

1

00:00:00,452 --> 00:00:05,559

Matthew Tejada: All right, hey everyone,
thank you all so much for joining.

2

00:00:05,559 --> 00:00:11,560

The second of the relaunch of our EPA
National Environmental Justice Community

3

00:00:11,560 --> 00:00:13,000

Engagement Calls.

4

00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:17,148

My name is Matthew Tejada, I'm the Director
of the Environmental Justice Program

5

00:00:17,172 --> 00:00:22,679

here at the United States Environmental
Protection Agency in Washington DC Headquarters.

6

00:00:22,679 --> 00:00:27,559

I'm really happy to have a lot of
folks joining us today for this call,

7

00:00:27,559 --> 00:00:33,600

very happy that we're going to have some
colleagues giving some more in-depth updates

8

00:00:33,624 --> 00:00:39,559

on the call today and
that is partially in response to

9

00:00:39,559 --> 00:00:44,440

some of the feedback we heard on the
first call that we did back in February.

10

00:00:44,440 --> 00:00:50,848

So just wanted to go over a few of the
reasons why we're holding these calls.

11

00:00:50,872 --> 00:00:58,108

First of all as I said these are a relaunch,
these are not the first time we've done these,

12

00:00:58,232 --> 00:01:02,588

we've done these in previous
years and then took several years off,

13

00:01:02,612 --> 00:01:06,760

but we wanted to
relaunch these in 2021

14

00:01:06,784 --> 00:01:12,013

because we do see these
serving several valuable purposes.

15

00:01:12,037 --> 00:01:17,080

First of all, it's a great
way for us at EPA to just hear

16

00:01:17,080 --> 00:01:22,561

from community members and
community leaders across the United States

17

00:01:22,585 --> 00:01:27,159

on what are their priority
issues, what are their concerns,

18

00:01:27,159 --> 00:01:30,680

what are their questions,

how can we collaborate,

19

00:01:30,680 --> 00:01:39,000

how can we support, so just hearing from those
community perspectives is really important.

20

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:44,920

We also see these as a really
meaningful and hopefully useful way

21

00:01:44,920 --> 00:01:50,040

of sharing information back out to
communities and organizations and leaders

22

00:01:50,040 --> 00:01:54,968

throughout the United States so that can
be done in simple ways like we'll do today

23

00:01:54,992 --> 00:01:57,399

with just some quick
program updates

24

00:01:57,399 --> 00:01:59,847

or some more substantive ones like we're
going to hear from our colleagues

25

00:01:59,871 --> 00:02:03,400

in the External Civil Rights
Compliance Office today.

26

00:02:03,400 --> 00:02:07,868

And then the third reason we have
these is, we really see these as a way

27

00:02:07,892 --> 00:02:13,959

of just holding ourselves in EPA
accountable to constantly updating

28

00:02:13,959 --> 00:02:17,319

and keeping that relationship
and that line of communication open

29

00:02:17,319 --> 00:02:20,128

and making sure that we're
hearing what the priorities are

30

00:02:20,152 --> 00:02:23,000

and that we're being
responsive to those.

31

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:27,560

So we're very glad for all of you
that have joined the call today.

32

00:02:27,560 --> 00:02:31,028

I believe I'm going to
pass it over to my colleague

33

00:02:31,052 --> 00:02:36,148

from within the Office of
Environmental Justice Victoria Robinson,

34

00:02:36,172 --> 00:02:38,360

who's going to go through
some housekeeping items

35

00:02:38,760 --> 00:02:42,360

and then we're going to get
on with the content.

36

00:02:42,360 --> 00:02:45,800

Victoria Robinson: Thank you,
Matthew, yes hi welcome everybody.

37

00:02:45,800 --> 00:02:49,560

Basic housekeeping is very
simple we have a slide up here

38

00:02:49,560 --> 00:02:54,587

because of the nature of Zoom calls, we're asking
that you either joined by phone or computer

39

00:02:54,611 --> 00:02:59,720

but not both, if possible please join by
computer because you're able to participate

40

00:02:59,720 --> 00:03:03,124

in our Q&A pod by posting
questions, raising your hand

41

00:03:03,148 --> 00:03:05,800

and possibly being have an
opportunity to be able to speak

42

00:03:05,800 --> 00:03:07,937

verbally with a question.

43

00:03:07,961 --> 00:03:11,400

Everybody who

has entered in is on mute

44

00:03:11,400 --> 00:03:14,877

and so that's where we're asking

people to enter any kind of comments

45

00:03:14,901 --> 00:03:16,788

or questions into the Q&A a pod.

46

00:03:16,812 --> 00:03:20,920

And those who are on the phone

I'm sorry that's not an option

47

00:03:20,920 --> 00:03:24,200

at this stage with Zoom platform.

48

00:03:24,200 --> 00:03:27,560

Now if you are selected
to give a comment

49

00:03:27,560 --> 00:03:31,879

we're going to ask that you limit your
question or comment to one minute

50

00:03:31,879 --> 00:03:35,720

so that will allow as many people as
possible to be able to interact during

51

00:03:35,720 --> 00:03:37,640

our listening session and dialogue.

52

00:03:37,640 --> 00:03:41,720

And then we will be providing meeting notes--
will be available online in the future,

53

00:03:41,720 --> 00:03:46,760

those meeting notes will be a
combination of items such as

54

00:03:46,760 --> 00:03:51,829

the recording of this
engagement call, transcript of the call

55

00:03:51,853 --> 00:03:56,200

a summary of our the Q&A
pod questions and answers

56

00:03:56,200 --> 00:03:59,588

as well as a few other documents.

57

00:03:59,612 --> 00:04:04,999

We do have Spanish language interpretation
available for those who prefer

58

00:04:04,999 --> 00:04:05,900

to listen in Spanish.

59

00:04:06,200 --> 00:04:11,015

For those of you who are on a computer, you'll
notice that you have in your little task bar,

60

00:04:11,139 --> 00:04:14,199

your Zoom task bar there's a
globe that says interpretation,

61

00:04:14,199 --> 00:04:17,560

you can click on that and choose
what language you would like

62

00:04:17,560 --> 00:04:21,627

to which audio channel you want
to have either English or Spanish.

63

00:04:21,651 --> 00:04:26,386

Very simple of how to switch on to
it you just click on that little icon.

64

00:04:26,410 --> 00:04:31,678

You can also add questions you can write
your questions in Spanish into the Q&A pod,

65

00:04:31,702 --> 00:04:37,320

we do have an individual who will respond
to your questions in Spanish in return.

66

00:04:37,320 --> 00:04:42,601

And then we're also making available any
other the meeting materials the presentation

67

00:04:42,625 --> 00:04:45,885

that kind of stuff will be
translated into Spanish

68

00:04:45,909 --> 00:04:48,540

and made available when
we post the other documents.

69

00:04:49,240 --> 00:04:56,680

So, I believe that is it and I know you already
covered this Matthew, so we'll go ahead.

70

00:04:56,680 --> 00:04:59,038

And go to the next one, thank you.

71

00:04:59,062 --> 00:05:00,821

Matthew Tejada: Thanks Victoria.

72

00:05:00,845 --> 00:05:05,780

Yeah, so folks who need
interpretation, please do switch over

73

00:05:06,280 --> 00:05:11,000

I want to thank our two
interpreters today Jackie and Nestor,

74

00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:14,440

they've been with us especially
Jackie I think has been with us for almost

75

00:05:14,440 --> 00:05:18,199

every public meeting the EJ Program has
done for the last couple of months,

76

00:05:18,199 --> 00:05:23,467

they do a great job for us and we want
to make sure that we are being inclusive

77

00:05:23,491 --> 00:05:27,128

and accessible for all folks
that want to join us on these calls

78

00:05:27,152 --> 00:05:32,919

so we're really happy to have
a Spanish interpretation today.

79

00:05:32,919 --> 00:05:35,560

Yeah so just real quickly what we're
gonna go through so we've already

80

00:05:35,560 --> 00:05:39,160

done the welcome and housekeeping,
I'm gonna offer a few leadership updates

81

00:05:39,160 --> 00:05:43,160

and then a little bit later on we're
gonna have one of our political appointees

82

00:05:43,160 --> 00:05:49,867

Rosemary Enobakhare, who is our Associate
Administrator for Public Engagement

83

00:05:49,891 --> 00:05:54,447

she'll be joining us a little later in this
meeting to offer some more updates

84

00:05:54,471 --> 00:05:58,026

about what is going on
within the administration

85

00:05:58,050 --> 00:06:01,604

and with Administrator
Michael Regan currently.

86

00:06:01,628 --> 00:06:05,757

Then we're going to switch
to our featured topic of today

87

00:06:05,781 --> 00:06:09,960

my good friend and colleague Lillian Dorka
who is the Director of the External Civil

88

00:06:09,960 --> 00:06:14,759

Rights Compliance Office is going
to give a more substantive update

89

00:06:14,759 --> 00:06:19,036

on strengthening civil rights enforcement
and we're going to have a little Q&A period

90

00:06:19,060 --> 00:06:23,008

after that specific to the stuff
that Lillian is going to be sharing

91

00:06:23,032 --> 00:06:26,908

with folks, then we're going to have
some more just kind of brief quick hit

92

00:06:26,932 --> 00:06:32,680

EPA Program Updates, some stuff from
the EJ Program and around the rest of EPA,

93

00:06:32,680 --> 00:06:36,039

some engagement opportunities coming
up and then we'll just have the broader

94

00:06:36,039 --> 00:06:39,000

kind of listening session
and dialogue where folks can

95

00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:44,128

ask questions and we'll be

responsive as we can in this session,

96

00:06:44,152 --> 00:06:47,960

and if folks ask stuff that we
have to track down or follow up on

97

00:06:47,960 --> 00:06:52,028

that'll be something that we continue
to do coming out of this meeting.

98

00:06:52,052 --> 00:06:56,840

A lot of follow-up has occurred just from the
first meeting that we had back in February

99

00:06:56,840 --> 00:06:59,960

we're tracking every comment,
we're tracking every question

100

00:06:59,960 --> 00:07:03,828

and making sure that we are responsive
onto everything we're hearing

101

00:07:03,952 --> 00:07:05,224

and receiving in these sessions.

102

00:07:05,248 --> 00:07:08,759

And then we'll have some closing remarks
and we'll wrap up right around

103

00:07:08,759 --> 00:07:12,520

4 o'clock, Eastern Time.

104

00:07:12,520 --> 00:07:17,048

Whatever o'clock that is wherever you are, we
do try to have these later in the afternoon

105

00:07:17,072 --> 00:07:21,639

so that all folks across the United
States have the opportunity to join in that,

106

00:07:21,639 --> 00:07:26,840

it's not too early for anybody
including our colleagues and friends

107

00:07:26,840 --> 00:07:29,880

out in Hawaii and the

Pacific Islands hopefully.

108

00:07:29,880 --> 00:07:35,960

So with that we'll go on and I'll
offer a few leadership updates Victoria.

109

00:07:35,960 --> 00:07:44,039

From where we are within EPA, there's a lot of
activity obviously going on right now across

110

00:07:44,039 --> 00:07:48,599

all of the federal government and it
really is important to note that

111

00:07:48,599 --> 00:07:54,608

President Biden and Vice President Harris they
came in as they assumed this administration

112

00:07:54,632 --> 00:08:00,199

with a very clear philosophy
of advancing equity and justice

113

00:08:00,199 --> 00:08:04,199

across the United States, takes
a whole of government approach

114

00:08:04,199 --> 00:08:10,348

and that has been true with everything
we've been working on since January 20th

115

00:08:10,372 --> 00:08:15,240

it is very much a whole of
government approach at the federal level

116

00:08:15,240 --> 00:08:19,720

in terms of addressing and advancing
equity and justice priorities.

117

00:08:19,720 --> 00:08:25,846

There's been two main kind of
universes of work on equity and justice

118

00:08:25,870 --> 00:08:28,266

across the government
over these past few months

119

00:08:28,290 --> 00:08:32,200

and those are obviously related
to the two big executive orders that

120

00:08:32,200 --> 00:08:36,519

President Biden signed in
his first day, and in his first week

121

00:08:36,519 --> 00:08:44,519

in office, that's Executive Order 13985,
that's the executive order on racial equity

122

00:08:44,519 --> 00:08:49,548

and that executive order did something that
we're all very involved in at EPA right now.

123

00:08:49,572 --> 00:08:54,839

It established a real mandate to look at
everything across what an agency does

124

00:08:54,839 --> 00:08:58,440

and all agencies across the federal
government are doing this right now.

125

00:08:58,440 --> 00:09:01,720

At EPA we're looking at
everything we do in EPA

126

00:09:01,720 --> 00:09:06,519

and trying to determine what
are the barriers to advancing equity

127

00:09:06,519 --> 00:09:11,248

within that piece of our business
and really, it's all parts of our business,

128

00:09:11,272 --> 00:09:14,279

we have work groups
that are looking at policy,

129

00:09:14,279 --> 00:09:19,588

looking at grants, looking at
procurement, looking at data.

130

00:09:19,612 --> 00:09:26,120

So really looking across the spectrum of
everything that EPA does, what are the barriers

131

00:09:26,120 --> 00:09:31,399

to advancing equity in what we do
and once we identify those barriers

132

00:09:31,399 --> 00:09:37,240

which is the phase we're in right now, how do
we actually start busting through those barriers

133

00:09:37,240 --> 00:09:41,959

and implementing and
advancing more equitable practices

134

00:09:41,959 --> 00:09:43,659

across everything we do at EPA.

135

00:09:43,683 --> 00:09:48,360

Again, every federal agency
right now has a similar effort

136

00:09:48,360 --> 00:09:53,560

supporting this executive order implementing
Executive Order 13985 right now.

137

00:09:53,560 --> 00:09:58,120

Then on the other side, we have
another executive order that maybe more

138

00:09:58,120 --> 00:10:04,461

folks in the EJ community are kind of paying
attention to, that's Executive Order 14008,

139

00:10:04,485 --> 00:10:10,360

the executive order on tackling
the climate crisis at home and abroad.

140

00:10:10,360 --> 00:10:14,040

That executive order does
several important things,

141

00:10:14,040 --> 00:10:18,600

one, it established a new federal
advisory committee that I'm hopeful that

142

00:10:18,600 --> 00:10:21,560

a lot of folks who are on the phone

today have probably been tuning into

143

00:10:21,560 --> 00:10:23,320

they've been having

a lot of meetings,

144

00:10:23,320 --> 00:10:27,640

that's the White House Environmental

Justice Advisory Council, WHEJAC.

145

00:10:27,640 --> 00:10:31,195

It's been meeting to go over

a number of the different items

146

00:10:31,219 --> 00:10:34,120

that are contained

in that executive order

147

00:10:34,120 --> 00:10:38,639

such as providing some

recommendations on additional updates

148

00:10:38,663 --> 00:10:43,480

to the original EJ Executive
Order 12898 from 1994,

149

00:10:43,480 --> 00:10:48,120

so we just last week finalized
their recommendations

150

00:10:48,120 --> 00:10:54,660

back to the Council on Environmental
Quality and the President on enhancements

151

00:10:54,660 --> 00:10:58,201

or changes to EO 12898.

152

00:10:58,225 --> 00:11:04,200

They're also looking at different elements for
the implementation of Executive Order 14008,

153

00:11:04,200 --> 00:11:09,480

so particularly looking at some
elements of the Justice40 initiative.

154

00:11:09,480 --> 00:11:14,040

That's the initiative that the President
has mandated in that executive order

155

00:11:14,040 --> 00:11:19,348

which is going to take 40 percent of
federal resources for climate change

156

00:11:19,372 --> 00:11:25,560

and ensure that 40 percent of those
resources benefit disadvantaged communities.

157

00:11:25,560 --> 00:11:28,920

Now, there's several
elements in there that--

158

00:11:28,920 --> 00:11:32,200

folks that have been working on this, of
course know there's a lot of

159

00:11:32,200 --> 00:11:35,399

work to just kind of unpack
and define and delineate

160

00:11:35,399 --> 00:11:38,440

with those different parts of
just that sentence mean, right?

161

00:11:38,440 --> 00:11:41,307

What are the resources
that we're going to look at?

162

00:11:41,331 --> 00:11:47,862

What does it mean to benefit communities and
what are those disadvantaged communities?

163

00:11:47,886 --> 00:11:53,079

And then at the end of all that,
the executive order also mandates that

164

00:11:53,079 --> 00:11:59,720

there's a scorecard across the federal
government for how well we're implementing

165

00:11:59,720 --> 00:12:04,390

environmental justice and this Justice40
initiative at every agency and department.

166

00:12:04,414 --> 00:12:07,480

So a lot of thinking is
going into that right now

167

00:12:07,480 --> 00:12:10,760

a lot of work by
members of the WHEJAC,

168

00:12:10,760 --> 00:12:16,422

a lot of work by other federal partners on the
interagency council for environmental justice

169

00:12:16,446 --> 00:12:20,680

and that is the evolved version of
the Interagency Working Group on

170

00:12:20,680 --> 00:12:25,399

Environmental Justice that has been around
since the signing of Executive Order 12898

171

00:12:25,399 --> 00:12:30,760

so just a lot of activity across
the board right now both at EPA

172

00:12:30,760 --> 00:12:36,920

and across the rest of the federal government
on implementing those executive orders.

173

00:12:36,920 --> 00:12:43,989

We also of course received an EPA 100 million
dollars through the American Rescue Plan

174

00:12:44,013 --> 00:12:48,600

that was the Biden-Harris
COVID release bill that was passed

175

00:12:48,600 --> 00:12:52,600

through congress in the first
couple of months of this administration.

176

00:12:52,600 --> 00:12:58,039

We're still working through kind of a
proposal for how to potentially spend

177

00:12:58,063 --> 00:13:04,868

those 100 million dollars and within that

100 million that EPA received, 50 million

178

00:13:04,892 --> 00:13:09,180

of it is for air quality and
air monitoring purposes

179

00:13:09,204 --> 00:13:12,688

and then 50 million of it was for
environmental justice purposes.

180

00:13:12,712 --> 00:13:17,896

We're still working through kind of the
process on how to propose to spend that

181

00:13:17,920 --> 00:13:21,968

we're hopeful we'll have some
ability here in the next couple of weeks

182

00:13:21,992 --> 00:13:27,399

or next month or so to start sharing
our thoughts around that more publicly.

183

00:13:27,399 --> 00:13:31,548

And also start moving some of that money out especially in some of the most obvious ways

184

00:13:31,572 --> 00:13:36,978

that we could actually start getting that money out on the street to support communities

185

00:13:37,002 --> 00:13:42,036

and to support other partners at dealing with the ongoing ramifications

186

00:13:42,060 --> 00:13:45,720

of the COVID pandemic and the ways in which EPA can help support

187

00:13:45,720 --> 00:13:50,760

that through improving air quality, improving access to safe drinking water

188

00:13:50,760 --> 00:13:55,339

remediating sites, on supporting economic development and redevelopment

189

00:13:55,363 --> 00:13:58,519

but more details on that
hopefully pretty soon.

190

00:13:58,519 --> 00:14:03,898

Again, we're still working through kind of
some of the final approval of the proposed plan

191

00:14:03,922 --> 00:14:06,400

on how EPA is going to spend
that money.

192

00:14:06,424 --> 00:14:11,584

So again lots of activity across the
board on policy fronts, on regulatory fronts

193

00:14:11,608 --> 00:14:15,480

on just nuts and bolts
fiscal budgetary fronts,

194

00:14:15,480 --> 00:14:17,987

so I'm going to stop there for now.

