection, into day-to-day activities.

During the environmental justice awareness training that all Region 1 staff participated in over the last two years, many individuals requested more specific information on how to incorporate these principles into their work. The compendium includes several tools designed to help identify when core work has environmental justice implications, as well as how to advance environmental justice principles through core work. The guidance is for all staff, including permit writers, contracting or project officers, inspectors, lawyers, communication coordinators, engineers or scientists, and facility managers.

Region 2

Hudson River PCBs Superfund Project

In October 2003, Region 2 performed an environmental justice analysis, titled "EPA, Region 2 - Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site-Dewatering Facility Location: A Comparative Environmental Justice Analysis in Support of Project Site Locations." The document was shared with the environmental planning consultants, working on behalf of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), to investigate whether potential environmental justice concerns existed in areas/communities involving the final candidate sites (FCS) for the project. In the analysis, EPA evaluated seven FCSs to determine whether the construction and operation of a sediment processing/transfer facility could result in disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and/or low-income populations. The results from the Comparative Environmental Justice Analysis, followed by discussions among Region 2 and the USACE consultants, has led to the formation of an environmental justice section to be incorporated in the Agency's Preliminary Draft Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site Facility Siting Report in April 2004. The full report may be accessed at: <www.epa.gov/hudson/facility_siting_draft.htm>.

Region 3

King William Reservoir

Region 3 reviewed a February 2004 draft of "Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Among the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for Treatment of Adverse Effect to Historic Properties Affected by the Construction and Development of the King William Reservoir, York County, Virginia." The region provided general comments on the MOA to facilitate the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process and assist the North Atlantic Division of the Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority

Populations and Low-Income Populations." The region's comments reflected EPA's goal that environmental justice remain a guiding principle of the Section 106 process, and that the MOA finalization include meaningful consultation with the Native American tribes.

Region 6

Underground Storage Tank Environmental Justice Determinations In 2004, EPA's Underground Storage Tank (UST) program began a project to determine which UST facilities are located in communities with environmental justice concerns. To complete this task, Region 6 provided the address of each facility to a contractor for rating in three categories (population, income, and minorities). With this information, the region determined that the UST program would use a half-mile radius as the area to review, rather than the four-mile radius. Also, the region determined that if location received a certain level of rating, it would be considered to be located in a community with environmental justice issues.

Region 7

Environmental Justice Assessment in Area of Clean Water Act Violations

On February 19, 2003, the Sierra Club issued a notice of intent to sue the Department of Energy (DOE) and Honeywell Manufacturing and Technologies, LLC for violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The notice cited that the facility was discharging toxic waste into a recreational stream that flows through low income communities of color. Both Region 7 and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources were called upon to address the issues presented in the notice. Region 7 completed an environmental justice assessment report detailing the community surrounding the DOE plant and the potential for environmental justice concerns to arise. The region determined that: 1) public access is a high indicator for exposure potential, 2) regular recreational and/or subsistence fishing, swimming, and/or wading in Indian Creek is an indicator for exposure potential, and 3) children, with higher risk to exposure and greater access to Indian Creek, live within a three-mile radius of influence, near a DOE discharge outfall. Region 7 also outlined recommendations for actions that could be taken to ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement of the public, with emphasis in the areas of decisionmaking, public communication, and outreach.

Environmental Justice Assessment in Area of Proposed Power Plants

In January 2004, internal and external stakeholders requested that Region 7 assess the potential environmental justice concerns surrounding the proposed siting of two coal-fired power plants in Weston, Missouri, and

Atchison, Kansas, along the Missouri River. As a component of the environmental justice assessment process, a community site tour was held to enable interested stakeholders the opportunity to engage in open dialogue with each other, listen to the issues from a community-led perspective, and make observations regarding potential environmental justice and other environmental and human health concerns. Nineteen federal, state and community representatives attended the meeting and site tour. During the meeting, the federal and state agency representatives interacted with community members and answered questions regarding the respective agencies' ability to address the community's concerns using the available statutory authorities. Region 7 conducted an environmental justice assessment for the areas surrounding the proposed facilities. Although the assessment did not indicate that a disproportionate negative environmental burden on the community existed, the proposal of two additional coal-fired power plants, with the presence of environmental and/or human health impacts, might introduce an increased risk or harm that might be shouldered by surrounding populations. EPA staff are continuing to monitor this issue as it develops.

Region 10

Environmental Justice Maps

By linking environmental justice data with National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) data, Region 10 created a series of maps showing how environmental justice areas are being affected by air toxics. Available in print and Web format, as well as in EPA's Rapid Access Information System (RAINS), these maps will be used to evaluate the level at which environmental justice areas are being affected by, or exposed to, various air toxics, so EPA can develop ways to improve the air quality for minority and low-income areas. While these maps are not at a fine-enough scale to allow for detailed decisionmaking, they can serve as a tool for discussion at a region-wide level about the risks to environmental justice areas. Maps were designed for the Region 10 states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska, and can be viewed together or by individual states. The maps are broken down into two main categories: environmental justice data with cancer risk NATA data, and environmental justice data with non-cancer risk NATA data.

