1

00:00:04,319 --> 00:00:06,396

Victoria Robinson: Welcome, everybody

2

00:00:06,420 --> 00:00:10,639

to the today's EPA National Environmental

Justice Community Engagement Call.

3

00:00:10,663 --> 00:00:13,213

So glad to see all of

you are able to join.

4

00:00:13,237 --> 00:00:15,664

We are going to start

in one quick moment,

5

00:00:15,688 --> 00:00:20,880

but I wanted to make sure that

you know that we see you here.

6

00:00:20,880 --> 00:00:27,439

I am going to go ahead and

start with a few housekeeping rules.

7

00:00:27,439 --> 00:00:32,168

As in the past, we're asking

folks to join by phone or computer,

8

00:00:32,192 --> 00:00:38,640

but not both, it allows us the opportunity to

have as many people join the call as possible,

9

00:00:38,640 --> 00:00:42,079

because we do have a maximum capacity.

10

00:00:42,079 --> 00:00:46,879

But if that's all you can do, if you can

do that by both, then well that's fine.

11

00:00:48,160 --> 00:00:52,719

Also note that you're on mute, so we

encourage you to please enter questions

12

00:00:52,719 --> 00:00:54,546

and comments into the Q&A pod.

13
00:00:54,570 --> 00:00:58,508
I also noticed that we have a
couple people who are on the phone.

14
00:00:58,532 --> 00:01:03,760
And I know that you're
unable to access the Q&A pod,

15
00:01:03,760 --> 00:01:08,007
but we will give you an
opportunity to raise your hand

16
00:01:08,031 --> 00:01:12,615
and to ask a question, get positioned to
be able to ask a question to be called on.

17
00:01:12,639 --> 00:01:15,892
And if you are selected to
speak during the dialogue,

18
00:01:15,916 --> 00:01:19,600

we're asking you to please

limit your comments to about one minute,

19
00:01:19,600 --> 00:01:24,568
again, that allows for multiple

individuals to be able to ask questions

20
00:01:24,592 --> 00:01:26,596
and post comments.

21
00:01:26,620 --> 00:01:32,867
Yes, there will be a recording and a transcript

made available online in the near future.

22
00:01:32,891 --> 00:01:36,951
We're working our best to try to

get it up posted within two days

23
00:01:36,975 --> 00:01:41,600
and I think the last couple

meetings we've been able to do that.

24

00:01:41,600 --> 00:01:45,788

We also have posted already

on the website the slide deck

25

00:01:45,812 --> 00:01:48,823

a copy of the slides

are already online.

26

00:01:48,847 --> 00:01:53,859

So if you are on your phone or if

you want to go follow the slides,

27

00:01:53,883 --> 00:01:57,439

you can go ahead and open

up the slide deck on our website

28

00:01:57,463 --> 00:02:01,520

where you clicked in

to register first place.

29

00:02:01,520 --> 00:02:08,560

So we also have Spanish--

we do offer interpretation.

30

00:02:08,560 --> 00:02:10,888

Currently we're offering

Spanish language interpretation

31

00:02:10,912 --> 00:02:13,680

for those who

prefer to listen in Spanish.

32

00:02:13,680 --> 00:02:17,892

And what you'll do is if you look on your

toolbar the bottom of your Zoom screen ,

33

00:02:17,916 --> 00:02:21,679

you will see a globe and

underneath it should say interpretation,

34

00:02:21,703 --> 00:02:25,684

so when you click on that globe,

you have an option to stay in English

35

00:02:25,708 --> 00:02:28,137

or to stay in Spanish to choose that.

36
00:02:28,161 --> 00:02:32,508
So go ahead and select Spanish if you
would like to hear these presentations,

37
00:02:32,532 --> 00:02:34,800
this conversation in Spanish.

38
00:02:34,800 --> 00:02:39,840
And we'll do our best to make sure that the
meeting materials are made available in Spanish,

39
00:02:39,840 --> 00:02:44,668
but that usually takes a little longer than
getting our regular material out there.

40
00:02:44,692 --> 00:02:49,860
So I am now going to turn it over
to Matthew Tejada EPA's office--

41
00:02:49,884 --> 00:02:54,400

Director of EPA's Office

of Environmental Justice.

42

00:02:54,400 --> 00:02:56,080

Matthew?