195

00:14:18,011 --> 00:14:22,279

As I said Rosemary Enobakhare is going to be joining us a little bit later on the call,

196

00:14:22,279 --> 00:14:25,968

she'll be able to give some more insight and kind of updates on some of the other things

197

00:14:25,992 --> 00:14:28,120

that Administrator

Regan has going on

198

00:14:28,120 --> 00:14:31,560

some of the recent meetings that they've been going through recently,

199

00:14:31,560 --> 00:14:35,959

but at this point I would like to pause, I know we have some questions to answer,

200

00:14:35,959 --> 00:14:37,880

we'll get to the question and answer here in a minute,

201

00:14:37,880 --> 00:14:41,768

but I wanted to go ahead now
and pass it over to my very--

202

00:14:41,792 --> 00:14:46,440

my very good friend and colleague Lilian
Dorka who is the Director of the Office

203

00:14:46,440 --> 00:14:51,240

of External Civil Rights Compliance
within the Office of our General Council

204

00:14:51,240 --> 00:14:52,920

here in headquarters at EPA.

205

00:14:52,920 --> 00:14:55,968

And Lillian is going to give
folks a more substantive update

206

00:14:55,992 --> 00:15:00,040

on where we are with
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

207

00:15:00,040 --> 00:15:01,728

Go ahead Lilian.

208

00:15:01,752 --> 00:15:06,839

Lilian Dorka: Thanks so much Matt,
and thank you to all my colleagues

209

00:15:06,839 --> 00:15:12,347

all my EJ colleagues, not just an OEJ
but throughout our regional offices

210

00:15:12,371 --> 00:15:16,570

and our program offices and
to all of you for joining today.

211

00:15:16,594 --> 00:15:21,639

I know this is an issue
that is extremely important,

212

00:15:21,639 --> 00:15:26,203

not just out there in the
advocacy world but here at EPA.

213

00:15:26,227 --> 00:15:31,579

And before I-- and thank you

Victoria for sharing the slide

214

00:15:31,703 --> 00:15:34,405

about strengthening

civil rights enforcement.

215

00:15:34,429 --> 00:15:39,079

Before I go there, I just want

to say that obviously

216

00:15:39,079 --> 00:15:45,148

we're all seeing this administration's

commitment to environmental justice

217

00:15:45,172 --> 00:15:49,358

and to integrating environmental

justice throughout everything we do.

218

00:15:49,382 --> 00:15:56,279

Certainly here at EPA, Administrator

Regan has more than shown that commitment

219

00:15:56,279 --> 00:16:03,428

and a commitment to civil rights enforcement
as well as environmental enforcement as well,

220

00:16:03,452 --> 00:16:10,519

but the civil rights laws do carry a
priority here at EPA and thank goodness, right?

221

00:16:10,519 --> 00:16:17,240

We've been waiting for this
time, it is an unprecedented time for us,

222

00:16:17,240 --> 00:16:23,800

it's also an unprecedented
time for us to continue the job that

223

00:16:23,800 --> 00:16:28,908

that Matt, and I, and Charles and others
have been doing sort of behind the scenes

224

00:16:28,932 --> 00:16:34,519

to really, really strengthen and

continue the commitment to deepen

225

00:16:34,519 --> 00:16:41,160

the alignment and collaboration between civil rights and environmental justice programs.

226

00:16:41,160 --> 00:16:47,340

We recognize fully that we need to go beyond the general principles

227

00:16:47,364 --> 00:16:55,240

and the general procedural relationship that we established

228

00:16:55,240 --> 00:16:59,559

back when we did EJ 2020 and that action agenda.

229

00:16:59,559 --> 00:17:07,000

This goes far beyond that, this is a much more substantive commitment to work together

230

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:11,559

because we fully realize that
advancing environmental justice

231

00:17:11,559 --> 00:17:15,000

and Title VI enforcement
go hand in hand.

232

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:22,147

We need only have listened in
on the WHEJAC deliberations

233

00:17:22,171 --> 00:17:28,760

and the thoughts of the EO 12898
working group to know that

234

00:17:28,760 --> 00:17:33,480

several times, that partnership
was referenced

235

00:17:33,480 --> 00:17:39,720

when they talked about environmental justice
is about civil rights and Title VI enforcement

236

00:17:39,720 --> 00:17:44,520

and something else that I wrote
down was environmental justice issues

237

00:17:44,520 --> 00:17:47,147

must be handled as civil
rights and Title VI issues,

238

00:17:47,171 --> 00:17:54,348

I mean we fully recognize that
not only are they interdependent,

239

00:17:54,372 --> 00:18:03,354

but that they leverage each other and so we have
been working to develop an action strategy

240

00:18:03,378 --> 00:18:08,280

so that both offices, both programs
can continue to work together

241

00:18:08,280 --> 00:18:16,567

to make sure that we leverage both
programs whether it's they are in EJ issues

242

00:18:16,591 --> 00:18:25,588

that come up through the EJ actions that also
have a reference point in Title VI enforcement

243

00:18:25,612 --> 00:18:29,787

or the issues that come up through
Title VI compliance and enforcement

244

00:18:29,811 --> 00:18:35,160

that we need to make sure
are referenced in our EJ actions

245

00:18:35,160 --> 00:18:39,080

as well in the actions
of EPA as a whole.

246

00:18:39,080 --> 00:18:46,360

What we see here
on this slide is an attempt

247

00:18:46,360 --> 00:18:53,160

to put into words the overarching
commitment that exists within EPA

248

00:18:53,160 --> 00:19:05,000

with respect to enforcement of Title
VI and civil rights as an EPA priority.

249

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:14,360

We are committed certainly in our office in
ECRCO to strengthening civil rights enforcement

250

00:19:14,360 --> 00:19:20,120

and addressing these issues of health
and environmental disparities

251

00:19:20,120 --> 00:19:26,401

and to of course ensure that the
mission and the promise of EPA's mission

252

00:19:26,425 --> 00:19:30,564

is a reality for all persons
in the United States.

253

00:19:30,588 --> 00:19:35,259

And that the protection of human

health and the environment is a reality

254

00:19:35,259 --> 00:19:39,828

for all persons in the United
States, not just for some.

255

00:19:39,852 --> 00:19:47,160

We have articulated sort of five
general principles that you see here,

256

00:19:47,160 --> 00:19:54,039

that are largely guiding our work,
we are working on something like an--

257

00:19:54,039 --> 00:20:00,360

like a strategic plan of course but we knew
that, we needed to hit the ground running

258

00:20:00,360 --> 00:20:10,679

and as our new Deputy
General Counsel Marianne Engelman Lado

259

00:20:10,679 --> 00:20:15,159

is fond of saying sometimes
we're building this plane as we fly it,

260

00:20:15,159 --> 00:20:18,600

but it's imperative that we
hit the ground running.

261

00:20:18,600 --> 00:20:24,028

So we are continuing to articulate all
of these principles and all of these goals

262

00:20:24,052 --> 00:20:29,080

and all of these actions
into a more cohesive strategic plan

263

00:20:29,080 --> 00:20:33,480

and we are strategic-- we are
engaging in strategic planning

264

00:20:33,480 --> 00:20:40,200

but we wanted to write off really
in keeping with the administration

265

00:20:40,200 --> 00:20:43,428

and Administrator Regan's commitment
articulate these five principles

266

00:20:43,452 --> 00:20:49,916

and I want to put a little meat on
these bones as we go through them.

267

00:20:49,940 --> 00:20:54,197

As you can see, the proactive
civil rights compliance activities,

268

00:20:54,221 --> 00:20:59,728

including affirmative compliance
reviews in environmentally overburdened

269

00:20:59,752 --> 00:21:03,000

and disadvantaged
communities is clearly a priority,

270

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:12,452

we know that we need to do this,
we need to really revamp and reinvigorate

271

00:21:12,476 --> 00:21:18,437

this work, this Title VI work, as
well as with respect to persons

272

00:21:18,461 --> 00:21:23,233

with disabilities and other authorities
that we have within ECRCO.

273

00:21:23,357 --> 00:21:29,399

We are currently in the process of
doing more comprehensive planning

274

00:21:29,399 --> 00:21:33,800

on what we call an affirmative
compliance review docket

275

00:21:34,200 --> 00:21:41,559

to design that process to make sure that
we are really identifying the right areas

276

00:21:41,559 --> 00:21:48,280

where that we want to tackle, the
right areas or the areas that are plaguing

277

00:21:48,280 --> 00:21:53,400

overburdened disadvantaged communities
and that we do it in a productive

278

00:21:53,400 --> 00:21:59,320

and well-reasoned way, but we
are, in the meantime, we are considering

279

00:21:59,320 --> 00:22:06,840

the initiation of at least one compliance
review by the end of this fiscal year.

280

00:22:06,840 --> 00:22:14,280

If we can we will do more, but at the
very least we are committed in 2021

281

00:22:14,280 --> 00:22:16,871

to initiating one or more reviews.

282

00:22:16,895 --> 00:22:19,960

What would be the focus of that review

283

00:22:19,960 --> 00:22:26,600

is something that is currently under
consideration, we are taking into consideration

284

00:22:26,600 --> 00:22:31,721

all of the great information,
suggestions, recommendations

285

00:22:31,745 --> 00:22:38,600

that have been provided to us by the
communities, the advocacy communities

286

00:22:38,600 --> 00:22:45,880

the other communities with whom we've
worked during our complaint investigations

287

00:22:45,880 --> 00:22:54,269

and other engagements that we have as
well as through Matt and other-- the EJ work

288

00:22:54,293 --> 00:23:00,280

that's being done in all of our regional
offices and we are considering for example,

289

00:23:00,280 --> 00:23:09,240

issues that are very critical in overburdened communities such as the high mortality

290

00:23:09,264 --> 00:23:14,120

and morbidity rates due to COVID that might coincide with exceedances

291

00:23:14,120 --> 00:23:17,648

and PM 2.5 and other pollution exceedances,

292

00:23:17,672 --> 00:23:22,200

so we're very carefully, we're looking at that to make sure

293

00:23:22,200 --> 00:23:30,200

that we identify not just the issue area but the communities

294

00:23:30,200 --> 00:23:32,929

where we should

be launching this first.

295

00:23:32,953 --> 00:23:39,159

We're also looking at other issues
such as water infrastructure, for example,

296

00:23:39,159 --> 00:23:45,468

that we have, we know based on our experience
and we know based on the information

297

00:23:45,492 --> 00:23:50,840

that's been communicated to
us are issues of great importance

298

00:23:50,840 --> 00:23:55,159

in overburdened and
disadvantaged communities.

299

00:23:55,159 --> 00:24:01,880

And we are looking to engage more
like through this particular engagement

300

00:24:01,880 --> 00:24:06,520

and others to engage
more with our stakeholders

301

00:24:06,520 --> 00:24:10,440

to receive that type of really
valuable information

302

00:24:10,440 --> 00:24:16,929

and I might say and this is critically
important, making full use of all

303

00:24:16,953 --> 00:24:23,441

of the great insight and great
expertise that we have right here in EPA

304

00:24:23,465 --> 00:24:29,559

whether it's with gathering
of data and data analysis

305

00:24:29,559 --> 00:24:33,268

and thinking on other types
of environmental issues,

306

00:24:33,292 --> 00:24:38,840

but please make sure
that everyone understands

307

00:24:38,840 --> 00:24:43,083

we will be addressing these
from a civil rights perspective.

308

00:24:43,107 --> 00:24:47,514

And we will make full use
of the civil rights authorities

309

00:24:47,538 --> 00:24:52,360

that we have available to us.

310

00:24:52,360 --> 00:25:00,628

The second big area there is the
commitment to take concrete steps

311

00:25:00,652 --> 00:25:05,559

to ensure of course the integration
of civil rights and environmental justice

312

00:25:05,559 --> 00:25:09,688

and programmatic action, into
programmatic actions across EPA,

313

00:25:09,712 --> 00:25:15,406

and Matt talked a little bit about
the equity assessment groups

314

00:25:15,430 --> 00:25:19,840

that we have here
at EPA and that is just

315

00:25:19,840 --> 00:25:22,840

tremendously vigorous and engaged.

316

00:25:22,840 --> 00:25:29,342

I am lucky enough to serve
on a couple of those equity groups

317

00:25:29,366 --> 00:25:36,039

and I am just really privileged to be
able to serve on those with the best

318

00:25:36,063 --> 00:25:44,600

and brightest minds in EPA, it's really
heartening to see the commitment throughout.

319

00:25:44,600 --> 00:25:47,468

And of course, it's through
Administrator Regan's commitment

320

00:25:47,492 --> 00:25:53,547

and very, very vocal
commitment to his entire team,

321

00:25:53,571 --> 00:25:57,480

his entire leadership to take
those immediate and affirmative steps to

322

00:25:57,480 --> 00:26:01,480

incorporate environmental justice
considerations in our work,

323

00:26:01,480 --> 00:26:07,960

and the civil rights enforcement
issues and priorities into consideration

324

00:26:07,960 --> 00:26:11,080

as we continue our work.

325

00:26:11,080 --> 00:26:18,520

We are also of course integrating

EJ principles into civil rights

326

00:26:18,520 --> 00:26:22,120

enforcement through

collaboration across the agency

327

00:26:22,120 --> 00:26:30,347

and to make sure that we incorporate

analyses including disproportionate impacts

328

00:26:30,371 --> 00:26:34,679

and cumulative impacts

in our decision making

329

00:26:34,679 --> 00:26:42,830

certainly these are incredibly

important issues, within this priority area

330

00:26:42,854 --> 00:26:49,799

we are very much considering what
guidances will be necessary for us to issue

331

00:26:49,799 --> 00:26:53,480

in the short term as law
as well as in the long term

332

00:26:53,480 --> 00:26:59,000

to bring us to a place to bring this program
to a place where we could truly say that

333

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:01,640

we're strengthening civil rights
enforcement.

334

00:27:01,640 --> 00:27:06,520

So for example by the end of
this fiscal year we hope to launch

335

00:27:06,520 --> 00:27:14,808

and issue more comprehensive
guidance for recipients

336

00:27:14,932 --> 00:27:20,742

on the non-discrimination program requirements
that are reflected in our regulations,

337

00:27:20,766 --> 00:27:25,788

but that so many recipients
still do not have in place,

338

00:27:25,812 --> 00:27:32,760

things like grievance
procedures and coordination

339

00:27:32,760 --> 00:27:37,748

from a recipient agency level
to ensure that communities

340

00:27:37,772 --> 00:27:42,421

that have discrimination issues
can bring it at the local level as well

341

00:27:42,445 --> 00:27:44,671

as the federal level.

342

00:27:44,695 --> 00:27:49,960

Not only that but we
are also going to clarify

343

00:27:49,960 --> 00:27:59,142

the responsibilities and obligations of
recipients with respect to the pre-award process

344

00:27:59,166 --> 00:28:05,559

and make very clear what our
expectations-- what EPA's expectations are

345

00:28:05,559 --> 00:28:10,574

before recipients, before
applicants receive money from EPA.

346

00:28:10,598 --> 00:28:16,848

What is expected of them and a
more vigorous pre-award review process

347

00:28:16,872 --> 00:28:18,259

that we anticipate.

348

00:28:18,283 --> 00:28:21,465

As I said we anticipate
issuing some of that guidance

349

00:28:21,489 --> 00:28:28,135

before the end of the fiscal year,
and then additional points

350

00:28:28,159 --> 00:28:32,997

as we implement this comprehensive
non-discrimination program effort.

351

00:28:33,021 --> 00:28:36,840

Along with that and
very importantly,

352

00:28:36,840 --> 00:28:44,919

of course, includes the additional guidance
regarding civil rights legal standards

353

00:28:44,919 --> 00:28:50,120

guidance that would complement the

guidance that we've already issued

354

00:28:50,120 --> 00:28:57,799

known as the chapter one of the toolkit
to really supplement that guidance

355

00:28:57,799 --> 00:29:05,399

with helpful insight about disparate
impact and the disparate impact standard,

356

00:29:05,399 --> 00:29:10,840

as well as the different treatment analysis
and additional guidance to our staff

357

00:29:10,840 --> 00:29:16,467

how to complete those analyses as
well as to recipients and communities,

358

00:29:16,491 --> 00:29:20,341

so that everyone is on the same
page that we fully intend to use all

359

00:29:20,365 --> 00:29:27,960

of the tools in our authorities
as a Civil Rights Office.

360

00:29:27,960 --> 00:29:34,440

And of course, we plan to issue
additional guidance that would

361

00:29:34,440 --> 00:29:40,679

also address cumulative impacts
within the civil rights context

362

00:29:40,679 --> 00:29:46,227

how do we view cumulative impacts that are
affecting overburdened disadvantaged communities,

363

00:29:46,251 --> 00:29:50,007

how do we evaluate those
adversities, those harms

364

00:29:50,031 --> 00:29:55,636

that so many-- those multiple harms
that so many communities face.

365

00:29:55,660 --> 00:30:06,279

So in FY22, we fully anticipate that we will be looking at those additional guidances.

366

00:30:06,279 --> 00:30:13,480

Next, this concept of extremely, extremely important coordination,

367

00:30:13,480 --> 00:30:18,760

communication and engagement with overburdened and disadvantaged

368

00:30:18,760 --> 00:30:24,120

stakeholders and communities to make sure that not just

369

00:30:24,120 --> 00:30:32,547

through affirmative initiatives such as affirmative compliance reviews,

370

00:30:32,571 --> 00:30:35,880

and technical assistance deliveries and other engagements.

371

00:30:35,880 --> 00:30:41,852

But also through our complaint
investigations and our complaint resolutions

372

00:30:41,876 --> 00:30:48,427

we are looking at ways to expand
the involvement of stakeholders

373

00:30:48,451 --> 00:30:53,591

and especially stakeholders
that either represent

374

00:30:53,615 --> 00:30:58,268

or are in the disadvantaged
and overburdened communities,

375

00:30:58,292 --> 00:31:02,508

so we definitely
consider that a priority.

376

00:31:02,532 --> 00:31:10,600

And finally leadership, no
self-respecting civil rights agency

377

00:31:10,600 --> 00:31:17,640

can be one, unless it really commits
to and exemplifies leadership across

378

00:31:17,640 --> 00:31:21,799

the federal government on
inter-agency collaboration

379

00:31:21,799 --> 00:31:24,840

across the federal government
to enforce civil rights laws

380

00:31:24,840 --> 00:31:30,200

whether it's through collaboration
in affirmative compliance reviews,

381

00:31:30,200 --> 00:31:32,648

through collaboration
in complaint investigations,

382

00:31:32,672 --> 00:31:39,921

and very importantly collaboration

through guidance and policy making.

383

00:31:39,945 --> 00:31:43,033

We very, very much believe in this,

384

00:31:43,057 --> 00:31:48,120

I personally believe

in this I so look forward

385

00:31:48,120 --> 00:31:54,187

to more fully engaging with my colleagues

many of whom I've known for many, many years,

386

00:31:54,211 --> 00:32:00,440

many of whom like us have

been waiting with baited breath

387

00:32:00,440 --> 00:32:07,320

to get back into this work

that we so fully value,

388

00:32:07,320 --> 00:32:14,200

we fully anticipate being a critical

player and playing a critical role.

389

00:32:14,200 --> 00:32:19,559

We meaning, I and my colleagues in
the External Civil Rights Office

390

00:32:19,559 --> 00:32:26,360

as well as Marianne as our
Deputy General Counsel in the work

391

00:32:26,360 --> 00:32:31,765

of the EJ Interagency Working
Group, the Title VI Committee.

392

00:32:31,789 --> 00:32:34,739

And we've already
started that work.

393

00:32:34,763 --> 00:32:39,152

Many of you know that
there will be a similar panel

394

00:32:39,176 --> 00:32:44,508

to this tomorrow, tomorrow
morning at 10 Eastern Time

395

00:32:44,532 --> 00:32:50,290

that is being moderated by DOJ
and I look forward to serving

396

00:32:50,414 --> 00:32:55,799

with a number of my colleagues from
other federal agencies on that panel

397

00:32:55,799 --> 00:33:00,972

as we all talk about how we're
strengthening civil rights enforcement.

