

**Expanding the
Conversation**



**working for
environmental
justice**

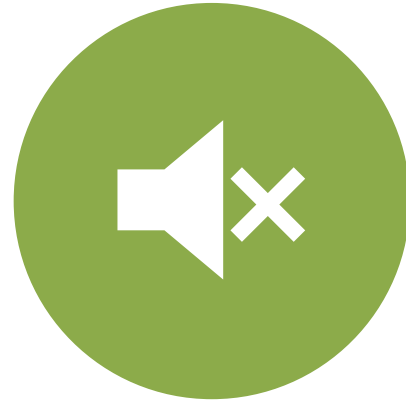
EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

MAY 19, 2021

Housekeeping



PLEASE JOIN BY
PHONE **OR**
COMPUTER, NOT
BOTH



YOU ARE ON
MUTE. ENTER
COMMENTS INTO
THE Q&A POD



IF SELECTED
DURING THE
DIALOGUE, LIMIT
COMMENT TO 1
MINUTE



MEETING NOTES WILL BE
AVAILABLE ONLINE IN
THE NEAR FUTURE.

En Español

Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

- ❑ How to switch to Spanish language audio channel
- ❑ Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod
- ❑ Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español..

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.

Welcome

Goal for these calls:

- ❑ Re-establish an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates – these calls are just a first step!
- ❑ Update stakeholders and the public about EPA's environmental justice work
- ❑ Create a regular and consistent forum as a transparency and accountability mechanism for EJ work at EPA
- ❑ Provide more in-depth updates in the future about EPA EJ priorities

Agenda

Welcome & Housekeeping

Leadership Updates

Featured Topic: Strengthening Civil Rights Enforcement (with Q&A)

EPA Program Updates

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Listening Session and Dialogue

Closing Remarks

Leadership Updates

ROSEMARY ENOBAKHARE

*EPA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION*

MATTHEW TEJADA

DIRECTOR, EPA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Strengthening Civil Rights Enforcement



EPA Administrator Regan has asked his leadership team to take immediate and affirmative steps to incorporate environmental justice considerations into all EPA work and has made **civil rights enforcement an EPA priority**.

Civil Rights Commitment: EPA is committed to strengthening civil rights enforcement to address health and environmental disparities, eliminate discriminatory barriers to clean air, water and land, and ensure the protection of human health and the environment for all persons in the United States. This commitment includes the following:

- ❑ Proactive civil rights compliance activities, including affirmative compliance reviews in environmentally overburdened and disadvantaged communities;
- ❑ Concrete steps to ensure the integration of civil rights obligations in programmatic actions across EPA;
- ❑ Integration of EJ principles into civil rights enforcement and collaboration across the agency to incorporate analyses of disproportionate and cumulative impacts in decision-making;
- ❑ Coordination, communication, and engagement with environmentally overburdened and disadvantaged communities; and
- ❑ Leadership on interagency collaboration across the federal government to enforce federal civil rights laws.



External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO)

Carries out enforcement of several federal civil rights laws, which together, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited-English proficiency), disability, sex and age by applicants for and recipients of financial assistance from EPA, specifically:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
 - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;
 - Age Discrimination Act of 1975; and
 - Section 13 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.
- ❖ EPA's implementing regulation at 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7.
- <https://www.epa.gov/ogc/external-civil-rights-compliance-office-title-vi>
 - Lilian Sotolongo Dorka, Director (Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov)

Questions and Answers



WRITE ANY
COMMENTS/QUESTIONS
IN THE Q&A POD



WHEN PROMPTED,
RAISE YOUR HAND TO
ASK A QUESTION



PLEASE LIMIT
QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS TO 1
MINUTE

EPA Program Updates

Implementing EPA's National Recycling Strategy

National Recycling Strategy

- Identifies objectives and stakeholder-led actions to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective U.S. municipal solid waste recycling system
- Reflects connections to recycling improvements and EJ
- Acknowledges impact of recycling on climate change and economy