43

00:02:56,080 --> 00:03:00,879

Matthew Tejada: Hey, thanks, Victoria and

thank you to everyone who is joining us today

44

00:03:00,879 --> 00:03:08,400

for this our February edition of our Monthly

National EJ Community Engagement Calls.

45

00:03:08,400 --> 00:03:12,640

Obviously, there are a couple of

somewhat significant news makers last week

46

00:03:12,664 --> 00:03:15,107

we're going to be getting

to those in a minute,

47

00:03:15,131 --> 00:03:19,646

as well as just some more general

updates in terms of what is happening

48

00:03:19,670 --> 00:03:23,200

with environmental justice at EPA today.

49

00:03:23,200 --> 00:03:30,959

And of course we have two really exciting

sessions--substantive sessions for this meeting

50

00:03:30,959 --> 00:03:36,212

where we're going to go over the

updates that are included in EJSCREEN 2.0,

51

00:03:36,236 --> 00:03:40,548

and then also welcome some of our

colleagues from our Office of Enforcement

52

00:03:40,572 --> 00:03:42,560

and Compliance Assurance

53

00:03:42,560 --> 00:03:46,568

to discuss some of the EJ

priorities of the enforcement shop,

54

00:03:46,592 --> 00:03:51,208

which is of course near and dear to our

hearts in the Office of Environmental Justice

55

00:03:51,232 --> 00:03:56,248

because we were actually located within the

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

56

00:03:56,272 --> 00:03:59,458

for many many years

close to a couple of decades.

57

00:03:59,482 --> 00:04:02,560

But with that I'm going

to pause for a moment,

58

00:04:02,560 --> 00:04:09,519

and welcome our colleague Lena Kim and Lena

is going to as we have been doing recently,

59

00:04:09,519 --> 00:04:13,527

she's going to help kick us off in this

meeting with a mindfulness moment.

60

00:04:13,551 --> 00:04:15,051

So go ahead Lena.

61

00:04:15,075 --> 00:04:19,210

Lena Kim: Thanks, Matthew, and hi

everyone, it's so wonderful to be with you.

62

00:04:19,234 --> 00:04:20,763

I'm Lena.

63

00:04:20,787 --> 00:04:25,400

As Matthew mentioned, I've worked with a team of

people to develop what is called Mindful EPA,

64

00:04:25,424 --> 00:04:31,052

and it's a program that is a tool for

federal employees to use mindfulness,

65

00:04:31,076 --> 00:04:37,840

which is a neuroscience backed field to

help with being more productive, less anxious

66

00:04:37,840 --> 00:04:41,600

and this is something that we want to

share with our partners like yourselves.

67

00:04:41,600 --> 00:04:46,368

I am going to take a little bit of maybe a

few minutes to talk about a timely topic,

68

00:04:46,392 --> 00:04:49,600

and then lead us in a

quick one-minute practice.

69

00:04:49,600 --> 00:04:54,880

I'd like to acknowledge that this month, we're

coming to the end of Black History Month

70

00:04:54,880 --> 00:04:59,368

and in recognition of the social and

environmental rights activist Audre Lorde,

71

00:04:59,392 --> 00:05:05,807

some of you may have heard of her,

she was New York's poet laureate in 1991.

72

00:05:05,831 --> 00:05:10,800

She was a self-described

black feminist warrior mother

73

00:05:10,800 --> 00:05:16,400

and she wrote about a deep commitment to

how people's deep commitment to community

74

00:05:16,400 --> 00:05:22,738

like yourselves is a 24-hour job that's

often unpaid or under compensated.

75

00:05:22,762 --> 00:05:25,040

And it can take a

toll on your health,

76
00:05:25,064 --> 00:05:30,560
it's a burnout that she wrote about
that's similar to caregiver burnout.

77
00:05:30,560 --> 00:05:35,840
It's caring a lot about something
without a break in between

78
00:05:35,840 --> 00:05:39,008
and today's topic of enforcement
people really needing information

79
00:05:39,032 --> 00:05:41,626
maybe feeling like
they're not getting enough,

80
00:05:41,650 --> 00:05:45,888
but having colleagues here who will make
sure that you find a way to get what you need

81
00:05:45,912 --> 00:05:47,759
is something that could help.