398

00:33:00,996 --> 00:33:05,640

I'm going to pause there because
I know that there will be some

399

00:33:05,640 --> 00:33:08,840

really, really great
questions coming our way

400

00:33:08,840 --> 00:33:13,480

and I will turn it back
to you Victoria or Matt.

401

00:33:14,120 --> 00:33:16,440

Matthew Tejada: Thank you
so much, Lillian, that's great,

402

00:33:16,440 --> 00:33:22,531

so we're gonna now have a little question
and answer session just with Lillian

403

00:33:22,555 --> 00:33:27,720

since we have her on and then we can
release her for the remainder of this call.

404

00:33:27,720 --> 00:33:33,968

So I will ask folks now attendees
that are able to [CLEARING THROAT]

405

00:33:33,992 --> 00:33:36,248

I don't believe you can if
you called in by the phone,

406

00:33:36,272 --> 00:33:39,559

but I see that the vast
majority of the folks that are on

407

00:33:39,559 --> 00:33:43,080

have signed in through
Zoom not through a phone,

408

00:33:43,080 --> 00:33:49,227

so if you would use-- I think what we're going
to do Victoria is if folks will raise your hand

409

00:33:49,251 --> 00:33:53,551

to ask a question and you
can-- I believe raise your hand

410

00:33:53,575 --> 00:34:00,199

if you open up the participants list at the
very bottom you'll see a raise hand function,

411

00:34:00,199 --> 00:34:03,480

I believe that's where
it's located in Zoom.

412

00:34:03,480 --> 00:34:07,712

So if folks want to
ask a question of Lillian

413

00:34:07,736 --> 00:34:12,440

about the External Civil
Rights Compliance Program

414

00:34:12,440 --> 00:34:20,839

and our plans with Title VI of the Civil Rights
Act at present, please raise your hand now.

415

00:34:21,399 --> 00:34:25,159

Victoria Robinson: And while we're doing that
why don't we quickly have Christina give us

416

00:34:25,159 --> 00:34:29,480

maybe the first question out of the pod while
we're waiting for folks to raise their hands

417

00:34:29,480 --> 00:34:31,267

Christina Motilall: Yeah

thanks so much for that.

418

00:34:31,291 --> 00:34:38,684

Yes, I wanted to hold that up so the first question that we had coming in for Lillian

419

00:34:38,708 --> 00:34:43,480

says, could Lillian please talk briefly about prospects and plans

420

00:34:43,480 --> 00:34:47,844

for providing guidance to recipients addressing substantive

421

00:34:47,868 --> 00:34:50,520

as well as procedural Title VI requirements?

422

00:34:50,520 --> 00:34:54,268

Example, what recipients should do in permitting planning etc,

423

00:34:54,292 --> 00:34:58,531

to ensure that they do not result
in disparate impacts? Thank you.

424

00:34:58,555 --> 00:35:01,523

Lilian Dorka: Yeah, thank you for that.

425

00:35:01,547 --> 00:35:06,545

I may have touched on this
briefly during my opening remarks

426

00:35:06,669 --> 00:35:11,700

that is something that we
absolutely have been planning on

427

00:35:11,800 --> 00:35:18,308

we are issuing, as I said, hopefully
by the end of this fiscal year

428

00:35:18,332 --> 00:35:22,920

we've committed to issue
some comprehensive guidance

429

00:35:22,920 --> 00:35:31,079

for the non-discrimination program principles
and of course that goes hand in hand

430

00:35:31,079 --> 00:35:36,432

with a more vigorous review,
a pre-award review process

431

00:35:36,456 --> 00:35:41,691

that it truly, truly sets out
a very bottom line message

432

00:35:41,715 --> 00:35:50,588

for those who've received money from EPA
that they must have program requirements

433

00:35:50,612 --> 00:35:54,168

that are articulated in
our regulation in place.

434

00:35:54,192 --> 00:36:00,760

And we will start by issuing that clarifying
guidance-- we're also working on a video

435

00:36:00,760 --> 00:36:05,908

that we plan to have on our
website that not only recipients,

436

00:36:05,932 --> 00:36:09,301

but members of the public,
anyone can access,

437

00:36:09,325 --> 00:36:17,640

it would be a video that
presents all of these programmatic

438

00:36:17,640 --> 00:36:21,960

non-discrimination requirements
and lays them out in a way

439

00:36:21,960 --> 00:36:28,359

for folks to understand, including
sort of the bottom line on how

440

00:36:28,359 --> 00:36:31,480

to best serve persons with
limited English proficiency

441

00:36:31,480 --> 00:36:36,280

persons with disabilities and other
non-discrimination program requirements.

442

00:36:36,280 --> 00:36:41,788

Beyond that, we are
absolutely working on guidance

443

00:36:41,812 --> 00:36:50,051

that we hope to release in FY22 that
will go, will supplement the guidance

444

00:36:50,175 --> 00:36:55,320

that we've already issued on the
civil rights legal standards

445

00:36:55,320 --> 00:36:58,428

that we had called
chapter one of our toolkit,

446

00:36:58,452 --> 00:37:02,508

well we are looking forward
to expanding on our guidance

447

00:37:02,532 --> 00:37:07,720

to more fully articulate how
we will use all of these tools

448

00:37:07,720 --> 00:37:12,680

that are available to us
as we carry out civil rights enforcement

449

00:37:12,680 --> 00:37:21,189

under-- using disparate impact analysis
as well as different treatment analyses

450

00:37:21,213 --> 00:37:25,888

that we will fully
explore and lay out,

451

00:37:25,912 --> 00:37:33,640

and that of course will necessarily
include some articulation about

452

00:37:33,640 --> 00:37:41,160

how we will use the concept and how we will

explore the concept of cumulative impacts

453

00:37:41,160 --> 00:37:47,168

within the permitting process

itself from a civil rights perspective,

454

00:37:47,192 --> 00:37:50,040

how we are going to view

the cumulative impacts

455

00:37:50,040 --> 00:37:54,348

that are so common

to overburden communities,

456

00:37:54,372 --> 00:38:00,119

how we are going to look at

and evaluate and investigate

457

00:38:00,119 --> 00:38:05,028

all of those adversities

that face overburdened communities,

458

00:38:05,052 --> 00:38:12,388

and particularly within the permitting structure, we know that is an issue

459

00:38:12,412 --> 00:38:19,388

that is very commonly raised in many of the civil rights complaints, the Title VI complaints

460

00:38:19,412 --> 00:38:23,960

that we receive, so most certainly the guidance that

461

00:38:23,960 --> 00:38:28,468

we're gonna-- we're working on and that we hope to issue in FY22

462

00:38:28,492 --> 00:38:34,359

we'll explore those principles.

463

00:38:34,680 --> 00:38:35,228

Victoria Robinson: Thank you.

464

00:38:35,252 --> 00:38:39,408

Matthew for some reason we do

not have any folks raising their hands,

465

00:38:39,432 --> 00:38:42,488

but it could be a glitch

that I'm trying to check into

466

00:38:42,512 --> 00:38:46,200

so we'll go ahead and have Christina

go ahead and read the next question.

467

00:38:46,200 --> 00:38:48,684

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, I'm not

for folks as Christina gets ready,

468

00:38:48,708 --> 00:38:49,929

Christina Motilall: Yeah.

469

00:38:49,953 --> 00:38:55,000

Matthew Tejada: We were-- we

use a government license for Zoom

470

00:38:55,300 --> 00:38:58,839

and we use a webinar government

license for Zoom and we were seeing--

471

00:38:58,839 --> 00:39:01,708

we were having some problems
making sure that everything turned on,

472

00:39:01,732 --> 00:39:04,359

including the hand raised function.

473

00:39:04,359 --> 00:39:08,920

We had intended for folks to be able
to raise your hands and ask the question

474

00:39:08,920 --> 00:39:14,159

verbally, vocally, until we get that sorted
out or if we don't get that sorted out,

475

00:39:14,183 --> 00:39:17,320

please go to the Q&A
pod, that is working,

476

00:39:17,320 --> 00:39:22,599

and we have staff in there fielding

those questions in the Q&A pod.

477

00:39:22,599 --> 00:39:25,640

So Christina, do you want to go ahead with our next one?

478

00:39:25,640 --> 00:39:29,880

Christina Motilall: Yes, the next one is a two-part question.

479

00:39:29,880 --> 00:39:35,560

The first part is does EPA address overburdened communities or must be both

480

00:39:35,560 --> 00:39:37,800

overburdened and disadvantaged?

481

00:39:37,800 --> 00:39:42,839

In part two, does EPA include the aviation noise and health impacts

482

00:39:42,839 --> 00:39:45,577

in its environmental scope?

483

00:39:45,601 --> 00:39:49,560

Lilian Dorka: So from
the civil rights perspective,

484

00:39:49,560 --> 00:39:53,441

we tend to use overburdened
and disadvantaged interchangeably,

485

00:39:53,465 --> 00:39:57,484

but you're absolutely right if you
see a difference between them

486

00:39:57,508 --> 00:40:01,079

and certainly there is
not one over the other.

487

00:40:01,079 --> 00:40:04,760

As we enforce Title
VI of the Civil Rights Act

488

00:40:04,760 --> 00:40:10,988

what we do is address discrimination

on the basis of race, color, national origin

489

00:40:11,012 --> 00:40:16,967

we also of course enforce a
few other federal civil rights laws

490

00:40:16,991 --> 00:40:22,760

that prohibit discrimination on the
basis of disability, on the basis of sex,

491

00:40:22,760 --> 00:40:27,368

some basis of age, but most
certainly the majority of the cases

492

00:40:27,392 --> 00:40:33,000

that we receive a -- on Title VI which
prohibits discrimination on the basis of race

493

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:37,400

color, national origin,
including limited English proficiency.

494

00:40:37,400 --> 00:40:41,967

So as we address the
community as we find them,

495

00:40:42,091 --> 00:40:46,359

I mean the discrimination
complaints that we receive,

496

00:40:46,359 --> 00:40:53,880

basically allege that
an action or inaction

497

00:40:53,880 --> 00:41:00,599

on the part of an agency
funded through EPA

498

00:41:00,599 --> 00:41:08,920

has resulted in treating people differently
on the basis of race, color, national origin

499

00:41:08,920 --> 00:41:15,319

or has resulted in a disparate impact
on the basis of race, color, national origin.

500

00:41:15,319 --> 00:41:22,599

So whether we say
disadvantaged or overburdened,

501

00:41:22,599 --> 00:41:28,414

it's really not the civil rights
question that we would explore

502

00:41:28,438 --> 00:41:33,079

and of course we
would end up addressing

503

00:41:33,079 --> 00:41:37,859

whatever the issue is that's
brought to us the discrimination issue,

504

00:41:37,883 --> 00:41:40,520

hopefully that answers the question.

505

00:41:40,520 --> 00:41:47,000

The second part of that question could
you remind me Christina what that was?

506

00:41:47,400 --> 00:41:54,839

Christina Motilall: Sure,
let me pull it up really quick.

507

00:41:55,400 --> 00:42:00,440

The second part is does EPA include
the aviation noise and health impacts

508

00:42:00,440 --> 00:42:03,800

in its environmental scope?

509

00:42:04,599 --> 00:42:07,089

Lilian Dorka: So as I said before,

510

00:42:07,113 --> 00:42:11,960

I think when we talk about
addressing the cumulative impacts

511

00:42:11,960 --> 00:42:19,640

we would address all the impacts,
all of the harms, all of the adversities

512

00:42:19,640 --> 00:42:26,200

that are encountered depending
on the discrimination scenario

513

00:42:26,200 --> 00:42:32,468

that's been raised through the
complaint that we've received

514

00:42:32,492 --> 00:42:35,720

or the compliance
review that we've initiated,

515

00:42:35,720 --> 00:42:41,208

so it's both health and environmental
adversities that we would address.

516

00:42:41,232 --> 00:42:49,960

So for example, not only would we be
addressing in certain cases,

517

00:42:49,960 --> 00:42:56,040

the health adversities that are being
alleged are being complained about resulting

518

00:42:56,040 --> 00:43:01,560

from actions or inactions on the
part of these recipients, these agencies,

519

00:43:01,560 --> 00:43:06,668

but we would also be
addressing non-health adversities

520

00:43:06,692 --> 00:43:15,591

whether it's noise or whether it's
other quality of life type of adversities

521

00:43:15,615 --> 00:43:25,928

being faced by persons,
so I would say all of the above.

522

00:43:25,952 --> 00:43:29,645

Christina Motilall:
Do we have room for another?

523

00:43:29,669 --> 00:43:31,560

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, yeah,
let's go for another.

524

00:43:31,560 --> 00:43:33,070

Christina Motilall: Great.

525

00:43:33,094 --> 00:43:37,000

This one says, how do you plan
to guard against the negative aspects

526

00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:41,160

of gentrification as
Justice40 moves forward?

527

00:43:41,160 --> 00:43:42,528

Matthew Tejada: That's a
mean question, I think,

528

00:43:42,552 --> 00:43:43,536

Christina Motilall: Oh
yeah, it says for Lillian--

529

00:43:43,660 --> 00:43:44,480

Matthew Tejada: [LAUGHS]

530

00:43:44,680 --> 00:43:46,188

Christina Motilall: I wanted--

531

00:43:46,212 --> 00:43:48,760

Matthew Tejada: --Take a first
crack at it or do you want me to--[LAUGHS]

532

00:43:48,760 --> 00:43:55,480

Lilian Dorka: I would pivot to my colleague
Matt on that one because I do think that

533

00:43:55,480 --> 00:44:01,000

it's more question to be best answered
through an environmental justice lens.

534

00:44:01,000 --> 00:44:03,717

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, thanks

Lillian, thanks Christina.

535

00:44:03,741 --> 00:44:14,599

I will say that is top of mind not only for
us career folks who work on civil rights

536

00:44:14,599 --> 00:44:22,393

and environmental justice, but the folks
who have come in as political appointees

537

00:44:22,417 --> 00:44:29,548

in this administration, they have
also been very clear and keyed in

538

00:44:29,572 --> 00:44:35,240

on the fact that there's a few
things that we have to be really

539

00:44:35,240 --> 00:44:41,408

mindful of as the Biden-Harris
Administration reorients the way

540

00:44:41,432 --> 00:44:48,148

that the federal government governs and
advances equity and justice considerations

541

00:44:48,172 --> 00:44:51,072

across the board in
terms of everything, right?

542

00:44:51,096 --> 00:44:57,852

Like I was saying before policy, regulations
and very importantly allocation of resources

543

00:44:57,876 --> 00:45:04,359

and we know from experience that
there are unintended consequences

544

00:45:04,359 --> 00:45:09,400

as the NEJAC once termed it of
things such as improving an environment

545

00:45:09,400 --> 00:45:15,000

in a certain area in a place-based setting
whether that be an air quality improvement

546

00:45:15,000 --> 00:45:20,200

or a contamination improvement or
bringing in more things such as

547

00:45:20,200 --> 00:45:24,680

transit and transportation options or
access to health care, or access to food

548

00:45:24,680 --> 00:45:27,880

that there can be unintended
consequences of those things.

549

00:45:27,880 --> 00:45:33,368

So that is something that is very
much front of mind for a lot of folks

550

00:45:33,392 --> 00:45:38,200

not just at EPA, we've obviously
already been reaching out

551

00:45:38,200 --> 00:45:41,960

and building relationships
with old colleagues

552

00:45:41,960 --> 00:45:46,440

and new appointees and
colleagues across the federal family

553

00:45:46,440 --> 00:45:52,040

hardly a day goes by that we aren't

getting together with somebody from HUD

554

00:45:52,040 --> 00:45:54,520

or United States

Department of Agriculture,

555

00:45:54,520 --> 00:45:57,896

or Department of

Transportation, or Commerce,

556

00:45:57,920 --> 00:46:02,498

and that is one of the

consistent first things discussed,

557

00:46:02,522 --> 00:46:08,520

not only the concern that as

the federal government looks at

558

00:46:08,520 --> 00:46:11,800

a different way of allocating

resources to make sure that

559

00:46:11,800 --> 00:46:16,200

those resources go to the communities
most in need which could then result in,

560

00:46:16,200 --> 00:46:19,907

great for 5 years or 10 years,
we allocate all these resources

561

00:46:19,931 --> 00:46:24,599

to a community that just results in all the
people living in that community get displaced,

562

00:46:24,599 --> 00:46:28,359

that's not something
that any of us want.

563

00:46:28,359 --> 00:46:34,280

We also are aware that as we look at
something like reallocating resources,

564

00:46:34,280 --> 00:46:39,560

you can't just turn on the spigot
and expect folks to be standing there

565

00:46:39,560 --> 00:46:44,280

with buckets to fill up with all
the water, right? Some folks need a bucket

566

00:46:44,280 --> 00:46:47,400

or some folks have a bucket but they
need a bigger one or they need one that

567

00:46:47,400 --> 00:46:49,400

doesn't have a hole in it.

568

00:46:49,400 --> 00:46:52,599

So there's a level
of capacity building,

569

00:46:52,599 --> 00:46:58,876

not just for community members but for our
state partners and for our local partners

570

00:46:58,900 --> 00:47:04,359

and for our tribal partners
and for other utilities or folks

571

00:47:04,359 --> 00:47:09,000

that we need to be involved
in seeking improvements

572

00:47:09,000 --> 00:47:11,108

in communities with
environmental justice concern.

573

00:47:11,132 --> 00:47:17,563

So there's there are several kind
of concern areas around this that

574

00:47:17,587 --> 00:47:22,520

folks are constantly reminding
one another and ourselves of

575

00:47:22,520 --> 00:47:27,727

as we all pull in the direction of changing
the way that the government does business,

576

00:47:27,751 --> 00:47:32,839

it's not all just this is great, this is
positive, this is going to make things better.

577

00:47:32,839 --> 00:47:38,788

There are with anything we do in EJ, there
is the potential for unintended consequences

578

00:47:38,812 --> 00:47:43,281

there are the potential for things not
to work out the way you want them to,

579

00:47:43,305 --> 00:47:49,880

so that is something that we're all
mindful of and we're always looking for,

580

00:47:49,880 --> 00:47:54,119

especially, from folks on the
ground if there are solutions

581

00:47:54,119 --> 00:48:01,400

or interventions, or types of support that
people are innovating that can really help

582

00:48:01,400 --> 00:48:06,520

to make sure that something like
displacement or gentrification does not occur

583

00:48:06,520 --> 00:48:11,480

that as the government
operates in a more equitable way

584

00:48:11,480 --> 00:48:15,319

that we really make
sure that those resources

585

00:48:15,319 --> 00:48:21,640

and activities touch ground and benefit
and lift up the folks in the communities

586

00:48:21,640 --> 00:48:24,513

for their communities for the long term.

587

00:48:24,537 --> 00:48:29,496

We're always interested in and needing
and looking for that sort of feedback,

588

00:48:29,520 --> 00:48:32,609

that sort of advice, those sorts
of examples and best practices

589

00:48:32,633 --> 00:48:39,468

whether it comes from directly from the community
or from state, or tribal, or local partners

590

00:48:39,492 --> 00:48:42,520

who are working with the community
and have figured something out,

591

00:48:42,520 --> 00:48:45,668

we're always interested in hearing
about those and learning from them

592

00:48:45,792 --> 00:48:49,160

and seeing where we can
replicate them and scale them up.