International

Environmental Policy Assessments

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is a forum for member governments to address common problems, encourage cooperation on new approaches to environmental policy, and promote integration of environmental and economic policies. As a followup to the 2004 OECD Ministerial meeting, two papers are being prepared that explore implications of environmental injustice: 1) Costs of Inaction: What would be the impact on the environment (and people) if Environment Ministers did not act affirmatively towards environmental challenges? and 2) Partnerships: What are the opportunities and/or challenges associated with establishing partnerships (e.g. how are they defined, who do they benefit, what are the costs, what are the benefits?). Another paper has also been prepared called Environment and Distributional Issues: Analysis, Evidence and Policy Implications to address key concerns about the impact of income on the environment and on civil society.

Solid and Hazardous Waste

Environmental Justice Summary

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), with assistance from EPA's Office of Environmental Information, prepared a government Performance Review Act (GPRA) Environmental Justice Summary Report. This report serves as a screening tool to compare the rate of GPRA progress made by the regions near Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-permitted and corrective action facilities in potential at-risk communities with the rate of progress in non-at-risk communities. The complete assessment of the RCRA permitted and corrective action facilities was completed in June 2004. The purpose of this project is to provide a demographic analysis of the Agency's GPRA progress.

Host Community Compensation for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills

In exchange for permission to construct, expand, or operate a landfill, more and more landfill developers are providing payments to communities. The value of these "host fees" varies widely, yet the factors that influence them are unexplored. OPEI constructed a unique data set of host fees paid by the 104 largest privately owned solid waste landfills in 1996. OPEI found that resident participation in host fee negotiations, experience hosting a landfill, state mandates for minimum host compensation, and firms with greater resources all lead to greater host compensation. OPEI found limited evidence that a community's race and income level, and the negative externalities associated with a landfill, are important in negotiating host fees.

Enforcement and Compliance

Headquarters

Environmental Justice in Environmental Impact Statements

In FY 2003, the Office of Federal Activities (OFA) tracked 28 draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) comments and 13 final EIS comments that identified environmental justice concerns. This resulted in a 53.6 percent success rate in resolving environmental justice concerns. In FY 2004, OFA tracked 23 pairs of draft and final EIS comments that identified environmental justice concerns, resulting in an 87 percent success rate in resolutions.

Region 6

Environmental Justice Evaluations and Compliance Reporting

Environmental justice determinations are included in reporting of enforcement and compliance activities for each regulated site location in Region 6. Environmental justice data are derived from the region's Environmental Justice Index Methodology screening protocol. The process results in a better understanding of the characteristics of environmental justice issues in communities.

Demographic and Environmental Justice Analyses of Mining Operations

Using a Geographic Information System methodology system developed by Region 6, mining operations are being evaluated throughout the United States. The significance of this methodology is that it routinely evaluates each site for environmental justice concerns. Each site (currently more than 200) will be ranked not only in terms of water impacts, air releases of chemicals, impacts upon the landscape, and status of environ mental compliance for each facility, but also in terms of environmental justice issues. This project is the first time the GIS methodology has been applied to locations throughout the nation.

Including Environmental Justice in Enforcement Inspections

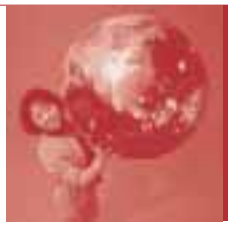
In FY 2004, Region 6's Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) program committed to ensuring that at least 10 percent of its facility inspections would occur in low-income and minority communities. To ensure that the region would meet its goal, each targeted inspection was analyzed for its "Environmental Justice Index," utilizing demographic information within a 2-mile and 4-mile radius of the targeted inspection site. Of the 23 EPCRA inspections that were conducted, 12 of those inspections fell within areas that were classified as minority, low-income, or a combination of both, resulting in 52 percent of the inspections occurring in environmental justice-classified areas.

Superfund Site Environmental Justice Assessment

On, January 20, 2004, a resident contacted Region 8 with concerns about the Silver Bow

Creek/Butte Area Superfund Site, located in Butte, Montana. Specifically, the resident referenced the EPA Montana Office's Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), stating that the plan will "exacerbate the disparate, adverse treatment and the environmental burden of low-income citizens who live in the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit" and that "no accommodation for eliciting the views of low-income citizens in the area has been incorporated into the Revised Community Involvement Plan for Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit." After conducting an evaluation and assessment of the site, the region's Environmental Justice Program concluded that the Superfund Program had incorporated environmental justice principles into its daily activities at the Silver Bow Creek Superfund site. This work has been accomplished in a fair manner, with the meaningful involvement of all people, and has served the people of Butte and Walkerville by reducing significant risks to human health and the environment.

Appendix A: Environmental Justice Coordinators



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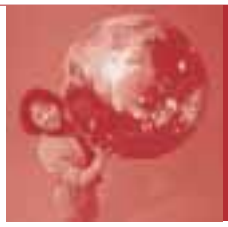

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