82
00:05:47,783 --> 00:05:51,153
Audra Lorde advocated for
people especially from underserved,

83
00:05:51,177 --> 00:05:56,319
and underrepresented communities
the need for them to practice self-care

84
00:05:56,319 --> 00:06:03,759
in a culture that pathologizes self-care, it
often describes it as indulgent or selfish.

85
00:06:03,759 --> 00:06:08,083
She wrote caring for
myself is not self-indulgent.

86
00:06:08,107 --> 00:06:14,479
It is self-preservation and that my
friends is an act of political warfare,

87
00:06:14,479 --> 00:06:17,252

so with that I'd like to

share with you a practice.

88
00:06:17,276 --> 00:06:19,678
She practiced what
is called mindfulness,

89
00:06:19,702 --> 00:06:22,733
which is paying attention on
purpose in the present moment.

90
00:06:22,757 --> 00:06:30,169
It has been neuroscientifically backed to
reduce anxiety and increase self-care.

91
00:06:30,193 --> 00:06:35,535
Bodies under stress also
breathe high in the chest,

92
00:06:35,559 --> 00:06:39,738
if you're under compensated,
overpaid, caring deeply for something

93
00:06:39,762 --> 00:06:42,035
and maybe feeling like you're not receiving
a lot of information

94
00:06:42,059 --> 00:06:45,964
the body goes into what is
called fight-or-flight mode,

95
00:06:45,988 --> 00:06:48,924
you tend to breathe high in your
chest like [QUICK BREATHING]

96
00:06:48,948 --> 00:06:51,316
so she advocated
for deep belly breaths,

97
00:06:51,340 --> 00:06:54,915
and I'll share that with you
a quick one minute practice.

98
00:06:54,939 --> 00:07:00,432
But before we practice, I'd like to invite you

all just to breathe in deeply into your nose,

99
00:07:00,456 --> 00:07:05,919
deep into your belly with me and
then breathe out through your mouth,

100
00:07:05,919 --> 00:07:13,759
nice and slow with pursed lips, one more
time, deep breathe deeply into your nostrils

101
00:07:13,759 --> 00:07:16,908
into your belly, not your chest,

102
00:07:16,932 --> 00:07:22,479
and through pursed lips
breathe out nice slow and steady.

103
00:07:22,479 --> 00:07:28,319
Now we're just going to spend maybe 15
seconds doing what I call 3DB,

104
00:07:28,319 --> 00:07:30,409

which is three deep breaths,

105
00:07:30,433 --> 00:07:33,996
now that we just practice
what is not chest breathing,

106
00:07:34,020 --> 00:07:36,960
chest breathing activates
the fight-or-flight response.

107
00:07:36,960 --> 00:07:40,488
We want to get really low in the
belly and activate rest and digest.

108
00:07:40,512 --> 00:07:44,079
So we're going to take three
deep breaths in through the nose,

109
00:07:44,103 --> 00:07:46,708
out through the mouth,
deep into the belly,

110

00:07:46,732 --> 00:07:53,599

so let's go into our nostrils in--
belly should be pooching out,

111
00:07:53,599 --> 00:07:56,525

and then exhale
through your mouth.

112
00:07:56,549 --> 00:08:00,080

Your pursed lips nice
and slow and steady,

113
00:08:00,080 --> 00:08:02,707

and then when you're ready
breathe in through your nose again.

114
00:08:02,731 --> 00:08:06,551

This is the second breath,
having your belly pooch out,

115
00:08:06,575 --> 00:08:12,960

let your chest rise, keep
your chest down, breathe out,

116
00:08:12,960 --> 00:08:19,099
your pursed lips and one more, in
through the nose, keep that chest nice

117
00:08:19,123 --> 00:08:23,250
and low and have
your belly expand,

118
00:08:23,274 --> 00:08:30,080
and then pursed lips breathe
out nice long really severe.

119
00:08:30,080 --> 00:08:34,367
So before you enter a space or maybe
as we enter this space practice 3DB,

120
00:08:34,391 --> 00:08:38,468
and it will activate your
parasympathetic nervous system,

121
00:08:38,492 --> 00:08:41,760

which is a way to say

your rest and digest system

122
00:08:41,760 --> 00:08:45,408
that system that makes you feel
relaxed and ready to make positive change.

123
00:08:45,432 --> 00:08:51,600
And I'll end with a quote by Audre Lorde
"Life is short, very short, what we have to do

124
00:08:51,600 --> 00:08:53,766
must be done in the now."