593

00:48:49,160 --> 00:48:55,400

Lilian Dorka: And just my thoughts very
briefly to follow from what Matt is saying,

594

00:48:55,400 --> 00:49:01,000

to the extent that those consequences

whether intended or not

595

00:49:01,000 --> 00:49:07,720

that result from decisions

made at local levels

596

00:49:07,720 --> 00:49:12,599

with respect to community

development, or for example the sighting

597

00:49:12,599 --> 00:49:20,440

of certain polluting facilities

impact communities of color

598

00:49:20,440 --> 00:49:24,440

then that definitely

becomes a civil rights issue.

599

00:49:24,440 --> 00:49:30,197

And it would not be uncommon for us to deal

600

00:49:30,221 --> 00:49:36,760

with those very issues, particularly,

if perhaps what was happening

601

00:49:36,760 --> 00:49:44,280

was that one area was becoming
or being developed for certain purposes

602

00:49:44,280 --> 00:49:47,867

and not just people but
facilities were being displaced

603

00:49:47,891 --> 00:49:54,200

and there were decisions being made to
place those facilities in other communities

604

00:49:54,200 --> 00:49:56,888

some of which were
communities of color.

605

00:49:56,912 --> 00:50:03,287

So that's I think where we would come in
and we would most commonly see complaints,

606

00:50:03,311 --> 00:50:08,920

civil rights complaints being raised,
you're taking certain facilities out

607

00:50:08,920 --> 00:50:13,400

of X neighborhood which is
becoming increasingly one color

608

00:50:13,400 --> 00:50:16,568

and you're putting them in
these other neighborhoods

609

00:50:16,592 --> 00:50:19,646

which are certainly
racially identifiable

610

00:50:19,670 --> 00:50:29,839

and you are thereby increasing the
burden for this other community of color.

611

00:50:29,839 --> 00:50:33,880

Matthew Tejada: Great, well,
thank you, thank you so much Lillian.

612

00:50:33,880 --> 00:50:38,839

I really appreciate you taking the
time to get together with us today

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00:50:38,839 --> 00:50:42,920

to update the community and
the folks who have joined us,

614

00:50:42,920 --> 00:50:48,220

and just for all of your efforts over in
external civil rights past, present, and future.

615

00:50:48,244 --> 00:50:49,699

Thanks so much.

616

00:50:49,723 --> 00:50:55,337

Lilian Dorka: Thank you, Matt, and thanks
colleagues and thank you all for joining us.

617

00:50:55,361 --> 00:50:57,894

I really appreciate the time.

618

00:50:57,918 --> 00:51:02,359

Matthew Tejada: All right, I think
now Victoria we're ready to move on

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00:51:02,359 --> 00:51:08,520

and do some of our more kind of
quick hit program updates.

620

00:51:09,000 --> 00:51:15,267

So I believe we have first up
our colleague Nena Shaw

621

00:51:15,291 --> 00:51:19,348

from our ORCR office and she's
going to tell you what that means

622

00:51:19,372 --> 00:51:22,948

because I always get at least one of
those elements of the acronym wrong,

623

00:51:22,972 --> 00:51:27,240

but Nena is going to update folks
on a National Recycling Strategy.

624

00:51:27,240 --> 00:51:28,696

Nena Shaw: Thank you Matt.

625

00:51:28,720 --> 00:51:31,756

Yes, it's the Office of Resource
Conservation and Recovery

626

00:51:31,780 --> 00:51:37,480

and I'm the Acting Director of the Resource
Conservation and Sustainability Division.

627

00:51:37,480 --> 00:51:40,680

I'm super excited
I've got very little time,

628

00:51:40,680 --> 00:51:45,880

but I wanted to tell you all
about a strategy that we have

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00:51:45,880 --> 00:51:53,800

that will hopefully come out soon, and while
it is titled a national recycling strategy,

630

00:51:53,800 --> 00:51:59,927

we are looking to basically
rethink municipal solid waste

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00:51:59,951 --> 00:52:04,208

and waste management in this
country and recycling is part of that.

632

00:52:04,232 --> 00:52:10,904

And for years it's been broken and in
2018, when China passed the Sword Act

633

00:52:10,928 --> 00:52:13,960

it was sort of an
accelerating event,

634

00:52:13,960 --> 00:52:18,668

so we have spent the last couple of years
thinking about how to improve recycling,

635

00:52:18,692 --> 00:52:22,440

but we have a lot
of work still left to do

636

00:52:22,440 --> 00:52:29,209

and what we want to make sure that this group
of stakeholders recognizes is the opportunity

637

00:52:29,233 --> 00:52:34,280

to engage with us as we
move forward to think about

638

00:52:34,280 --> 00:52:43,290

what it means to incorporate policies, data and
all of the implementation kind of strategies

639

00:52:43,314 --> 00:52:45,740

about making recycling better.

640

00:52:45,764 --> 00:52:48,648

And that's where we're
going to start the conversation,

641

00:52:48,672 --> 00:52:54,280

but we are really rethinking municipal
solid waste management in my division.

642

00:52:54,280 --> 00:52:57,720

One of the things that has
been very clear in the actions

643

00:52:57,720 --> 00:53:02,040

of the end of the last
congressional session and this one

644

00:53:02,040 --> 00:53:07,400

is that there is money to invest in a
desire to invest money in infrastructure

645

00:53:07,400 --> 00:53:14,308

around municipal solid waste management,
this includes organics and food waste

646

00:53:14,332 --> 00:53:20,703

so the addition of anaerobic digesters,
or composting, or increased recycling

647

00:53:20,727 --> 00:53:26,760

things that divert waste and put
them in their highest and best use.

648

00:53:26,760 --> 00:53:31,960

So we have drafted a strategy
it came out in October of 2020

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00:53:31,960 --> 00:53:37,588

in draft for public comment and identify
some objectives and stakeholder-led actions

650

00:53:37,612 --> 00:53:41,720

to create a stronger more
resilient and cost-effective

651

00:53:41,720 --> 00:53:44,268

municipal solid waste recycling system.

652

00:53:44,292 --> 00:53:49,240

It reflects the connections to recycling
improvements and environmental justice

653

00:53:49,240 --> 00:53:54,920

and acknowledges impact of recycling
on climate change and the economy.

654

00:53:54,920 --> 00:54:00,236

We are going to be going in front
of the NEJAC next month on June 17th

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00:54:00,260 --> 00:54:05,131

we're excited about that and we're
really hoping to release it in the summer.

656

00:54:05,155 --> 00:54:10,468

But we've got some-- we've got an
email address at the bottom here

657

00:54:10,492 --> 00:54:13,287

to the extent that you
want to be kept informed.

658

00:54:13,311 --> 00:54:17,160

I think Matt is going to get
tired of hearing me speak

659

00:54:17,160 --> 00:54:21,348

because we hope to be frequent

contributors to not only this call

660

00:54:21,372 --> 00:54:25,960

but also NEJAC to the extent
that people want to engage

661

00:54:25,960 --> 00:54:34,443

in really rethinking what is an area that has
been perhaps not thought about in a creative

662

00:54:34,467 --> 00:54:37,435

or innovative way for a long time.

663

00:54:37,459 --> 00:54:41,223

So with that I'm gonna turn it
over if anybody has any questions,

664

00:54:41,247 --> 00:54:45,835

I'm happy to answer them,
but really it is a plug to look out

665

00:54:45,859 --> 00:54:53,068

for this strategy and to engage

in any way that you would like.

666

00:54:53,092 --> 00:54:55,188

Matthew Tejada: Awesome,
thank you so much, Nena.

667

00:54:55,212 --> 00:54:58,432

We won't get tired of hearing from
you, it's great to have our colleagues

668

00:54:58,456 --> 00:55:00,280

in the awesome land in
emergency management

669

00:55:00,280 --> 00:55:03,547

and in research --oh I
always get it wrong-- resource--

670

00:55:03,571 --> 00:55:05,951

Nena Shaw: Resource,
yes

671

00:55:06,075 --> 00:55:07,964

Matthew Tejada: And renewal--

672

00:55:07,988 --> 00:55:12,988

Nena Shaw: Absolutely and I will
say we are working very hard on grants

673

00:55:13,012 --> 00:55:20,420

and other language to ensure equity
principles and EJ principles are incorporated

674

00:55:20,520 --> 00:55:24,306

and we are very excited
for the work of all of your staff

675

00:55:24,330 --> 00:55:26,828

and participation of all
of your staff and in that.

676

00:55:26,852 --> 00:55:29,933

Matthew Tejada: All right, all
right, well thank you so much.

677

00:55:29,957 --> 00:55:36,368

I think we're gonna move on Victoria,
oh yep, somebody have something?

678

00:55:36,392 --> 00:55:40,080

Okay, I think we're gonna move
on Victoria what do we have next.

679

00:55:40,104 --> 00:55:40,824

Nena Shaw: Thank you.

680

00:55:40,848 --> 00:55:41,640

Matthew Tejada: Thank you.

681

00:55:47,960 --> 00:55:53,280

So one of the goals of these calls
is to make sure as I said earlier

682

00:55:53,304 --> 00:55:59,307

that we have just that regular and
consistent communication back and forth,

683

00:55:59,331 --> 00:56:03,691

but that we really see that at EPA

and in the EJ Program,

684

00:56:03,715 --> 00:56:07,708

not just as a good business practice
and something we should be doing

685

00:56:07,732 --> 00:56:14,200

but has its own accountability mechanism
that when people take time out of their days

686

00:56:14,200 --> 00:56:21,880

to talk to us to express your needs,
or your priorities, or your challenges

687

00:56:21,880 --> 00:56:24,447

that we are responsive to those, not just
in terms of answering questions,

688

00:56:24,471 --> 00:56:28,074

but actually taking
them inside of the agency

689

00:56:28,098 --> 00:56:32,920

and seeking those bigger
programmatic or policy-based ways

690

00:56:32,920 --> 00:56:37,559

to make sure that the EPA
overall is being responsive

691

00:56:37,559 --> 00:56:39,428

to what we are hearing on these
things.

692

00:56:39,852 --> 00:56:44,141

So Victoria did you want to kind of
talk through what we're offering here

693

00:56:44,165 --> 00:56:46,180

on enhanced transparency?

694

00:56:46,680 --> 00:56:48,465

Victoria Robinson: Yes, thank you.

695

00:56:48,489 --> 00:56:52,308

As we noted on here that

as part of this overall process

696

00:56:52,332 --> 00:56:57,721

and these engagement calls
are one-- just one example

697

00:56:57,845 --> 00:57:02,295

of how we are looking to enhance
transparency and build the engagement,

698

00:57:02,319 --> 00:57:06,928

and so we're looking at exploring options
for several more focus kind of conversations

699

00:57:06,952 --> 00:57:10,680

and these would be things
like a topic-focused dialogue.

700

00:57:10,680 --> 00:57:15,963

Sometimes there may be 30 minutes may not
be enough time during one of these calls

701

00:57:15,987 --> 00:57:22,164

to actually focus on a
specific topic so we may do a dialogue

702

00:57:22,188 --> 00:57:26,040

that might last an hour
or more on a single topic,

703

00:57:26,040 --> 00:57:31,720

working with various programs to see--
program offices and regions to see about

704

00:57:31,720 --> 00:57:37,480

doing maybe some listening sessions
in coordinating with some of the webinars

705

00:57:37,480 --> 00:57:41,640

that you'll see-- we'll be listing several--
the upcoming webinars that are occurring.

706

00:57:41,640 --> 00:57:46,547

And then also looking at the regions, at
the last meeting in February, was suggested

707

00:57:46,571 --> 00:57:50,548

by a couple people that these
that these engagement calls

708

00:57:50,572 --> 00:57:52,280

that we have, the
community engagement calls

709

00:57:52,280 --> 00:57:54,546

we might want to consider
doing that on a regional level

710

00:57:54,670 --> 00:57:59,980

so that the region can focus more on
the issues that are unique to their region.

711

00:58:00,280 --> 00:58:03,480

One of the other things is that we're
making a commitment and it's something that

712

00:58:03,480 --> 00:58:06,520

it's taking a little while
to get up and going

713

00:58:06,520 --> 00:58:10,948

and I have to give my apologies
for not being as upon as I should be,

714

00:58:10,972 --> 00:58:13,488

but we're working on making
sure that we are going to follow up

715

00:58:13,512 --> 00:58:16,920

on the issues and questions raised
during these engagement calls.

716

00:58:16,920 --> 00:58:22,040

Those things include distributing site-specific
questions to the regional EJ Coordinators,

717

00:58:22,040 --> 00:58:25,960

so that they can then reach out to
the person who had the comment about

718

00:58:25,960 --> 00:58:28,359

what's going on in their particular
community.

719

00:58:28,359 --> 00:58:31,720

Some of these things are also
following up like we did with

720

00:58:31,720 --> 00:58:36,200

some questions that were raised about
Title VI at the last call, we passed those

721

00:58:36,224 --> 00:58:41,480

on to Lillian in her office and we
were blessed that she was able to

722

00:58:41,480 --> 00:58:44,748

come and participate and be
the focused topic for this call.

723

00:58:44,772 --> 00:58:48,288

So those are some of the ways we're
looking at following up on these issues

724

00:58:48,312 --> 00:58:52,617

so that they are not

just in and then dropped,

725

00:58:52,641 --> 00:58:55,828

we want to make sure that we
are following up and getting answers

726

00:58:55,952 --> 00:58:57,720

and helping folk get answers.

727

00:58:57,720 --> 00:59:01,328

And also the last one is that working
to connect advocates of you guys

728

00:59:01,352 --> 00:59:04,767

who are listening in these calls to
the people in the relevant programs

729

00:59:04,791 --> 00:59:07,319

and I wrote this in a very
specific way.

730

00:59:07,319 --> 00:59:10,920

We want to talk about connecting to

people in the programs,

731

00:59:10,920 --> 00:59:14,698

not necessarily connecting to the programs,
it is important to have these relationships.

732

00:59:14,722 --> 00:59:19,320

So you can understand what-- so that
we can have a better understanding

733

00:59:19,345 --> 00:59:21,960

about what your needs and
concerns are and viceversa,

734

00:59:21,960 --> 00:59:24,795

so that is where the point of that.

735

00:59:24,819 --> 00:59:28,520

So we're working on these things
and I'm looking for any other suggestions

736

00:59:28,520 --> 00:59:34,755

you may have on how you see that the agency

should move toward enhancing transparency,

737

00:59:34,779 --> 00:59:37,400

I think and that's something
we're moving on to it.

738

00:59:37,400 --> 00:59:40,980

This page is not going.

739

00:59:41,004 --> 00:59:47,792

And then part of that is also giving
selected updates as to what was raised

740

00:59:47,816 --> 00:59:53,804

during a previous call or during
a previous engagement meeting

741

00:59:53,804 --> 00:59:56,123

and for example, we had several questions

742

00:59:56,123 --> 00:59:58,691

about the federal interagency
collaboration and coordination

743

00:59:58,715 --> 01:00:02,524

and Matt did a good
job of already speaking to how

744

01:00:02,524 --> 01:00:07,092

the interagency
environment EJ work--

745

01:00:07,116 --> 01:00:09,643

the Interagency Working Group on
Environmental Justice

746

01:00:09,643 --> 01:00:12,837

always called EJ IWG,
has been now transitioned

747

01:00:12,861 --> 01:00:16,817

to the White House Environmental
Justice Interagency Council

748

01:00:16,841 --> 01:00:22,204

and the CEQ does chair it and

CEQ and that Council are collectively

749

01:00:22,204 --> 01:00:24,352

leading environmental justice
efforts across the agency.

750

01:00:24,376 --> 01:00:25,643

That was a question
that was like

751

01:00:25,643 --> 01:00:29,084

"Okay, what's now going to happen
with this collaboration?"

752

01:00:29,108 --> 01:00:31,724

Will the agency
still collaborate and coordinate?"

753

01:00:31,724 --> 01:00:35,355

And the answer is yes, and this
is going to be through this--

754

01:00:35,379 --> 01:00:39,324

the newly pre-christian--

the EJ IAC but--

755

01:00:39,324 --> 01:00:41,806

So that you know that

our office will continue to--

756

01:00:41,830 --> 01:00:46,204

at EPA, the Office of Environmental Justice

will continue to partner with federal agencies

757

01:00:46,204 --> 01:00:49,484

and be a resource for general

environmental justice questions.

758

01:00:49,484 --> 01:00:52,791

We see that as our role, it's been a role

for a long time with us

759

01:00:52,815 --> 01:00:56,363

and we expect to continue that function.

760

01:00:56,363 --> 01:00:59,564

And I already mentioned about
meaningful engagement,

761

01:00:59,564 --> 01:01:03,883

Administrator Regan had instructed EPA
to take immediate affirmative steps

762

01:01:03,883 --> 01:01:06,531

to improve early more
frequent engagement

763

01:01:06,555 --> 01:01:10,420

and we're talking engagement
not just simply outreach

764

01:01:10,444 --> 01:01:16,923

but engagement that actually
has a way for folks to participate

765

01:01:16,923 --> 01:01:21,084

in these rule makings permitting
and enforcement decisions and policies.

766

01:01:21,084 --> 01:01:25,163

And one way we're trying to do this is
making sure that we provide language access

767

01:01:25,163 --> 01:01:29,004

through all these engagement efforts
across a broad spectrum of platforms

768

01:01:29,804 --> 01:01:31,643

whether it's virtual like this meeting,

769

01:01:31,643 --> 01:01:35,746

whether it's in person which
once COVID restrictions are lifted

770

01:01:35,770 --> 01:01:38,945

we hope to go back to in-person
meetings, a combination of both

771

01:01:38,969 --> 01:01:43,610

we're looking at making sure we
have provided for language access

772

01:01:43,634 --> 01:01:46,363

and part of that is that

EPA has been working

773

01:01:46,363 --> 01:01:49,030

to expand the number of languages

available for interpretation,

774

01:01:49,054 --> 01:01:51,564

I believe we have at

least 9 right now

775

01:01:51,564 --> 01:01:55,643

but they're also-- I know that

when we do some face-to-face stuff

776

01:01:55,643 --> 01:01:57,392

that there are some specialized languages

777

01:01:57,416 --> 01:02:00,044

that are called in for very

site-specific things.

778

01:02:00,044 --> 01:02:06,844

So that's something we wanted to
make sure that-- let you guys know we are

779

01:02:06,844 --> 01:02:09,932

taking seriously what you guys have
raised those concerns

780

01:02:09,956 --> 01:02:15,163

about engaging advocates at various levels
and making sure that it's meaningful

781

01:02:15,163 --> 01:02:18,764

and that-- and we're continuing learning
from the process and making sure

782

01:02:18,764 --> 01:02:20,732

and wanting to see
how we can do it better.

783

01:02:20,756 --> 01:02:25,072

So I'm asking you guys to reach out to
me if you have any questions or concerns,

784

01:02:25,096 --> 01:02:30,844

Myself or to Matthew and then we'll
address that, so that's one of the things.

785

01:02:30,844 --> 01:02:31,569

Thank you.

786

01:02:31,593 --> 01:02:34,552

I'm going to move on if
you don't mind, Matthew

787

01:02:34,576 --> 01:02:38,524

to quickly go through these
upcoming engagement opportunities.

788

01:02:38,524 --> 01:02:42,683

Now, I'm gonna go through it quickly
and there's no sense in writing it down

789

01:02:42,683 --> 01:02:44,444

because after this call I'm gonna be--

790

01:02:44,444 --> 01:02:51,244

we'll be sending to all the attendees who registered
or whose emails are actually in the system,

791

01:02:51,244 --> 01:02:54,683

we will be sending you
a two-pager that lists

792

01:02:54,683 --> 01:02:58,603

these engagement
opportunities with actual links,

793

01:02:58,603 --> 01:03:02,214

so that you'll be able to go in there
and click on to the link

794

01:03:02,238 --> 01:03:04,524

to go to the appropriate
registration site.

795

01:03:04,524 --> 01:03:10,044

So we do have our environmental justice webinar
series for tribes and indigenous peoples.