Status of Strategy

- Seeking NEJAC Feedback in June
- Strategy to be released in late summer 2021

Seeking organizations to help implement the National Recycling Strategy

- To contribute to the Implementation Plan, email EPAREcycles@epa.gov



Enhancing Transparency

- As noted earlier, one of the goals of these calls is to create a regular and consistent forum as a transparency and accountability mechanism for EJ work at EPA. As part of that effort, we are:
 - ❑ Exploring options for more focused conversations, such as
 - ❖ Topic focused dialogues, listening sessions, webinars, regional conversations, etc.
 - ❑ Following-up on issues/questions raised during these engagement calls, including:
 - ❖ Distributing site-specific questions to Regional EJ Coordinators
 - ❑ Working to connect advocates to people in the relevant EPA programs

Selected Updates

Federal Interagency Collaboration and Coordination:

- The Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) has transitioned to the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (EJ IAC) and is chaired by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). CEQ and the EJ IAC are collectively leading environmental justice efforts across the Federal government.
- EPA's Office of Environmental Justice will continue to partner with federal agencies and be a resource for general environmental justice questions.

Meaningful Engagement

- Administrator Regan has instructed EPA to take immediate and affirmative steps to improve early and more frequent engagement with pollution-burdened and underserved communities affected by agency rulemakings, permitting and enforcement decisions, and policies.
- EPA continues to provide for language access throughout engagement efforts across a broad spectrum of platforms. Part of effort includes working to expand the number of languages available for interpretation.

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

- **May 26:** Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) and its Use in Indian Country and in Indigenous Communities
- **Late June:** Meaningful Involvement in Environmental Programs, Sound Practices, and Examples of Tribal Approaches
- **July 21:** Overview of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)

EPA Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series

- **June 10:** California EPA's Pollution and Prejudice Project

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities *(cont.)*

Upcoming Oil and Natural Gas Methane Rule Training Webinars

May 25, 26, 27. at 2 p.m. Eastern

- EPA will hold training webinars for communities, tribes and small businesses to provide an overview of the oil and natural gas industry and share information to help members of those groups effectively engage in the regulatory process.

Upcoming Oil and Natural Gas Methane Rule Public Listening Sessions

June 15, 16, 17, Noon to 9 p.m. Eastern

- EPA will hold virtual public listening sessions where registered members of the public will have the chance to provide their views on the oil and natural gas industry as it relates to climate change, health and EPA's upcoming proposed rule.
- The Agency also has opened a non-rulemaking docket for people who wish to provide their input and perspectives in writing

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities *(cont.)*

Environmental Justice Consultations on Risk Management Rulemakings for Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene

June 16 and July 6

- Both sessions will provide an overview of the TSCA risk management requirements, the findings from the final risk evaluations, the tools available to manage the unreasonable risks from TCE and PCE, and an opportunity for EPA to obtain input on environmental justice concerns.
- *Register: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-existing-chemicals-under-tsca>*

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities *(cont.)*

EPA Environmental Justice Grants

- Applicants interested in the funding opportunities must submit grant proposal packages by June 1, 2021

Other Virtual Meetings and Webinars

- NEJAC: June 17, 2021: Public Meeting:
- National EJ Conference (NEJC) Webinar: Federal Title VI and Environmental Justice Priorities , May 20, 2021; 10:00 am-11:30 am Eastern

Listening Session and Dialogue



WRITE ANY
COMMENTS/QUESTIONS
IN THE Q&A POD



WHEN PROMPTED,
RAISE YOUR HAND TO
ASK A QUESTION



PLEASE LIMIT
QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS TO 1
MINUTE

Closing Remarks

- ❑ Next Steps
- ❑ Next National EJ Community Engagement call:
 - August 2021
- ❑ Subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv for up-to-date information about EJ funding opportunities, events, and webinars:
 - Send a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov
- ❑ Send follow-up questions or comments to:
 - Environmental-Justice@epa.gov