125
00:08:53,790 --> 00:08:57,680
So I'll kick it back to
Matthew or Victoria.

126
00:09:00,160 --> 00:09:02,247
Thank you so much for that Lena.

127
00:09:02,271 --> 00:09:05,363

Matthew Tejada: It's nice to reconnect
with your diaphragm sometimes

128
00:09:05,387 --> 00:09:09,760
and really kind of take those
big deep belly breaths in.

129
00:09:09,760 --> 00:09:15,448
Just for a few updates for
folks, I hope everyone is aware

130
00:09:15,472 --> 00:09:19,213
and saw that a couple of pretty
big tools came out last week,

131
00:09:19,237 --> 00:09:27,680
one of which of course is the EJSCREEN 2.0
tool that will be the focus of at least part

132
00:09:27,680 --> 00:09:29,839
of our conversation today.

133

00:09:29,839 --> 00:09:35,524

So this is the most significant overhaul

of EJSCREEN since we launched it,

134

00:09:35,548 --> 00:09:38,754

because this was the first time

since we launched EJSCREEN

135

00:09:38,778 --> 00:09:43,343

actually this was the first time

since EJSCREEN was first an idea

136

00:09:43,367 --> 00:09:47,072

in the head of a few

folks here at EPA

137

00:09:47,096 --> 00:09:55,622

that we've had both the support, and the

resources to engineer an update of this size

138

00:09:55,746 --> 00:10:04,399

and it was definitely due-- folks that

were using EJSCREEN up until Friday,

139
00:10:04,399 --> 00:10:06,967

you could tell that it was a

tool that was about 10 years old

140
00:10:06,991 --> 00:10:10,160

because it looked

like about a 10 year old tool.

141
00:10:10,160 --> 00:10:14,048

Mapping had improved

since then, interfaces have evolved

142
00:10:14,072 --> 00:10:19,286

so we're very happy that we still

on somewhat of a shoestring budget

143
00:10:19,310 --> 00:10:24,240

managed to update the EJSCREEN

tool to make it more intuitive,

144
00:10:24,240 --> 00:10:28,240

and really answer a lot of the requests

and feedback we've been receiving

145
00:10:28,240 --> 00:10:29,847
since it was first

launched in 2015.

146
00:10:29,871 --> 00:10:32,959
I'm not going to speak

a great deal about that,

147
00:10:32,959 --> 00:10:38,160
because Tai and Matthew are going to be

on later to really unpack that for folks.

148
00:10:38,160 --> 00:10:42,000
And of course earlier

on Friday, this past Friday,

149
00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:46,794
the White House Council on Environmental

Quality released their climate

150

00:10:46,818 --> 00:10:49,132

and economic justice screening tool,

151

00:10:49,156 --> 00:10:52,399

this is the tool that was
mandated to be created

152

00:10:52,399 --> 00:10:58,409

in Executive Order 14008 on tackling
the climate crisis at home and abroad,

153

00:10:58,433 --> 00:11:02,527

that's the executive order
that has the Justice40 mandate created

154

00:11:02,551 --> 00:11:10,000

the White House Environmental Justice Advisory
Council created the EJ Interagency Council

155

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:11,965

who created the EJ scorecard,

156
00:11:11,989 --> 00:11:17,360
which the CEQ, the Council on
Environmental Quality is still working on.

157
00:11:17,360 --> 00:11:24,480
So I think folks are generally pretty
happy with the fact that the tool is out there,

158
00:11:24,480 --> 00:11:29,375
and finally available for use
and inspection and application

159
00:11:29,399 --> 00:11:35,519
across Justice40 or potential Justice40
programs across the federal government.

160
00:11:35,519 --> 00:11:38,354
Just very briefly want to
make sure folks understand,

161
00:11:38,378 --> 00:11:42,163
Justice40 is not a new pot of

money, it's not even a pot of money,

162
00:11:42,187 --> 00:11:46,274
it's not even talking
about money necessarily,

163
00:11:46,298 --> 00:11:50,560
it is talking about
the benefits of certain programs

164
00:11:50,560 --> 00:11:55,360
from across the federal government
flowing to disadvantaged communities.