796

01:03:10,044 --> 01:03:15,883

We have one in May 26 on our EPA's
Enforcement and Compliance History Online

797

01:03:15,883 --> 01:03:20,764

and how its use in Indian
Country and in Indigenous Communities.

798

01:03:20,764 --> 01:03:25,252

That webinar series also has--
they have monthly webinars.

799

01:03:25,276 --> 01:03:29,004

So in late June they're
looking at Meaningful Involvement

800

01:03:29,004 --> 01:03:32,923

in Environmental Programs and
Examples of Tribal Approaches,

801

01:03:32,923 --> 01:03:36,764

and then in July, on July 21st an
Overview of NEPA.

802

01:03:36,764 --> 01:03:39,372

Again, the document we'll be setting up
have the links to where to go--

803

01:03:39,396 --> 01:03:41,324

how to register for these things.

804

01:03:41,324 --> 01:03:46,432

Matthew mentioned earlier our Environmental
Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series

805

01:03:46,456 --> 01:03:50,764

and on June 10th we have a
focus on California's-- our Cal EPA's

806

01:03:50,764 --> 01:03:54,123

Pollution and Prejudice Project.

807

01:03:55,564 --> 01:03:58,524

We also have-- moving outside of the arena

808

01:03:58,524 --> 01:04:01,712

of a traditional EJ
engagement training webinar,

809

01:04:01,736 --> 01:04:05,192

this is another example of how
other programs are integrating

810

01:04:05,216 --> 01:04:09,582

and trying to expand how they
engage a variety of different stakeholders

811

01:04:09,606 --> 01:04:11,244

and particularly EJ stakeholders.

812

01:04:11,244 --> 01:04:16,044

So the Upcoming Oil and Natural Gas Methane
Rule, they have both training webinars

813

01:04:16,044 --> 01:04:18,072

as well as public
listening sessions.

814

01:04:18,096 --> 01:04:21,724

So EPA is going to have
these in May in the next week,

815

01:04:21,724 --> 01:04:26,123

on one each day, they're going to hold
training webinars for communities, tribes

816

01:04:26,123 --> 01:04:29,483

and small businesses to provide an
overview of this industry

817

01:04:29,507 --> 01:04:33,324

and share information so people
can effectively engage in the process.

818

01:04:33,324 --> 01:04:38,477

But they're also then-- that's the
training how to-- improve the participation.

819

01:04:38,501 --> 01:04:41,643

The other listening sessions,
basically a month later

820

01:04:41,643 --> 01:04:44,312

are actually virtual
public listening sessions

821

01:04:44,336 --> 01:04:48,923

where people can provide
their views and input.

822

01:04:48,923 --> 01:04:53,301

In addition to those public listening sessions,
the agency has a non-rulemaking docket

823

01:04:53,325 --> 01:04:58,204

for people who want to provide their
comments and perspectives in writing.

824

01:04:58,204 --> 01:05:02,001

So that's looks like to be a
wonderful opportunity to get involved

825

01:05:02,025 --> 01:05:05,324

and engaged early on in a rulemaking.

826

01:05:05,324 --> 01:05:10,872

We also have our office that does TSCA,
the Toxic Substance Control Act,

827

01:05:10,896 --> 01:05:13,964

they have risk management rulemakings

828

01:05:13,964 --> 01:05:17,643

and so they're doing
environmental justice consultations,

829

01:05:17,643 --> 01:05:22,842

and so they are doing it on TCE and PCE
in June 16th and July 6th

830

01:05:22,866 --> 01:05:28,284

where they're going to give an overview
of TSCA risk management requirements,

831

01:05:28,284 --> 01:05:33,661

findings from these final risk evaluations
and various things related to TCE and PCE.

832

01:05:33,685 --> 01:05:39,269

And it's also an opportunity not only
for people to learn and provide their input

833

01:05:39,293 --> 01:05:44,618

and so is that but it's also an opportunity
for EPA to get an understanding

834

01:05:44,642 --> 01:05:48,663

of how the concerns that the people
on the ground have about these things

835

01:05:48,687 --> 01:05:52,683

as opposed to just one way,
so that is an opportunity

836

01:05:52,683 --> 01:05:57,324

that's going to be in June and July.

837

01:05:57,324 --> 01:06:01,568

We have a couple of meetings-- oh
quick reminder.

838

01:06:01,592 --> 01:06:06,524

Those of you who are
developing a grant proposal package

839

01:06:06,524 --> 01:06:12,272

for our upcoming-- for our EJ Small Grants
and our Collaborative Problem-Solving grants,

840

01:06:12,296 --> 01:06:15,672

reminder, your grant proposal
packages are due June 1st.

841

01:06:15,696 --> 01:06:18,603

June 1st, you must
have it into the system,

842

01:06:18,603 --> 01:06:22,204

if you have any questions you can
reach out to Jacob Burney in our office

843

01:06:22,204 --> 01:06:24,992

but that is a hard date.

844

01:06:25,016 --> 01:06:26,981

We also have a couple
other virtual meetings

845

01:06:27,005 --> 01:06:29,324

and webinars that were
mentioned I think earlier.

846

01:06:29,324 --> 01:06:34,204

One is the NEJAC meeting, it's a
virtual public meeting, it's on June 17th.

847

01:06:34,204 --> 01:06:40,592

And then the NEJC, tomorrow is
actually having a virtual a workshop

848

01:06:40,616 --> 01:06:45,791

and it's a focus is on Federal
Title VI and EJ Priorities

849

01:06:45,815 --> 01:06:53,712

and Lillian who just spoke, will be one of the
presenters, a panelist in that conversation.

850

01:06:53,736 --> 01:06:56,491

So that's it Matthew, do
you have any other questions

851

01:06:56,515 --> 01:06:59,804

before I move it over to the housekeeping.

852

01:06:59,804 --> 01:07:02,272

Matthew Tejada: I just want to thank
you so much Victoria for those updates,

853

01:07:02,296 --> 01:07:08,636

I just want to emphasize especially to
those community leaders folks working with

854

01:07:08,660 --> 01:07:15,643

or next to or in support of a community-based
organization or a tribal government,

855

01:07:15,643 --> 01:07:22,683

we are likely-- we already have a
record amount, a record volume of funds

856

01:07:22,683 --> 01:07:26,044

to support our two
grant programs this year.

857

01:07:26,044 --> 01:07:31,112

There is the potential that we will have even
more funding in the next couple of months

858

01:07:31,136 --> 01:07:38,657

for those grant programs, that extra
grant funding is specific to proposals

859

01:07:38,681 --> 01:07:44,524

that will be for safe drinking
water and clean air projects.

860

01:07:44,524 --> 01:07:48,492

Please, please, please,
look at the information online.

861

01:07:48,516 --> 01:07:55,163

If folks had an idea about submitting

a proposal and haven't done it,

862

01:07:55,163 --> 01:08:00,524

I strongly urge every community
based organization or tribal government

863

01:08:00,524 --> 01:08:04,204

that is interested in these
grants to put in for them,

864

01:08:04,204 --> 01:08:10,762

again, we already have and will likely
have even more funding for proposals

865

01:08:10,762 --> 01:08:17,244

for community-based organizations
and tribal governments for these grants.

866

01:08:17,268 --> 01:08:24,204

And also please do not wait until
June 1st to try to log into the system,

867

01:08:24,204 --> 01:08:25,932

make sure you can
get in the system,

868

01:08:25,956 --> 01:08:32,451

make sure you have all of your usernames
and passwords and credentials and numbers,

869

01:08:32,475 --> 01:08:37,484

there are several elements you
have to have in order to submit a grant

870

01:08:37,484 --> 01:08:43,289

through the portal, do not wait
until June 1st to get it all figured out,

871

01:08:43,313 --> 01:08:46,204

log in today, make
sure everything is set up,

872

01:08:46,204 --> 01:08:50,811

so that once you are ready, hopefully
before June 1st you can pop that proposal

873

01:08:50,835 --> 01:08:53,564

into the system and get it into our hands.

874

01:08:53,564 --> 01:08:57,084

So with that, we can move on-- I believe
we're doing some program updates next,

875

01:08:57,084 --> 01:08:58,762

yes?

876

01:08:58,762 --> 01:09:02,843

Victoria Robinson: No, actually
that was the one program--

877

01:09:02,843 --> 01:09:06,283

Yes so we're going to move into the
listening session and dialogue.

878

01:09:06,283 --> 01:09:10,444

And I will apologize, it turns out that
one of the settings was not quite set

879

01:09:10,444 --> 01:09:13,079

like it was supposed to
and I found it, fixed it

880

01:09:13,103 --> 01:09:15,564

but I don't think it's going
to impact-- be able to

881

01:09:15,564 --> 01:09:18,684

allow folks to raise their
hands like I wanted to.

882

01:09:18,684 --> 01:09:21,895

So if anybody can raise
their hand, great, go for it

883

01:09:21,919 --> 01:09:25,014

but I don't see that is
maybe not working,

884

01:09:25,038 --> 01:09:28,940

but again, write any comments
or questions in the Q&A pod

885

01:09:28,964 --> 01:09:35,232

Christina will read them out and if we can--
if you can raise your hand, raise your hand

886

01:09:35,256 --> 01:09:38,707

and we'll call on you to ask a question.

887

01:09:38,731 --> 01:09:44,204

So I'll turn it over to
Matthew and Christina on that.

888

01:09:44,843 --> 01:09:49,471

Christina Motilall: Great, we have
an incoming question that says,

889

01:09:49,495 --> 01:09:51,968

how do you look for resources?

890

01:09:51,992 --> 01:09:59,004

How can individuals/organizations
share grassroots solutions with the EPA?

891

01:10:00,124 --> 01:10:03,404

Matthew Tejada: So one of the best ways is--

892

01:10:03,404 --> 01:10:07,964

that we're looking for are
through those grant proposals,

893

01:10:07,964 --> 01:10:11,342

and again hopefully a lot
more of those grant proposals

894

01:10:11,366 --> 01:10:14,120

are going to be actual
grant projects after this year

895

01:10:14,144 --> 01:10:17,164

because we're going to
be able to fund so many of them.

896

01:10:17,164 --> 01:10:25,723

That is one of the best ways of not only
demonstrating what works at the community level

897

01:10:25,723 --> 01:10:28,052

but then being able to share it.

898

01:10:28,076 --> 01:10:35,243

Another way, if folks are not in touch with
your regional environmental justice coordinators,

899

01:10:35,243 --> 01:10:43,164

all 10 EPA Regions across the United States
have dedicated environmental justice staff,

900

01:10:43,164 --> 01:10:46,684

you can find their names on our website,

901

01:10:46,684 --> 01:10:50,051

they are there, one of their
main jobs-- and several of them,

902

01:10:50,075 --> 01:10:52,415

I've seen are listening in today,

903

01:10:52,439 --> 01:10:57,502

one of their main jobs is to engage
with community leaders

904

01:10:57,526 --> 01:11:03,723

community organizations out there
to help them in navigating EPA,

905

01:11:03,723 --> 01:11:09,243

to help them in navigating other parts of the
federal government to the extent that we can

906

01:11:09,243 --> 01:11:17,243

and also to look for opportunities to bring
different community organizations together

907

01:11:17,243 --> 01:11:21,004

so that communities can
learn from other communities.

908

01:11:21,004 --> 01:11:24,044

That's something that I
know from my own experience

909

01:11:24,044 --> 01:11:32,511

leading a community organization in Houston,

that is one of, if not the most powerful ways

910

01:11:32,535 --> 01:11:36,612

of lifting up community
advocates and community leaders,

911

01:11:36,636 --> 01:11:40,363

is to put them in touch with their
colleagues in other communities

912

01:11:40,387 --> 01:11:43,560

that are maybe a little further
down the road than they are,

913

01:11:43,584 --> 01:11:46,404

so that they can learn from one another.

914

01:11:46,428 --> 01:11:52,903

I am hopeful that in this
administration that we're likely to see,

915

01:11:52,927 --> 01:11:58,924

just like we're already seeing in terms of

grant funding, I'm hopeful that we will see

916

01:11:58,924 --> 01:12:06,402

a new reality in terms of the sort of
resources that not just the EJ program

917

01:12:06,426 --> 01:12:12,604

but EPA overall has to support a
lot more community engagement,

918

01:12:12,604 --> 01:12:18,684

a lot deeper community engagement,
really working with community members

919

01:12:18,684 --> 01:12:23,243

and there's already some
nascent efforts out there underway

920

01:12:23,243 --> 01:12:26,283

in anticipation of
those greater resources.

921

01:12:26,283 --> 01:12:32,072

Some things that some of our colleagues done in the Atlanta Southeast Office in Region 4 of EPA,

922

01:12:32,096 --> 01:12:40,763

they are there initiating a community training, virtual training course tomorrow evening.

923

01:12:40,763 --> 01:12:44,311

We've had colleagues up in Chicago in the upper Midwest and Great Lakes

924

01:12:44,335 --> 01:12:48,359

have been doing a similar thing working with some local partners

925

01:12:48,383 --> 01:12:51,164

and community partners in Ohio.

926

01:12:51,164 --> 01:12:55,004

There have been previous attempts such as our colleagues in the Dallas Office

927

01:12:55,004 --> 01:13:00,684

which is kind of Texas, New Mexico,
Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana

928

01:13:00,684 --> 01:13:07,413

really working in a concerted effort to engage
community leaders in each state individually

929

01:13:07,437 --> 01:13:12,364

and come up with state-based EJ
plans and then bringing those together

930

01:13:12,364 --> 01:13:14,041

for regional plans.

931

01:13:14,065 --> 01:13:21,324

We have a lot of different practices out there
from the history of the EJ program at EPA,

932

01:13:21,324 --> 01:13:27,687

we're already resurfacing and
lifting up some of those practices

933

01:13:27,711 --> 01:13:34,124

and we'll be looking to really both expand
the breadth and the depth of those practices,

934

01:13:34,124 --> 01:13:40,204

hopefully with some additional
resources in the next fiscal year.

935

01:13:43,964 --> 01:13:46,292

Christina Motilall: Great. Victoria

Robinson: Next question--

936

01:13:46,316 --> 01:13:47,084

Christina Motilall: Yep.

937

01:13:47,084 --> 01:13:48,572

So the next question we have is

938

01:13:48,596 --> 01:13:52,172

how do advocates find out what
communities pollution sources

939

01:13:52,196 --> 01:13:55,112

the EPA is currently looking at

for EJ enforcement?

940

01:13:55,136 --> 01:13:58,283

How can they share
sites in need of intervention?

941

01:13:58,283 --> 01:14:00,432

Matthew Tejada: Sure
so there's a few ways.

942

01:14:00,456 --> 01:14:03,958

One way is working with EJSCREEN,

943

01:14:03,982 --> 01:14:07,723

and if folks aren't already looking
at EJSCREEN to kind of see

944

01:14:07,723 --> 01:14:12,283

what are some of the data points
that we're looking at more broadly,

945

01:14:12,283 --> 01:14:16,888

EJSCREEN has a lot of the different

sites reporting to EPA,

946

01:14:16,912 --> 01:14:19,615

can be pulled up in that interface.

947

01:14:19,639 --> 01:14:26,124

There's another tool

called ECHO that is more specific

948

01:14:26,124 --> 01:14:30,472

to the enforcement program, the

enforcement and compliance program,

949

01:14:30,496 --> 01:14:38,080

so it's where folks can actually

find in and around your neighborhood,

950

01:14:38,104 --> 01:14:45,992

your community, what are the actual

sites and what is their enforcement history

951

01:14:46,016 --> 01:14:49,004

and their current enforcement

and compliance status.

952

01:14:49,004 --> 01:14:54,887

And-- I can't remember as I said it, I'm not sure if ECHO is the internal facing version

953

01:14:54,911 --> 01:14:57,884

or the external facing version but one of those

954

01:14:57,884 --> 01:15:01,712

and we can put out more information of that when we do the follow-up to this meeting

955

01:15:01,736 --> 01:15:08,204

but there is an enforcement specific tool that anybody from the public can access

956

01:15:08,204 --> 01:15:12,364

to look up that enforcement and compliance information.

957

01:15:12,364 --> 01:15:16,283

And then additionally, I
want to make sure folks know

958

01:15:16,283 --> 01:15:22,912

that we in the EJ program we have a hotline
specific for environmental justice issues,

959

01:15:22,936 --> 01:15:28,844

it is staffed full time by a very
talented and committed individual named

960

01:15:28,844 --> 01:15:32,524

Vita Reed here in our Headquarters Office.

961

01:15:32,524 --> 01:15:39,803

And Vita, whether it is by email or
through the website or by telephone call

962

01:15:39,803 --> 01:15:44,551

she receives hundreds and hundreds
and hundreds of calls constantly

963

01:15:44,575 --> 01:15:47,084

and emails and complaints.

964

01:15:47,084 --> 01:15:54,592

And it doesn't even matter if the individual knows that it is an EPA issue

965

01:15:54,616 --> 01:15:57,172

or even if they don't even know if it's an environmental issue,

966

01:15:57,196 --> 01:16:01,723

if you have an issue that you think is environmental,

967

01:16:01,723 --> 01:16:07,884

that you think is affecting public health or the environment, you can call our EJ hotline

968

01:16:07,884 --> 01:16:12,230

and perhaps one of the OEJ folks-- I don't know the number off the top of my head

969

01:16:12,254 --> 01:16:15,884

but we can put that
maybe in the question and answer.

970

01:16:15,884 --> 01:16:21,076

You can you can just look it up though,
EPA EJ Hotline, you can just Google it,

971

01:16:21,100 --> 01:16:25,816

you can call that number and
Vita will help you navigate--

972

01:16:25,840 --> 01:16:31,964

will navigate for you within EPA
to make sure that your concern

973

01:16:31,964 --> 01:16:37,112

or your request or your
question finds the right place.

974

01:16:37,136 --> 01:16:42,750

We don't just pass people off and
start passing citizens around the agency

975

01:16:42,774 --> 01:16:46,200

until they accidentally find
the right resource,

976

01:16:46,224 --> 01:16:49,803

we do the legwork and
the homework to make sure

977

01:16:49,803 --> 01:16:56,684

that we connect folks to the place in
the EPA that will be able to help them,

978

01:16:56,684 --> 01:17:00,830

and even if it's not EPA, if it winds
up that it's a local issue

979

01:17:00,854 --> 01:17:05,084

or a state issue or perhaps a
different part of the government,

980

01:17:05,084 --> 01:17:11,077

Vita will do the legwork and the homework
and then connect back in with that citizen

981

01:17:11,101 --> 01:17:14,472

and say "Look here's what I
understand about your issue

982

01:17:14,496 --> 01:17:17,652

and here's the information for
your local public health office

983

01:17:17,676 --> 01:17:21,564

or here's the information for your
state transportation department"

984

01:17:21,564 --> 01:17:27,422

or whatever it is, she really helps folks
to navigate in and around those EJ issues

985

01:17:27,446 --> 01:17:30,992

because we appreciate
that they can be complex

986

01:17:31,016 --> 01:17:36,124

and the government does not
make it easy for folks to navigate us,

987

01:17:36,124 --> 01:17:39,404

so we have that standing
resource our EJ Hotline.

988

01:17:39,404 --> 01:17:46,414

Additionally, if folks suspect that there's
an actual environmental crime happening,

989

01:17:46,438 --> 01:17:54,204

there is a tips line and again, we can we can
put that information up in the chat hopefully

990

01:17:54,204 --> 01:18:00,476

or you can just look it up but there is
a Report a Violation, a dedicated line

991

01:18:00,500 --> 01:18:03,964

and a way of communicating
into the agency

992

01:18:03,964 --> 01:18:09,004

to report if you suspect in your community

that there is an environmental crime

993

01:18:09,004 --> 01:18:11,332

being committed or
has been committed.