165
00:11:55,360 --> 00:11:59,360
So we're not talking about dollars, we're
talking about the benefits

166
00:11:59,360 --> 00:12:05,680
of government activity, reductions
in pollution, improvements in access,

167

00:12:05,680 --> 00:12:09,148

betterment of health, all sorts

of benefits from what we do.

168

00:12:09,172 --> 00:12:12,720

So that's what we're

looking at in Justice40.

169

00:12:12,720 --> 00:12:16,248

It's not a new pot of money,

it's lots of existing programs

170

00:12:16,272 --> 00:12:19,120

across the federal

government at EPA,

171

00:12:19,120 --> 00:12:22,348

we have six programs that

are part of the pilot of Justice40.

172

00:12:22,372 --> 00:12:26,198

There's going to potentially be

dozens more added in over time

173

00:12:26,222 --> 00:12:29,963

that will be a part of Justice40

so it's lots of already existing

174

00:12:29,987 --> 00:12:37,168

and new programs that are developed and

then 40% of the benefits of those programs

175

00:12:37,192 --> 00:12:41,223

are supposed to go to those

disadvantaged communities.

176

00:12:41,247 --> 00:12:46,160

That is what the CEJST tool does,

it defines and maps,

177

00:12:46,160 --> 00:12:51,120

what are the disadvantaged communities

that are supposed to receive 40%

178

00:12:51,120 --> 00:12:53,588

of the benefits from

certain federal programs.

179
00:12:53,612 --> 00:13:00,959
Okay, so it's really going to enable us
to answer a very clear policy question,

180
00:13:00,959 --> 00:13:04,560
which communities
receive 40% of the benefits.

181
00:13:04,560 --> 00:13:05,628
Okay?

182
00:13:05,652 --> 00:13:08,710
So it was crafted to
do a very specific thing.

183
00:13:08,734 --> 00:13:13,868
EJSCREEN was crafted to do a very broad
thing, screening for environmental justice

184

00:13:13,892 --> 00:13:17,672

across a lot of different

factors, a lot of different data,

185

00:13:17,696 --> 00:13:22,412

it's a very flexible tool that is dependent

upon the user to do things,

186

00:13:22,436 --> 00:13:26,987

the CEJST or the climate and

economic justice screening tool,

187

00:13:27,011 --> 00:13:29,600

it's doing a very

specific thing.

188

00:13:29,600 --> 00:13:33,747

I know that there's been a lot

of talk and a lot of controversy

189

00:13:33,771 --> 00:13:40,399

about the decision by the White House Council

on Environmental Quality to not include race

190

00:13:40,399 --> 00:13:44,549

in the climate economic justice

screening tool, that's their decision.

191

00:13:44,573 --> 00:13:49,680

We can't answer that, we can't--

that wasn't our decision to make,

192

00:13:49,680 --> 00:13:52,800

that was a decision

made by the White House.

193

00:13:52,800 --> 00:13:55,461

If folks would like to

talk about that today,

194

00:13:55,485 --> 00:14:01,358

you're very welcome to, but there's not

a lot that we can offer for folks on it,

195

00:14:01,382 --> 00:14:07,600

except to say, we can share any
questions or concerns or points

196
00:14:07,600 --> 00:14:09,965
with the Council on
Environmental Quality,

197
00:14:09,989 --> 00:14:11,339
but we can't answer to that.

198
00:14:11,363 --> 00:14:14,303
We're going to be talking
about the EJSCREEN tool.

199
00:14:14,327 --> 00:14:19,328
EJSCREEN has and always will have,
as long as I have anything to do with it

200
00:14:19,352 --> 00:14:21,405
as long as folks like Tai
Lung and Matthew Lee

201

00:14:21,429 --> 00:14:24,079

and a bunch of other folks
have anything to do with it,

202
00:14:24,079 --> 00:14:26,079

it will always have race in it.

203
00:14:26,079 --> 00:14:33,957

But it was crafted for a purpose that allows
and is completely open for us as using race

204
00:14:33,981 --> 00:14:35,952

in a tool like EJSCREEN.

205
00:14:35,976 --> 00:14:41,920

Again, different tools for different
purposes, one is created by the White House,

206
00:14:41,920 --> 00:14:45,048

we can't speak very much to
that, it's the White House's tool

207

00:14:45,072 --> 00:14:46,444

and then we have EJSCREEN.

208

00:14:46,468 --> 00:14:48,245

There are different

tools, they should--

209

00:14:48,269 --> 00:14:51,021

and hopefully if folks played

with them both this weekend,

210

00:14:51,045 --> 00:14:54,337

they should be fairly complimentary,

you should be able to see--

211

00:14:54,361 --> 00:14:55,948

And really one of the things--

212

00:14:55,972 --> 00:15:02,548

I'm most excited about is with the explosion

of these sorts of screening tools being created

213

00:15:02,572 --> 00:15:05,680

at different scale

across the United States.

214

00:15:05,680 --> 00:15:09,568

You really start to see that

there's a lot of similarities,

215

00:15:09,592 --> 00:15:12,433

but there are some

very distinct differences

216

00:15:12,457 --> 00:15:16,601

depending upon what data you

use and how you use that data.

217

00:15:16,625 --> 00:15:23,199

And one of the most important things when you

are crafting these tools or using these tools

218

00:15:23,199 --> 00:15:27,477

is to have a question in mind,

to have a very specific question,

219
00:15:27,501 --> 00:15:32,708

whether that is for the purposes of

engaging a community of doing an analysis

220
00:15:32,732 --> 00:15:38,428

or preparing for an analysis or like

the CEJST tools created for Justice40,

221
00:15:38,452 --> 00:15:41,759

the allocation of

government resources.

222
00:15:41,759 --> 00:15:44,148

Those are very clear

different purposes,

223
00:15:44,172 --> 00:15:48,800

and you use different tools in different

ways, depending upon your purpose.

224
00:15:48,800 --> 00:15:54,297

So hopefully folks we'll see that more and

again, we welcome any questions or comments

225
00:15:54,321 --> 00:15:58,000
about the White House's Climate
and Economic Justice Screening Tool,

226
00:15:58,024 --> 00:16:04,240
but we can't answer to the decisions
that were made to create that tool.

227
00:16:04,240 --> 00:16:07,360
We'll share
whatever insight we can,

228
00:16:07,360 --> 00:16:11,588
but otherwise we'll just be passing along
any notes people have about that.

229
00:16:11,612 --> 00:16:15,759
I also want to bring up that at
the beginning or, I don't know,

230

00:16:15,783 --> 00:16:21,279

maybe about halfway through

our January National Engagement Call,

231

00:16:21,279 --> 00:16:27,199

one of the EJ leaders that

was on Ms. Gordon from West Oakland

232

00:16:27,199 --> 00:16:32,868

made a very good point that we should

really be doing a lot more engaging

233

00:16:32,892 --> 00:16:36,639

on the ground with

communities through our regions,

234

00:16:36,639 --> 00:16:39,508

and that those should be filtering

up then into these national calls.

235

00:16:39,532 --> 00:16:41,177

but the front of it,

236

00:16:41,201 --> 00:16:46,160

the beginning of it, should be actual

more on the ground regional engagement.

237

00:16:46,160 --> 00:16:48,242

It was a very good

point made very well,

238

00:16:48,266 --> 00:16:51,414

which I think any of us that know

Ms. Gordon would expect her to make

239

00:16:51,438 --> 00:16:54,160

a good point very well.

240

00:16:54,160 --> 00:16:57,360

We have taken that to

heart, we are working on that.

241

00:16:57,360 --> 00:17:03,623

We in the EJ program at EPA still don't

have any money to really do anything.

242
00:17:03,647 --> 00:17:06,662
We are operating in
the continuing resolution

243
00:17:06,686 --> 00:17:10,388
just like most of the rest
of the federal government.

244
00:17:10,412 --> 00:17:15,119
We didn't receive any of the
resources in the Infrastructure Bill

245
00:17:15,119 --> 00:17:19,520
all of the American Rescue Plan
resources that we received last year,

246
00:17:19,520 --> 00:17:22,331
are out the door or on
the way out the door,

247

00:17:22,355 --> 00:17:26,948

and in any respect did not pay for us

to have any additional staff or hands-on

248

00:17:26,972 --> 00:17:29,222

or boots on the ground

through the EJ program.

249

00:17:29,246 --> 00:17:34,986

All of the American Rescue Plan dollars were

to go out except for 2% administrative costs,

250

00:17:35,010 --> 00:17:39,054

every dollar was supposed to go out of

the agency and we've really prioritized

251

00:17:39,078 --> 00:17:40,640

and are living up to that,

252

00:17:40,640 --> 00:17:46,799

that money should be spent

outside of the agency.