994

01:18:11,356 --> 01:18:16,399

A lot of our enforcement,
particularly our criminal enforcement

995

01:18:16,423 --> 01:18:20,583

which does exist, there is an
environmental crimes section of EPA

996

01:18:20,607 --> 01:18:26,044

with men and women of law enforcement
that wear badges and carry guns.

997

01:18:26,044 --> 01:18:33,644

A lot of their work, a lot of their work
is actually driven by citizens calling in

998

01:18:33,644 --> 01:18:37,084

suspected cases, calling
in suspected crimes,

999

01:18:37,084 --> 01:18:42,844

so please do not hesitate to
avail yourself of those resources.

1000

01:18:42,844 --> 01:18:46,604

If you need help with a question or if
you suspect something is going on,

1001

01:18:46,604 --> 01:18:52,124

do not delay, do not think
that well maybe you're not sure,

1002

01:18:52,124 --> 01:18:55,004

let us know, it's our
job to figure it out

1003

01:18:55,004 --> 01:18:59,171

and you are helping us by being
the eyes and the ears on the ground

1004

01:18:59,195 --> 01:19:03,484

and letting us know what you are seeing,
what you are smelling, what you are feeling

1005

01:19:03,484 --> 01:19:07,164

what you were hearing, we
need that information from you all.

1006

01:19:07,164 --> 01:19:12,924

And again, I'm hopeful that with
some additional resources soon

1007

01:19:12,924 --> 01:19:18,191

EPA will have the ability to
have a much more comprehensive

1008

01:19:18,215 --> 01:19:22,436

and user-friendly presence, not
only to receive that information

1009

01:19:22,460 --> 01:19:27,803

but then for us to share it around
with broader communities.

1010

01:19:27,803 --> 01:19:33,324

So I'm hopeful that here pretty
soon we'll have a whole new ability

1011

01:19:33,324 --> 01:19:37,004

to communicate and
to share information

1012

01:19:37,004 --> 01:19:41,723

that is derived from actual members
of impacted communities.

1013

01:19:41,723 --> 01:19:45,644

So I'll stop there Christina
and we can do the next one.

1014

01:19:45,644 --> 01:19:47,924

Christina Motilall: Sounds great, thanks Matt.

1015

01:19:47,948 --> 01:19:50,412

This is in relation to EJSscreen.

1016

01:19:50,436 --> 01:19:55,644

As many people know we try to do an annual update but we had two questions come in

1017

01:19:55,644 --> 01:20:01,803

asking about when the 2020 and most recent census data will be added to EJSCREEN.

1018

01:20:01,803 --> 01:20:06,124

Matthew Tejada: Yeah we are already-- we're laying plans right now,

1019

01:20:06,124 --> 01:20:09,723

we know the decennial census is a huge deal,

1020

01:20:09,723 --> 01:20:16,364

so we are already working on getting that decennial census in

1021

01:20:16,364 --> 01:20:19,803

and making some other updates and enhancements to EJSCREEN.

1022

01:20:19,803 --> 01:20:25,512

We have a long punch-out list of things
that we want to do based upon feedback.

1023

01:20:25,536 --> 01:20:29,324

I actually-- oh my gosh is
it here, it's not here.

1024

01:20:29,324 --> 01:20:32,763

I just saw the timeline,

1025

01:20:32,763 --> 01:20:39,964

I want to say we're shooting for
December to have a new update,

1026

01:20:39,964 --> 01:20:43,098

let me-- I can actually pull it up if I
can just vamp for a minute.

1027

01:20:43,122 --> 01:20:51,964

I believe we are shooting for December
for the next big update to EJSCREEN.

1028

01:20:51,964 --> 01:20:57,231

I'm not sure if we are a
hundred percent confident yet

1029

01:20:57,255 --> 01:21:00,844

that the decennial
census will be in there

1030

01:21:00,844 --> 01:21:05,803

just because I don't think we've
received the decennial census yet,

1031

01:21:05,803 --> 01:21:10,283

but if we don't get the decennial
census in there by December,

1032

01:21:10,283 --> 01:21:17,084

we might do kind of an interim update then
in 2022 to get that out as soon as possible

1033

01:21:17,084 --> 01:21:21,925

but certainly by this time
next year we'll have an update

1034

01:21:21,949 --> 01:21:26,364

that has the new census information
as well as a bunch of other enhancements

1035

01:21:26,364 --> 01:21:28,524

that we're planning.

1036

01:21:28,524 --> 01:21:33,552

And perhaps that's something
that we need to look at,

1037

01:21:33,576 --> 01:21:37,391

maybe having just some more
general focused calls, Victoria

1038

01:21:37,415 --> 01:21:39,872

maybe one or two this
summer just on EJSCREEN

1039

01:21:39,896 --> 01:21:44,351

and we can get Tai and Matthew
Lee and some other folks on

1040

01:21:44,375 --> 01:21:51,803

if folks want to just have a refresher and a conversation about what's going on with EJSCREEN.

1041

01:21:54,763 --> 01:21:55,754

Christina Motilall: Great.

1042

01:21:55,754 --> 01:21:58,934

Victoria Robinson: [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

1043

01:22:00,604 --> 01:22:03,013

Matthew Tejada: Okay I think

Victoria is bad, go ahead Christina.

1044

01:22:03,037 --> 01:22:04,444

Christina Motilall: All right, sounds good.

1045

01:22:04,444 --> 01:22:09,432

What can EPA do to intervene with state agencies that are doing little

1046

01:22:09,456 --> 01:22:13,964

to prevent discrimination on the
basis of race, color and national origin?

1047

01:22:13,964 --> 01:22:17,336

How EPA-- how is EPA going to
collaborate with state agencies?

1048

01:22:17,360 --> 01:22:20,232

So I know this is-- you met
but also a little bit for Lillian

1049

01:22:20,256 --> 01:22:22,604

but I wanted to make sure that
question got read aloud.

1050

01:22:22,604 --> 01:22:27,032

Matthew Tejada: This is actually much
more Lillian, I'm not sure she's still on.

1051

01:22:27,056 --> 01:22:30,524

Lilian Dorka: Yeah I'm still on [LAUGHS]

1052

01:22:30,524 --> 01:22:32,012

Matthew Tejada: You
heard the question, Lillian?

1053

01:22:32,036 --> 01:22:35,964

Lilian Dorka: If you could repeat it I'd
appreciate it, I'm doing tweets at once.

1054

01:22:35,964 --> 01:22:40,492

Christina Motilall: No problem, what can
EPA do to intervene with state agencies

1055

01:22:40,516 --> 01:22:45,564

that are doing little to prevent discrimination
on the basis of race, color and national origin?

1056

01:22:45,564 --> 01:22:50,124

How is EPA going to collaborate
with the state agencies?

1057

01:22:50,124 --> 01:22:55,964

Lilian Dorka: Yeah, well certainly that is part
of our strengthening civil rights enforcement

1058

01:22:55,964 --> 01:23:01,797

efforts, not only to get more
comprehensive information out there

1059

01:23:01,821 --> 01:23:07,803

about what we expect in terms of
compliance with civil rights obligations

1060

01:23:07,803 --> 01:23:14,720

for both state and local agencies
that receive money from EPA.

1061

01:23:14,744 --> 01:23:25,404

But then also more aggressive
and reinvigorated enforcement efforts

1062

01:23:25,404 --> 01:23:28,712

such as affirmative compliance
reviews for following up

1063

01:23:28,736 --> 01:23:36,044

and making sure that in fact they
are complying with the civil rights laws

1064

01:23:37,084 --> 01:23:41,930

and training obviously, along
with guidance comes training

1065

01:23:41,954 --> 01:23:46,032

that we would also provide
including some of that online training

1066

01:23:46,056 --> 01:23:51,404

that I talked about before to make sure
that everybody understands their obligations

1067

01:23:51,404 --> 01:23:57,884

but some of these obligations are new,
they've been in place for quite some time,

1068

01:23:57,884 --> 01:24:01,932

some are much more subtle than
others, some of the discrimination issues,

1069

01:24:01,956 --> 01:24:09,243

some are downright evident in

terms of the regulatory requirements.

1070

01:24:09,243 --> 01:24:15,132

So we would do all of those things, we would make sure

1071

01:24:15,156 --> 01:24:18,852

that there's appropriate guidance out there to put everyone on notice

1072

01:24:18,876 --> 01:24:21,324

in terms of what is expected

1073

01:24:21,324 --> 01:24:26,124

and then we would conduct training and technical assistance

1074

01:24:26,124 --> 01:24:29,723

for any state and local agencies that want to receive that

1075

01:24:29,723 --> 01:24:32,924

and we would of course

have it available online

1076

01:24:32,924 --> 01:24:38,604

and we will then follow up with
affirmative compliance reviews to determine

1077

01:24:38,604 --> 01:24:50,524

whether in fact civil rights
compliances is being carried out.

1078

01:24:50,524 --> 01:24:54,172

Christina Motilall: We
have time for another?

1079

01:24:54,196 --> 01:24:55,090

Matthew Tejada: Oh yeah.

1080

01:24:55,114 --> 01:24:55,404

Christina Motilall: Okay.

1081

01:24:55,484 --> 01:25:00,452

This one says, will the EPA be setting
up a complaint submission form

1082

01:25:00,476 --> 01:25:05,324

to monitor issues with facilities
that may be permitted at a state level?

1083

01:25:05,324 --> 01:25:09,491

For example, if a facility was
inappropriately granted an FESOP permit

1084

01:25:09,515 --> 01:25:13,532

and is receiving substantial
numbers of local complaints,

1085

01:25:13,556 --> 01:25:19,564

it may warrant closer federal scrutiny
despite the state being the primary regulator.

1086

01:25:19,564 --> 01:25:23,484

Matthew Tejada: Yeah I mean,
that's getting into-- I'm not sure exactly

1087

01:25:23,484 --> 01:25:28,772

what an FESOP is, I'm guessing it's a stand--

some sort of a standard operating permit

1088

01:25:28,796 --> 01:25:38,552

I'm not sure what FE references but at the end of the day EPA is the federal regulator

1089

01:25:38,576 --> 01:25:48,124

and if folks believe that there are infractions of environmental laws happening

1090

01:25:48,124 --> 01:25:56,960

regardless of who is the agency with the authority or is the main regulator,

1091

01:25:56,984 --> 01:26:03,160

as long as they are being regulated by federal statutes it is still EPA's responsibility

1092

01:26:03,184 --> 01:26:08,203

to make sure that those environmental statutes are being adhered to

1093

01:26:08,203 --> 01:26:11,466

whether it's a state or a
tribe or a local government,

1094

01:26:11,490 --> 01:26:16,671

there are local governments across the United
States that will actually be implementers

1095

01:26:16,695 --> 01:26:20,951

of the Clean Air Act
or one of the water statutes.

1096

01:26:20,975 --> 01:26:26,124

So that is again if folks
feel like there is a concern

1097

01:26:26,124 --> 01:26:30,364

about a specific facility
or a set of facilities

1098

01:26:30,364 --> 01:26:37,164

please do not hesitate at contacting
your regional EJ coordinator,

1099

01:26:37,164 --> 01:26:42,524

contacting the EJ hotline or
contacting the tips and complaints line

1100

01:26:42,524 --> 01:26:46,684

of our Enforcement Office so
that we can get that on our radar

1101

01:26:46,684 --> 01:26:53,644

and start to interact with you if you so
choose, these things can be done anonymously

1102

01:26:53,644 --> 01:26:58,156

although it's very helpful if we can
actually engage with folks at the local level

1103

01:26:58,180 --> 01:27:00,763

so that we can really
understand what's going on.

1104

01:27:00,763 --> 01:27:04,844

And again, it's one of those-- I
think some of the most effective times

1105

01:27:04,844 --> 01:27:08,203

when we've been able to really
engage on those sorts of issues

1106

01:27:08,203 --> 01:27:13,092

is when we get the regional
EJ coordinators involved in it

1107

01:27:13,116 --> 01:27:17,484

so that they can have that ongoing
kind of conversation and understanding

1108

01:27:17,484 --> 01:27:23,051

what the community is experiencing
and then working on the inside of EPA,

1109

01:27:23,075 --> 01:27:27,914

that's really the fundamental purpose
or one of the fundamental purposes

1110

01:27:27,938 --> 01:27:30,684

of having an environmental
justice program

1111

01:27:30,684 --> 01:27:34,203

is that then we can

work inside of the agency

1112

01:27:34,203 --> 01:27:39,884

advocating and organizing and

coordinating with our program colleagues

1113

01:27:39,884 --> 01:27:47,404

to be responsive to the realities that

communities are facing on the ground.

1114

01:27:47,404 --> 01:27:52,412

And then I see one right here,

I see Ms. Velma Campbell says,

1115

01:27:52,436 --> 01:27:56,311

"It seems like one staff person is

not sufficient for the hotline,

1116

01:27:56,335 --> 01:27:59,004

or is she handing off the work quickly?"

1117

01:27:59,004 --> 01:28:02,203

I appreciate that Ms. Campbell,

1118

01:28:02,203 --> 01:28:07,164

I'm sure Vita would agree with you
all day long, she does have a backup.

1119

01:28:07,164 --> 01:28:13,723

I will say Vita is an extraordinary talent
and an extraordinary resource for folks.

1120

01:28:13,723 --> 01:28:19,366

And I'll also share-- we've had to move Vita
a couple times just physically in our space

1121

01:28:19,390 --> 01:28:21,324

from before the pandemic

1122

01:28:21,324 --> 01:28:27,004

and since Vita is on the phone pretty
much every hour she's in the building.

1123

01:28:27,004 --> 01:28:31,832

Every time we move her, within a
week, everyone that has to sit around her

1124

01:28:31,856 --> 01:28:33,972

will come to me complaining about

1125

01:28:33,996 --> 01:28:37,324

"Oh my gosh, you've got to get
Vita out of here, she talks all day long."

1126

01:28:37,324 --> 01:28:41,061

And then the week after that,
everyone comes back to me and says

1127

01:28:41,085 --> 01:28:44,524

"Oh my god, I have no idea, I had
no idea how much work Vita does,

1128

01:28:44,524 --> 01:28:49,497

she is so incredible and so amazing and I am
learning so much just by sitting next to her

1129

01:28:49,521 --> 01:28:54,844

and listening to her help other
people, help citizens navigate

1130

01:28:54,844 --> 01:28:57,213

public health and
environmental issues all day long."

1131

01:28:57,237 --> 01:29:02,052

And that's happened-- I think she's
moved three times in the last several years

1132

01:29:02,076 --> 01:29:07,152

and each time it's first a complaint and then
people come back to withdraw the complaint

1133

01:29:07,176 --> 01:29:07,803

and lift up

1134

01:29:07,803 --> 01:29:13,084

"What a great job she does for a
lot of folks all over the United States."

1135

01:29:13,084 --> 01:29:17,884

So we'll see if we
can get some more support for Vita

1136

01:29:17,884 --> 01:29:22,124

as we look at different
forms of support going forward.

1137

01:29:22,124 --> 01:29:24,376

I appreciate you being
concerned about her though.

1138

01:29:24,400 --> 01:29:28,132

Do we have another
question, Christina?

1139

01:29:28,156 --> 01:29:32,812

Christina Motilall: This one I
think is a broader EJ question.

1140

01:29:32,836 --> 01:29:37,564

I did not hear low income
as a potential basis for discrimination,

1141

01:29:37,564 --> 01:29:39,404

will that not be a part of the

1142

01:29:39,404 --> 01:29:41,732

assessment for disparate impacts?

1143

01:29:41,756 --> 01:29:43,964

Matthew Tejada: That's

another Lillian question.

1144

01:29:43,964 --> 01:29:46,283

[LAUGHS]

Lilian Dorka: Yeah thank you and I think

1145

01:29:46,283 --> 01:29:48,364

I actually responded online.

1146

01:29:48,364 --> 01:29:50,472

Christina Motilall: Yeah, you did

but I just thought it would be good

1147

01:29:50,496 --> 01:29:52,283

to address it aloud.

1148

01:29:52,283 --> 01:29:54,684

Lilian Dorka: Absolutely,
that's a very good question

1149

01:29:54,684 --> 01:30:00,972

because as there are many similarities
between Title VI and the executive order

1150

01:30:00,996 --> 01:30:05,324

on environmental justice
there are some differences,

1151

01:30:05,324 --> 01:30:12,364

for example, whereas the order the environmental
justice order does address low income

1152

01:30:12,364 --> 01:30:16,044

as an issue, as an
environmental justice issue,

1153

01:30:16,044 --> 01:30:20,672

the federal civil rights

laws including Title VI do not.

1154

01:30:20,696 --> 01:30:26,844

So Title VI prohibits specifically

discrimination on the basis of race, color

1155

01:30:26,844 --> 01:30:30,844

or national origin which includes

limited English proficiency

1156

01:30:30,844 --> 01:30:32,964

and if you look at the second--

1157

01:30:34,044 --> 01:30:38,486

I guess the second sheet on my

Powerpoint presentation

1158

01:30:38,510 --> 01:30:42,453

it has a list of authorities

and what they cover,

1159

01:30:42,477 --> 01:30:48,792

and you'll see that the authorities
that we have the jurisdiction to cover,

1160

01:30:48,816 --> 01:30:54,604

the type of discrimination that
our office has the authority to cover,

1161

01:30:54,604 --> 01:31:03,243

prohibit discrimination on the basis of race,
color, national origin, disability, age and sex

1162

01:31:03,243 --> 01:31:11,377

but income, low income is not
one of the bases for discrimination

1163

01:31:11,401 --> 01:31:14,272

that are covered under
the federal civil rights laws,

1164

01:31:14,296 --> 01:31:23,404

so we would not have jurisdiction
in our office to address that.

1165

01:31:25,564 --> 01:31:29,964

Christina Motilall: All right we are-- you guys
are doing a great job answering these questions,

1166

01:31:29,964 --> 01:31:31,947

they're really hitting on a
lot of the ones that we have

1167

01:31:31,971 --> 01:31:37,004

so I'm actually kind
of searching right now.

1168

01:31:37,004 --> 01:31:41,404

Another comment that came
in from Ms. Campbell was,

1169

01:31:41,404 --> 01:31:45,243

"I hope that hybrid in-person and Zoom
meetings are considered post COVID

1170

01:31:45,243 --> 01:31:48,604

because that significantly increases the
participation options

1171

01:31:48,604 --> 01:31:52,124

for people in geographically racially
and economically diverse areas,

1172

01:31:52,124 --> 01:31:54,924

is that a consideration in the decision?"

1173

01:31:54,924 --> 01:31:59,232

Matthew Tejada: Absolutely, I think
just as everyone around the globe

1174

01:31:59,256 --> 01:32:08,444

has learned some new realities about just how
capable we can be in a more virtual platform,

1175

01:32:08,444 --> 01:32:13,973

I think a lot of the abilities that
we have learned from other folks

1176

01:32:13,997 --> 01:32:17,164

and some of the things that
maybe we've been creative with

1177

01:32:17,164 --> 01:32:24,924

have really vastly expanded our ability to
engage and communicate and hear back

1178

01:32:24,924 --> 01:32:28,283

from communities and other partners.

1179

01:32:28,283 --> 01:32:31,845

I actually think even though
we want to have a NEJAC,

1180

01:32:31,869 --> 01:32:36,752

a National Environmental Justice Advisory
Council meeting in person as soon as we can,

1181

01:32:36,776 --> 01:32:40,572

I think the way that we're doing
those NEJAC meetings now virtually,

1182

01:32:40,596 --> 01:32:44,283

are incredibly powerful and
much more productive.

1183

01:32:44,283 --> 01:32:48,203

So there's some of these that
we will go back to doing in person

1184

01:32:48,203 --> 01:32:55,644

but yeah, at least speaking for the
EJ program, we very much appreciate

1185

01:32:55,644 --> 01:33:00,473

the power that these virtual
platforms have provided

1186

01:33:00,497 --> 01:33:04,691

which we had not been
making full advantage of earlier.

1187

01:33:04,715 --> 01:33:12,072

I do want to go lift up alongside that,
we are acutely aware of the persistence

1188

01:33:12,096 --> 01:33:18,444

of a digital divide in our society, in

our country and outside of our country,

1189

01:33:18,444 --> 01:33:23,671

so we are always looking for as we
enhance and expand different ways

1190

01:33:23,695 --> 01:33:26,684

of communicating and engaging.

1191

01:33:26,684 --> 01:33:31,884

We are always looking out for and trying to
make sure anywhere and everywhere we can

1192

01:33:31,884 --> 01:33:37,772

that we are mitigating for or
addressing or offering other opportunities

1193

01:33:37,796 --> 01:33:44,604

for folks who are on the
other side of that digital divide.

1194

01:33:48,044 --> 01:33:52,203

I see one here while you're

maybe looking for another one,

1195

01:33:52,203 --> 01:33:56,557

"Christina, can you briefly share
any EPA EJ coordination activities

1196

01:33:56,581 --> 01:34:00,684

occurring with CEQ, USDOT and HUD?"

1197

01:34:00,684 --> 01:34:08,512

Yeah on the one hand, as President
Biden and Vice President Harris

1198

01:34:08,536 --> 01:34:11,672

have instituted this all
of government approach,

1199

01:34:11,696 --> 01:34:18,188

that is very much put CEQ in
the center of a lot of EJ activities

1200

01:34:18,212 --> 01:34:20,044

across the entire government.

1201

01:34:20,044 --> 01:34:25,084

So everything that is happening
in terms of the implementation

1202

01:34:25,084 --> 01:34:31,404

of the Executive Order 14008 on tackling
the climate crisis at home and abroad,

1203

01:34:31,404 --> 01:34:35,084

that is being run out of CEQ,

1204

01:34:35,084 --> 01:34:42,112

so we have extensive engagement
and coordination and support for CEQ,

1205

01:34:42,136 --> 01:34:45,404

they're very much leading the effort.

1206

01:34:45,404 --> 01:34:54,372

EPA is now one of several of the federal
agencies working with and supporting CEQ.

1207

01:34:55,084 --> 01:35:01,130

In previous years, the EPA was
the leader amongst the federal family

1208

01:35:01,154 --> 01:35:06,924

for a lot of those sorts of efforts that came
out of Executive Order 12898,

1209

01:35:06,924 --> 01:35:10,683

that has been elevated, I think very
appropriately so

1210

01:35:10,683 --> 01:35:14,844

[LAUGHS] not that my opinion was
the one that decided it or anything

1211

01:35:14,844 --> 01:35:19,324

but if you want to have the whole of government
responding to environmental justice issues

1212

01:35:19,324 --> 01:35:23,243

you really need the top of the
government delivering the mandate

1213

01:35:23,243 --> 01:35:26,604

and really riding hurt on everyone.

1214

01:35:26,604 --> 01:35:31,324

So CEQ is doing that, so EPA has a lot of interaction with CEQ on that.

1215

01:35:31,324 --> 01:35:34,844

We're also through those forums, through those venues,

1216

01:35:34,844 --> 01:35:40,203

we are engaging and coordinating with folks like Department of Transportation,

1217

01:35:40,203 --> 01:35:44,683

like Housing Urban Development, other agencies and departments through,

1218

01:35:44,683 --> 01:35:48,283

what CEQ is going on and then aside from that,

1219

01:35:48,283 --> 01:35:55,803

we still have our own bilateral or
multilateral relationships with our colleagues

1220

01:35:55,803 --> 01:35:57,772

at those other federal agencies.

1221

01:35:57,796 --> 01:36:02,092

So again I said this earlier
but hardly a day goes by

1222

01:36:02,116 --> 01:36:06,032

that there isn't some meeting, some
convening whether it's a meet and greet

1223

01:36:06,056 --> 01:36:10,283

or we're starting to kind of hatch some
plans on how we're going to collaborate

1224

01:36:10,283 --> 01:36:16,763

with transportation or HUD or
agriculture or commerce or--

1225

01:36:16,763 --> 01:36:21,644

it is happening, that's one of the exciting things that happens in these early months

1226

01:36:21,644 --> 01:36:26,283

of a new administration, is a lot of new folks come in to--

1227

01:36:26,283 --> 01:36:28,391

all of the government has political appointees,

1228

01:36:28,415 --> 01:36:31,328

a lot of colleagues who maybe you didn't get to work with

1229

01:36:31,352 --> 01:36:34,955

and in the previous few years they're able to pop back up

1230

01:36:34,979 --> 01:36:38,552

and say "Hey let's get back together, let's

start doing some good work again together."

1231

01:36:38,576 --> 01:36:44,604

So that is definitely one of the very exciting
and high energy parts of what is happening

1232

01:36:44,604 --> 01:36:46,932

across all the government right now,

1233

01:36:46,956 --> 01:36:52,283

is a lot of those collaborative
efforts with other federal agencies.

1234

01:36:53,164 --> 01:36:54,592

Christina Motilall: Great, thanks Matt.

1235

01:36:54,616 --> 01:36:56,763

We have one that just came in,

1236

01:36:56,763 --> 01:37:01,803

and I actually want to field
it a little bit in the beginning

1237

01:37:01,803 --> 01:37:05,564

and then hand it over to you if that's okay.

1238

01:37:05,564 --> 01:37:08,844

It says, while working with communities
and organizations

1239

01:37:08,844 --> 01:37:12,691

what key EPA resources can I point to
for a basic understanding of EJ

1240

01:37:12,715 --> 01:37:15,803

and how they can engage with EJ principles?

1241

01:37:15,803 --> 01:37:17,564

So my name is Christina Motilall, I'm

1242

01:37:17,564 --> 01:37:20,924

the Communications Lead for
the Office of Environmental Justice,

1243

01:37:20,924 --> 01:37:26,606

so there are a few different resources that
we have to be able to engage on EJ with us

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01:37:26,630 --> 01:37:30,663

and to learn more about how
EJ works within the agency

1245

01:37:30,687 --> 01:37:33,644

and how you can get more
involved and learn more about it.

1246

01:37:33,644 --> 01:37:38,672

So the main one is obviously our website, I'll
drop these resources as well into the chat.

1247

01:37:38,696 --> 01:37:40,835

We also have a listserv
that you can sign up,

1248

01:37:40,859 --> 01:37:45,232

for that will provide information
for different resources

1249

01:37:45,256 --> 01:37:49,884

that we have coming out of the agency
and different workshops, webinars, panels

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01:37:49,884 --> 01:37:52,444

things that you can use
to learn more about EJ

1251

01:37:52,444 --> 01:37:57,084

it hasn't-- we send out information for
using our tools like EJSCREEN and ECHO

1252

01:37:57,084 --> 01:37:58,524

like Matt mentioned,

1253

01:37:58,524 --> 01:38:01,712

and then, as always, you can
email us for any information.

1254

01:38:01,736 --> 01:38:04,524

So I will drop that
information into the chat

1255

01:38:04,524 --> 01:38:06,956

and then Matt let me know
if I missed anything there.

1256

01:38:06,980 --> 01:38:09,723

Matthew Tejada: No,
that's great dive in thank you.

1257

01:38:09,723 --> 01:38:13,644

So I see a couple in chat-- I see
Ms. Campbell that she's clarifying

1258

01:38:13,644 --> 01:38:17,872

she's not just concerned about the
staff person but about the overall funding

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01:38:17,896 --> 01:38:22,751

and staffing of a hotline and just
the outreach and engagement

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01:38:22,775 --> 01:38:25,723

that we can provide to
impacted communities.

1261

01:38:25,723 --> 01:38:29,392

Absolutely, I agree with you Velma,
not just the hotline

1262

01:38:29,416 --> 01:38:33,191

but essentially everything that we
have done historically in the EJ program

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01:38:33,215 --> 01:38:36,124

has been done on a shoestring,

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01:38:36,124 --> 01:38:40,691

EJSCREEN, our grants, any of the
training or capacity building support

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01:38:40,715 --> 01:38:47,564

or technical assistance, we
have operated in true EJ fashion,

1266

01:38:47,564 --> 01:38:49,964

we have always
done everything on a shoestring

1267

01:38:49,964 --> 01:38:52,472

in the Office of Environmental Justice.

1268

01:38:52,496 --> 01:38:57,243

And again, I'm very hopeful that

here in a few months we're gonna get

1269

01:38:57,243 --> 01:39:01,964

a new set of shoes and be

able to really do this well.

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01:39:01,964 --> 01:39:05,324

And I see Helda Jacqueline Norris,

1271

01:39:05,324 --> 01:39:09,004

Vita, the senior environmental

employee does show

1272

01:39:09,004 --> 01:39:12,731

what anybody of any age is capable of

doing if they have the passion

1273

01:39:12,755 --> 01:39:14,763

and the commitment to do it.

1274

01:39:14,763 --> 01:39:20,044

Vita has been a long-standing staff member
of the Office of Environmental Justice

1275

01:39:20,044 --> 01:39:25,324

so that is Helda Norris said
that is-- who I was talking about.

1276

01:39:25,803 --> 01:39:29,164

All right what do you think, Christina?

1277

01:39:29,164 --> 01:39:33,564

Christina Motilall: I think that
there's a great question that came in

1278

01:39:33,564 --> 01:39:35,188

if we've got time still.

1279

01:39:35,212 --> 01:39:37,644

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, we're

supposed to go to four.

1280

01:39:37,644 --> 01:39:39,061

Christina Motilall: All right here we go.

1281

01:39:39,085 --> 01:39:42,652

We talked that meaningful community engagement is a priority at EPA now

1282

01:39:42,676 --> 01:39:45,446

and that you are taking efforts to strengthen this,

1283

01:39:45,470 --> 01:39:49,324

what strategies are in place to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts?

1284

01:39:49,324 --> 01:39:52,844

Matthew Tejada: Oh that's a good question.

Christina Motilall: Yeah, I like that one.

1285

01:39:52,844 --> 01:40:00,844

Matthew Tejada: What strategies are in

place to see how effective the engagement is?

1286

01:40:00,844 --> 01:40:06,072

So that's going to be something
that I think we really start to see

1287

01:40:06,096 --> 01:40:12,951

some substance take shape as
we look at strategic planning at EPA

1288

01:40:12,975 --> 01:40:16,763

and the strategic plan for
environmental justice.

1289

01:40:16,763 --> 01:40:22,604

We've been without a strategic
plan for EJ for a number of years now.

1290

01:40:22,604 --> 01:40:30,283

Despite a lot of efforts to get
something going strategically

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01:40:30,283 --> 01:40:37,964

so I think as we look at a next multi-year
strategic plan for the agency overall

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01:40:37,964 --> 01:40:44,604

and how potentially we incorporate environmental
justice into that plan is going to be

1293

01:40:44,604 --> 01:40:48,214

not only important but I
think really telling in terms of

1294

01:40:49,404 --> 01:40:52,732

how this administration
views that sort of commitment.

1295

01:40:52,756 --> 01:41:00,124

I will share that I was really
heartened that Administrator Regan,

1296

01:41:00,124 --> 01:41:06,203

the first memo he issued after he took
office as the administrator of EPA,

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01:41:06,203 --> 01:41:10,364

it was a memorandum on his
environmental justice priorities,

1298

01:41:10,364 --> 01:41:15,084

of really centering environmental
justice and the mission of EPA

1299

01:41:15,084 --> 01:41:20,044

and he had four specific things that he
really wanted folks to focus on

1300

01:41:20,044 --> 01:41:22,832

in terms of advancing
environmental justice at EPA,

1301

01:41:22,856 --> 01:41:26,017

and one of those was meaningful engagement.

1302

01:41:26,041 --> 01:41:34,683

So I'm hopeful that not only will we see
meaningful engagement of impacted communities

1303

01:41:34,683 --> 01:41:42,924

elevated to be at the same level
of the other pieces of our business,

1304

01:41:42,924 --> 01:41:46,444

one of the things that we're
we're talking a lot

1305

01:41:46,444 --> 01:41:50,763

about inside of the agency right now is
we wouldn't make a decision

1306

01:41:50,763 --> 01:41:53,394

without letting the scientists do the science,

1307

01:41:53,418 --> 01:41:57,803

we wouldn't make a decision without
letting the lawyers do their lawyering

1308

01:41:57,803 --> 01:42:00,763

or the engineers do their engineering,

1309

01:42:00,763 --> 01:42:04,731

in the same way, we should not make a
decision in the agency

1310

01:42:04,755 --> 01:42:09,280

without having our engagement
folks engage the impacted communities

1311

01:42:09,304 --> 01:42:13,803

and that should really not only be
amongst those most important things

1312

01:42:13,803 --> 01:42:15,591

but should be the first thing.

1313

01:42:15,615 --> 01:42:21,256

In my opinion that happens, so
that it can inform everything else

1314

01:42:21,280 --> 01:42:22,844

that happens from it.

1315

01:42:22,844 --> 01:42:25,539

So, that's one of the

things that we are hopeful for

1316

01:42:25,563 --> 01:42:29,164

and that we're advocating
for inside of the agency.

1317

01:42:29,164 --> 01:42:32,203

And at the same time
though, how effective is it,

1318

01:42:32,203 --> 01:42:40,551

if we don't actually start to see decisions--
decision-making at the agency change,

1319

01:42:40,575 --> 01:42:44,797

then all of it-- then meaningful
engagement can be as meaningful

1320

01:42:44,821 --> 01:42:48,552

as we think it is but if it doesn't
change anything it's not meaningful at all,

1321

01:42:48,576 --> 01:42:52,812

it's got to actually impact the
way we do our business at EPA,

1322

01:42:52,836 --> 01:42:54,763

the decisions we make.

1323

01:42:54,763 --> 01:42:59,884

And again, I think we have
some very hopeful signs

1324

01:42:59,884 --> 01:43:03,723

that this administration has
shown up with a new urgency

1325

01:43:03,723 --> 01:43:08,720

and a new bravery to do the
equity and justice work.

1326

01:43:08,744 --> 01:43:12,711

I'll point to just a couple of things
that have happened recently

1327

01:43:12,735 --> 01:43:21,243

where Administrator Regan has set a
marker way out there in front of the agency

1328

01:43:21,243 --> 01:43:27,485

both in terms of a letter he
issued a couple weeks ago now

1329

01:43:27,509 --> 01:43:33,007

regarding a recycling facility, a
metal recycling facility in Chicago

1330

01:43:33,031 --> 01:43:42,203

and also just last week, an emergency order
to cease operations at a refinery.

1331

01:43:42,203 --> 01:43:48,924

Those are those are big decisions,
those are decisions that happen in--

1332

01:43:48,924 --> 01:43:53,884

we're listening, we're listening to
what the communities are saying,

1333

01:43:53,884 --> 01:43:58,683

we're listening to what the needs
are, what the realities are on the ground

1334

01:43:58,683 --> 01:44:01,723

and I think we're already
starting to see the agency

1335

01:44:01,723 --> 01:44:05,564

be more responsive to those things.

1336

01:44:05,564 --> 01:44:09,004

And I'm hopeful again as
we look at strategic planning,

1337

01:44:09,004 --> 01:44:13,243

that we look at the commitments
that the agency will make overall

1338

01:44:13,243 --> 01:44:23,212

that we're going to see a lot more
creativity and a lot more big steps taken

1339

01:44:23,236 --> 01:44:29,492

across EPA's activities in terms of
how we want to show the meaningfulness

1340

01:44:29,516 --> 01:44:33,711

of the engagement and the
integration of environmental justice

1341

01:44:33,735 --> 01:44:39,004

into the fundamental
decision-making of the agency

1342

01:44:39,004 --> 01:44:44,192

and as we do that, to make those things
clear, to make those commitments clear

1343

01:44:44,216 --> 01:44:46,524

to make them transparent.

1344

01:44:46,524 --> 01:44:51,084

And things like these calls or things
like our NEJAC meetings

1345

01:44:51,084 --> 01:44:55,610

or the engagement that will hopefully
be happening much more consistently

1346

01:44:55,634 --> 01:45:00,844

and aggressively across the board
for all of EPA's regions and programs

1347

01:45:00,844 --> 01:45:07,644

that it's really you all, it's the public,
it's the impacted community that is our own

1348

01:45:07,644 --> 01:45:12,763

best accountability measure making
sure that we are living up to the things

1349

01:45:12,763 --> 01:45:15,243

that you all need to see
happen on the ground.

1350

01:45:15,243 --> 01:45:19,564

So I'm very hopeful that we
already have some really great direction

1351

01:45:19,564 --> 01:45:22,604

from this administration and from
Administrator Regan

1352

01:45:22,604 --> 01:45:29,164

and that he's already you know
taking steps forward in delivering on that.

1353

01:45:31,484 --> 01:45:33,332

Christina Motilall: Great,
okay. Thank you Matt.

1354

01:45:33,356 --> 01:45:34,632

That's great.

1355

01:45:34,656 --> 01:45:38,145

So we have a question
that came in that our grants

1356

01:45:38,169 --> 01:45:41,048

Lee, Jacob Burney did
answer in the Q&A pod

1357

01:45:41,072 --> 01:45:45,723

but we know not everyone can see the Q&A
pod especially participants on the phone.

1358

01:45:45,723 --> 01:45:48,044

So I'm going to read this one aloud.

1359

01:45:48,044 --> 01:45:53,243

When you are reviewing grants proposals on how
to-- on how you plan to prioritize proposal--

1360

01:45:53,243 --> 01:45:54,604

I'm so sorry.

1361

01:45:54,604 --> 01:45:58,604

When you are reviewing grant proposals
how do you plan to prioritize proposals

1362

01:45:58,604 --> 01:46:05,004

that seek to address racial
disparities in environmental outcomes?

1363

01:46:05,004 --> 01:46:06,732

Jacob Burney: Hi thank
you and thank everybody,

1364

01:46:06,756 --> 01:46:09,964

this is Jacob Burney, EJ
Grant's Program Manager.

1365

01:46:09,964 --> 01:46:14,683

So all of our EJ grants especially this
year FY21 with the EJ Small Grants

1366

01:46:14,683 --> 01:46:16,524

and the EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving

1367

01:46:16,524 --> 01:46:22,364

Awards, all of our grants are tailored
to address the needs of low-income

1368

01:46:22,364 --> 01:46:25,109

communities and communities
of colors and the disparate impacts

1369

01:46:25,133 --> 01:46:28,444

that they're dealing with in
terms of the environmental issues

1370

01:46:28,444 --> 01:46:30,124

that are impacting them.

1371

01:46:30,124 --> 01:46:34,552

So this year in terms of prioritizing
those needs especially for the small grants,

1372

01:46:34,576 --> 01:46:41,518

we are setting aside half of the total
funding for small non-profit organizations

1373

01:46:41,542 --> 01:46:47,644

which are defined as 10 or
fewer full-time employees on staff.

1374

01:46:47,644 --> 01:46:53,309

So this range of small organizations
that have a handful of employees

1375

01:46:53,333 --> 01:46:58,364

are mostly volunteer, all of
those organizations are having

1376

01:46:58,364 --> 01:47:03,004

half the total available funding
set aside specifically for them.

1377

01:47:03,004 --> 01:47:06,392

So the other half of the funding is
for those larger nonprofit organizations

1378

01:47:06,416 --> 01:47:08,124

and tribal governments

1379

01:47:08,124 --> 01:47:11,932

but this is the first time that the
agency is setting aside half of the funding

1380

01:47:11,956 --> 01:47:16,283

specifically for this target group
of small nonprofit organizations

1381

01:47:16,283 --> 01:47:17,964

and we're really excited about that.

1382

01:47:17,964 --> 01:47:22,032

So again deadline date is June 1st, so
coming up in a couple of weeks

1383

01:47:22,056 --> 01:47:25,832

that's right after Memorial
Day as Matt mentioned.

1384

01:47:25,856 --> 01:47:31,243

Please do try to log in to the
grants.gov and sam.gov systems

1385

01:47:31,243 --> 01:47:35,484

before June 1st, especially
since that is going to be a holiday.

1386

01:47:35,484 --> 01:47:39,644

I'm not sure how their
hotlines are going to be

1387

01:47:39,644 --> 01:47:43,484

in terms of how many technicians
they'll have staffing those lines,

1388

01:47:43,484 --> 01:47:47,484

so if you can apply that
Friday before the weekend

1389

01:47:47,484 --> 01:47:51,803

please at least do a test
run then rather than waiting to

1390

01:47:51,803 --> 01:47:56,472

or until the Tuesday on June 1st
when the applications are due.

1391

01:47:56,496 --> 01:48:01,324

So that would be my recommendation,
thanks for the question.

1392

01:48:02,124 --> 01:48:07,404

Christina Motilall: Thank you so much
Jacob, we have another question in.

1393

01:48:07,404 --> 01:48:11,243

What sort of guidance or requirements
can state agencies expect

1394

01:48:11,267 --> 01:48:16,444

for how to better integrate EJ into
state programs policies and design

1395

01:48:16,444 --> 01:48:18,404

of funding opportunities?

1396

01:48:18,428 --> 01:48:20,352

Matthew Tejada: Can you read
that one more time?

1397

01:48:20,376 --> 01:48:23,812

It was about states and what
support can we lend to states?

1398

01:48:23,836 --> 01:48:26,283

Christina Motilall: Yeah, what
sort of guidance or requirements

1399

01:48:26,283 --> 01:48:30,844

can state agencies expect
for how to better integrate EJ into

1400

01:48:30,844 --> 01:48:32,844

their program's policies and--

1401

01:48:32,844 --> 01:48:35,285

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, so
that's one of the things again

1402

01:48:35,309 --> 01:48:39,803

that we have been--

1403

01:48:39,803 --> 01:48:45,012

that's one of the main, the three
main focus areas of the EJ program

1404

01:48:45,036 --> 01:48:49,279

for many years now, is supporting
not just states also tribal governments

1405

01:48:49,303 --> 01:48:55,888

and local governments, but states
are obviously a huge part of that

1406

01:48:55,912 --> 01:49:02,924

and there is obviously also
a lot of interest across the board,

1407

01:49:02,924 --> 01:49:06,044

I don't think there's a single
state out there I could name right now

1408

01:49:06,044 --> 01:49:09,771

that is just not doing anything or
hasn't piped up in any way

1409

01:49:09,795 --> 01:49:13,152

on environmental justice, it might
not always be the way people think,

1410

01:49:13,176 --> 01:49:16,124

it might always be the way folks want

1411

01:49:16,124 --> 01:49:20,124

but there is a lot of interest across
the board from states

1412

01:49:20,124 --> 01:49:25,551

and frankly some states don't need our
help, they're way ahead of where EPA is.

1413

01:49:25,575 --> 01:49:28,571

In the most recent couple of years,

1414

01:49:28,595 --> 01:49:32,272

one of the ways we've
been trying to help states

1415

01:49:32,296 --> 01:49:36,758

advance their understanding and
integration of environmental justice

1416

01:49:36,782 --> 01:49:42,763

has been through a series of
very meticulously planned webinars

1417

01:49:42,763 --> 01:49:47,536

where not only have we highlighted
EPA's thinking

1418

01:49:47,560 --> 01:49:51,276

about integration of environmental
justice into a number of different things,

1419

01:49:51,300 --> 01:49:57,884

everything from meaningful engagement
and public participation to use of tools,

1420

01:49:57,884 --> 01:50:04,272

to implementation of specific
policies such as NEPA,

1421

01:50:04,296 --> 01:50:11,723

but importantly that we haven't just been
sharing what EPA thinks is the best way

1422

01:50:11,723 --> 01:50:18,364

but that we've really featured for the majority
what other states and local governments

1423

01:50:18,364 --> 01:50:22,132

have been doing to integrate EJ so
that states can learn from other states

1424

01:50:22,156 --> 01:50:24,786

or local governments can learn
from other local governments

1425

01:50:24,810 --> 01:50:26,683

of those best practices.

1426

01:50:26,683 --> 01:50:30,683

So that has been one way of doing it.

1427

01:50:30,683 --> 01:50:34,924

I think however with the
Biden-Harris Administration

1428

01:50:34,924 --> 01:50:41,670

and the whole of government
approach and just the overall maturation

1429

01:50:41,694 --> 01:50:46,320

of environmental justice as
an issue in the United States,

1430

01:50:46,344 --> 01:50:52,604

we've reached this point where EJ
is no longer just this thing that--

1431

01:50:52,604 --> 01:50:57,723

a small shop at EPA and a handful of
collaborators across the United States

1432

01:50:57,723 --> 01:51:04,044

seek to advance, it's a
national issue, it's a national part

1433

01:51:04,044 --> 01:51:06,283

of the environmental regulatory endeavor

1434

01:51:06,283 --> 01:51:10,714

and we need to start treating it in
the same way that we do other things

1435

01:51:10,738 --> 01:51:14,712

where we actually
operate not just at EPA

1436

01:51:14,736 --> 01:51:19,964

but we look out at the rest of the
environmental regulatory efforts

1437

01:51:19,964 --> 01:51:25,315

across the United States and work
collaboratively and in support of one another

1438

01:51:25,339 --> 01:51:29,792

at advancing our mutual
program of environmental justice.

1439

01:51:30,124 --> 01:51:36,604

And I'm excited that in the next couple
of years we're going to start to be able

1440

01:51:36,604 --> 01:51:45,163

to develop and to provide a lot more things
just like program guidance or training

1441

01:51:45,163 --> 01:51:51,479

or venues to come together opportunities
to learn from one another, opportunities

1442

01:51:51,503 --> 01:51:55,004

to get down to you
know the best practices

1443

01:51:55,004 --> 01:51:58,763

or the policies or the
guidance or the guidelines

1444

01:51:58,763 --> 01:52:02,364

that we can develop
collectively, collaboratively,

1445

01:52:02,364 --> 01:52:06,203

not just EPA-- gazing at our
own [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

1446

01:52:06,203 --> 01:52:13,142

but really working in a much more open and
broad-based way with our partners states

1447

01:52:13,166 --> 01:52:15,291

but also local and tribal governments.

1448

01:52:15,315 --> 01:52:17,964

And I believe my

colleague Lillian would share

1449

01:52:17,964 --> 01:52:22,171

that they're looking at the same

sort of approach with implementation

1450

01:52:22,195 --> 01:52:25,084

of the Civil Rights Act, it is a national effort

1451

01:52:25,084 --> 01:52:27,484

and we have got to work with our states.

1452

01:52:27,484 --> 01:52:31,684

I mean they-- I think Lillian and Title VI

have a little bit of a different lookout on it

1453

01:52:31,708 --> 01:52:34,979

since they have an actual
statutory authority to implement

1454

01:52:35,003 --> 01:52:38,044

and to make sure is being implemented

1455

01:52:38,044 --> 01:52:44,604

but that we really see these efforts
as needing a national response.

1456

01:52:46,364 --> 01:52:49,172

Victoria Robinson: Thank you
Matthew, we've got like five minutes,

1457

01:52:49,196 --> 01:52:52,892

so do we want to go ahead and
move over to the closing remarks

1458

01:52:52,916 --> 01:52:56,524

or do you want to
take one more question?

1459

01:52:56,524 --> 01:52:59,644

Matthew Tejada: It's
up to you and Christina.

1460

01:52:59,644 --> 01:53:03,019

Victoria Robinson: I was hoping
that Rosemary would be able to join us

1461

01:53:03,043 --> 01:53:06,124

but I think it's cutting it too close, I
don't think she'll be able to make it.

1462

01:53:06,124 --> 01:53:08,844

Matthew Tejada: Yeah
I'm sorry, I got an email

1463

01:53:08,844 --> 01:53:11,432

that she thought she
had some time at 3 o'clock

1464

01:53:11,456 --> 01:53:14,299

but she's been pulled away.

1465

01:53:14,323 --> 01:53:20,267

Rosemary Enobakhare is--there
are obviously a lot of communities

1466

01:53:20,291 --> 01:53:26,343

and a lot of coalitions looking for
attention and time from the administrator

1467

01:53:26,367 --> 01:53:28,683

and from other political appointees

1468

01:53:28,683 --> 01:53:36,683

and Rosemary right now in
her shop, they might be the most--

1469

01:53:36,683 --> 01:53:39,331

they might be the busiest part
of the entire agency right now.

1470

01:53:39,355 --> 01:53:42,460

So I'm sure Rosemary would
have loved to have been here

1471

01:53:42,484 --> 01:53:46,283

but she gets pulled in a
half dozen different directions

1472

01:53:46,283 --> 01:53:48,524

constantly all day long

1473

01:53:48,524 --> 01:53:52,525

but I'll be following up with her along
with Victoria and others tomorrow morning

1474

01:53:52,549 --> 01:53:55,454

to share with her our conversation today,

1475

01:53:55,478 --> 01:53:59,065

I know that she'll want to
be updated on it and show--

1476

01:53:59,089 --> 01:54:02,992

I'm sure she will want to be
a part of the next one we do

1477

01:54:03,016 --> 01:54:05,404

in three some months time.

1478

01:54:05,404 --> 01:54:09,163

Victoria Robinson: Right why don't we
just go ahead and take one more question

1479

01:54:09,163 --> 01:54:12,444

and then we'll just go ahead and do our
closing from that, how's that sound?

1480

01:54:12,444 --> 01:54:13,312

Matthew Tejada: Sounds good.

1481

01:54:13,336 --> 01:54:15,691

Victoria Robinson: Oh and then I
also want to recommend-- remind folks

1482

01:54:15,715 --> 01:54:18,431

that even though we're only
taking one more question out loud

1483

01:54:18,455 --> 01:54:21,651

please go ahead and post your

questions or comments in the Q&A pod

1484

01:54:21,675 --> 01:54:24,444

because we will follow up with them

1485

01:54:24,444 --> 01:54:28,032

and try to get answers to some of
those questions that you may have

1486

01:54:28,056 --> 01:54:30,672

that you haven't had an
opportunity to have read.

1487

01:54:30,696 --> 01:54:32,283

Thank you.

1488

01:54:32,283 --> 01:54:33,991

Go ahead, Christina.

1489

01:54:34,015 --> 01:54:35,284

Christina Motilall: Thanks, Victoria.

1490

01:54:35,308 --> 01:54:38,526

Okay, so the last one we have says,

1491

01:54:38,550 --> 01:54:43,324

until 2013 I think, EPA maintained
watch lists for the Clean Air Act,

1492

01:54:43,324 --> 01:54:44,959

Clean Water Act and RCRA.

1493

01:54:44,983 --> 01:54:48,279

The list tracked the enforcement
process for high priority violations

1494

01:54:48,303 --> 01:54:52,288

that hadn't been addressed by the state
regulator for a lengthy period of time.

1495

01:54:52,312 --> 01:54:56,124

Many of the facilities that showed up on these
lists are located in low income communities

1496

01:54:56,124 --> 01:54:57,564

and communities of color.

1497

01:54:57,564 --> 01:55:00,352

Are there plans at EPA to
begin using this tool again

1498

01:55:00,376 --> 01:55:03,728

and if so would the list be made public?

1499

01:55:03,752 --> 01:55:06,444

Matthew Tejada: Hi yeah I
saw that one Christina

1500

01:55:06,444 --> 01:55:10,444

and Ms. Mary Evans sent that in.

1501

01:55:10,444 --> 01:55:14,444

I'm not sure and I came to EPA in 2013.

1502

01:55:14,444 --> 01:55:19,639

I'm not sure exactly what
those watch lists are or were,

1503

01:55:19,663 --> 01:55:24,604

if those were regionally
based or enforcement based

1504

01:55:24,604 --> 01:55:28,872

and if they were broken
out by those statutes or not.

1505

01:55:28,896 --> 01:55:34,072

That's something we
can poke around and see.

1506

01:55:34,096 --> 01:55:41,391

I know that again going back to
the administrator's Memorandum

1507

01:55:41,415 --> 01:55:47,484

on Environmental Justice that he
issued within his first few weeks,

1508

01:55:47,484 --> 01:55:52,511

enforcement was one of the four specific
things that he outlined in that memo

1509

01:55:52,535 --> 01:55:54,036

as being a priority.

1510

01:55:54,060 --> 01:55:59,031

I know our enforcement shop, the Office
of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

1511

01:55:59,055 --> 01:56:04,524

as it always has been, it has
always been a leader of advancing

1512

01:56:04,524 --> 01:56:06,683

environmental justice at EPA,

1513

01:56:06,683 --> 01:56:11,752

not just because it was the longtime
home of the Office of Environmental Justice

1514

01:56:11,776 --> 01:56:14,844

but because enforcement
is such a critical issue

1515

01:56:14,844 --> 01:56:17,592

for advancing environmental
justice to the United States

1516

01:56:17,616 --> 01:56:24,428

and they are already out there again in
front really setting the pace within the EPA

1517

01:56:24,452 --> 01:56:28,311

for making some new
commitments on environmental justice,

1518

01:56:28,335 --> 01:56:34,552

looking at some new creative options
and getting back to some ways of pursuing

1519

01:56:34,576 --> 01:56:38,092

compliance across the United States
and following that compliance up

1520

01:56:38,116 --> 01:56:40,924

with enforcement when there's non-compliance.

1521

01:56:40,924 --> 01:56:46,912

So Mary if you want to email
one of us or email me directly,

1522

01:56:46,936 --> 01:56:51,564

if you can recall or find
some more specific information,

1523

01:56:51,564 --> 01:56:54,763

we'll make sure to get you
a better answer than that.

1524

01:56:54,763 --> 01:56:58,364

And just for everyone
on the phone a little hack,

1525

01:56:58,364 --> 01:57:03,602

everyone at EPA, our emails are
lastname.firstname@epa.gov

1526

01:57:03,626 --> 01:57:09,004

so I'm just Tejada.matthew@epa.gov,
so you can email us directly

1527

01:57:09,004 --> 01:57:12,444

and we will try to get
you the best that we can.

1528

01:57:12,444 --> 01:57:16,924

So I think we're ready
for closing up Victoria.

1529

01:57:16,924 --> 01:57:22,652

Victoria Robinson: Okay,
yes so-- am I muted?

1530

01:57:22,676 --> 01:57:23,484

Matthew Tejada: No--

1531

01:57:23,484 --> 01:57:26,604

Victoria Robinson: Okay great, yes.

1532

01:57:26,604 --> 01:57:29,644

So our next steps just to
make sure to remind everybody

1533

01:57:29,644 --> 01:57:35,112

we will be following up with
posting copies of the recording online

1534

01:57:35,136 --> 01:57:39,404

once we get it down and get it processed
properly along with the transcript.

1535

01:57:39,404 --> 01:57:45,219

We will be posting the Q&A pod, the
summary of that will be posted as well,

1536

01:57:45,243 --> 01:57:48,592

so if you want to get back to
looking at some of the answers

1537

01:57:48,616 --> 01:57:51,324

to the questions that were
posed, that will be available

1538

01:57:51,324 --> 01:57:55,912

as well as the two-pager for upcoming
EPA engagement opportunities

1539

01:57:55,936 --> 01:57:59,992

with the link so that you can actually
take advantage of some of these things

1540

01:58:00,016 --> 01:58:01,564

that are going on.

1541

01:58:01,564 --> 01:58:06,277

And we'll also be planning
for our next call August 2021,

1542

01:58:06,301 --> 01:58:09,564

our next National EJ
Community Engagement Call.

1543

01:58:09,564 --> 01:58:15,972

We'll be looking for some between one
to two key topics that we want to focus on,

1544

01:58:15,996 --> 01:58:19,652

if you've got a question please
reach out to me a question

1545

01:58:19,676 --> 01:58:23,208

that you think you'd like to see
a more detailed conversation

1546

01:58:23,232 --> 01:58:28,203

rather than just a program update,
reach out to me and we can talk about that.

1547

01:58:28,203 --> 01:58:31,163

Also as was mentioned several times,

1548

01:58:31,163 --> 01:58:35,212

to find that information part of
the engagement is to be on a way

1549

01:58:35,236 --> 01:58:39,579

to have access to information as is
coming out, particularly information

1550

01:58:39,603 --> 01:58:42,632

about funding opportunities,
events and webinars.

1551

01:58:42,656 --> 01:58:45,163

So we have, as you
can see on the screen,

1552

01:58:45,163 --> 01:58:48,444

for those who are not
already subscribing,

1553

01:58:48,444 --> 01:58:56,283

you can send a blank email
to join-epa-ej@lists.EPA.gov

1554

01:58:56,283 --> 01:59:02,405

and again that will help--
you'll get our periodic listservs.

1555

01:59:02,429 --> 01:59:06,604

We also have recently
started backup on Facebook.

1556

01:59:06,604 --> 01:59:10,444

So if you go to US

Environmental Protection Agency,

1557

01:59:10,444 --> 01:59:14,624

you'll see posts about
environmental justice,

1558

01:59:14,648 --> 01:59:17,732

in fact, this week thanks to Christina

1559

01:59:17,756 --> 01:59:23,112

we are doing a daily
environmental justice posts.

1560

01:59:23,136 --> 01:59:26,844

And so please go and take a look
at that if you're on Facebook.

1561

01:59:26,844 --> 01:59:30,472

And if you have any follow-up questions
or comments, the quickest and easy--

1562

01:59:30,496 --> 01:59:33,163

if you just want to

remember just one email

1563

01:59:33,163 --> 01:59:37,243

address do the

environmental-justice@epa.gov

1564

01:59:37,243 --> 01:59:41,324

because Ms. Vita Reed,

the other VR in the office,

1565

01:59:41,324 --> 01:59:45,372

she will make sure it gets either to

myself, to Christina, to Matthew

1566

01:59:45,396 --> 01:59:48,984

or appropriate to the

right people for follow-up.

1567

01:59:49,008 --> 01:59:51,328

So if you only need to

remember one, if you want to

1568

01:59:51,352 --> 01:59:53,931

that's the environmental-justice@epa.gov.

1569

01:59:53,955 --> 01:59:58,364

We do appreciate that
everybody was taking the time

1570

01:59:58,364 --> 02:00:01,792

to listen in and participate
and ask questions

1571

02:00:01,816 --> 02:00:05,711

and we will guarantee that next time
we'll-- the glitch about the hand raising

1572

02:00:05,735 --> 02:00:10,032

will be fixed, so that we can have a little
bit more of an interactive conversation

1573

02:00:10,056 --> 02:00:12,518

which is what our
ultimate goal is on this.

1574

02:00:12,542 --> 02:00:16,604

So do you have anything
else to add, Matthew?

1575

02:00:16,604 --> 02:00:18,752

Matthew Tejada: Nope, thanks
everyone for taking the time today.

1576

02:00:18,776 --> 02:00:20,683

Thanks Victoria for
getting us organized

1577

02:00:20,683 --> 02:00:25,723

and look forward to talking to
everyone again in about three months.

1578

02:00:25,723 --> 02:00:27,234

Victoria Robinson:
Yes, indeed. Thank you.

1579

02:00:27,258 --> 02:00:33,404

Matthew Tejada: And thanks to
Jackie and Nestor again. Thank y'all.