253
00:17:46,799 --> 00:17:51,440
So we really don't have a ton, we
don't have any more people right now

254
00:17:51,440 --> 00:17:55,039
than we have for the
last four or five years,

255
00:17:55,039 --> 00:17:57,660
if that means anything to folks.

256
00:17:57,684 --> 00:18:02,127
So we took the point though
that we need more engagement,

257
00:18:02,151 --> 00:18:04,113
we need more
consistent engagement,

258
00:18:04,137 --> 00:18:08,648
we need that engagement to be coordinated
across the regions up to a national level

259
00:18:08,672 --> 00:18:11,595
and we're going to work
towards some way of doing that

260
00:18:11,719 --> 00:18:16,480
and especially hopefully, as
soon as we get some resources

261
00:18:16,480 --> 00:18:20,000
fingers crossed in this
next fiscal year budget,

262
00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:26,240
which we now have a couple more weeks
for congress to hopefully get us a budget,

263
00:18:26,240 --> 00:18:27,846
we'll see how that all goes,

264
00:18:27,870 --> 00:18:30,798
we continue to speak with

our colleagues on the Hill,

265
00:18:30,822 --> 00:18:32,975
they ask us lots of questions,

266
00:18:32,999 --> 00:18:38,734
but it is up to them to determine how
much funding we get in this fiscal year

267
00:18:38,758 --> 00:18:42,080
that is close to being
halfway over already.

268
00:18:42,080 --> 00:18:46,656
I think that is it Victoria
for any updates for today.

269
00:18:46,680 --> 00:18:52,147
I just wanted to do those real brief
ones, and I think we can go ahead.

270
00:18:52,171 --> 00:18:58,737

And now move along to Tai Lung

who is going to do a short presentation

271
00:18:58,761 --> 00:19:05,520
on the updates to EJSCREEN and then
Matthew Lee is going to do a demonstration,

272
00:19:05,520 --> 00:19:08,080
and I'm going to pass it over to them.

273
00:19:08,080 --> 00:19:10,084
If Matthew and Tai,
if you all remember,

274
00:19:10,108 --> 00:19:15,331
we have our two incredible interpreters
Shamura and Nestor are with us today.

275
00:19:15,355 --> 00:19:19,185
Just a reminder to please
speak at pace for our interpreters

276

00:19:19,209 --> 00:19:24,400

and for all people potentially

listening in on the Spanish channel.

277

00:19:24,400 --> 00:19:28,382

All right, thank

y'all, go ahead Tai.

278

00:19:28,406 --> 00:19:30,233

Tai Lung: Thank you, Matt.

279

00:19:30,257 --> 00:19:34,720

Hello everybody, my name

is Tai Lung that's [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

280

00:19:34,720 --> 00:19:38,559

I'm going to talk to you a little bit

about EJSCREEN today.

281

00:19:38,559 --> 00:19:42,559

I wanted to give a little bit of an

overview of what EJSCREEN is for those

282

00:19:42,559 --> 00:19:44,768

that aren't familiar with it.

283

00:19:44,792 --> 00:19:49,919

But I wanted to talk a lot about

some of the data that's new in the tool

284

00:19:49,919 --> 00:19:55,120

a little bit more about some of the

other data sources in EJSCREEN,

285

00:19:55,120 --> 00:20:01,360

talk a little bit about some of the resources

and upcoming events that we have going on,

286

00:20:01,360 --> 00:20:06,880

and then leave some time for a

quick demonstration of the tool.

287

00:20:06,880 --> 00:20:12,307

And then make sure we have plenty of time

for questions to answer any thoughts

288

00:20:12,331 --> 00:20:15,440

or concerns you have with EJSCREEN.

289

00:20:15,440 --> 00:20:20,228

Okay, so just a bit

about EJSCREEN.

290

00:20:20,252 --> 00:20:26,353

EJSCREEN is, at its

essence just a mapping tool

291

00:20:26,377 --> 00:20:37,628

for us to really visualize at a national

level some of the EJ issues that we have

292

00:20:37,652 --> 00:20:44,159

and some of the different environmental and

demographic factors that build into that.

293

00:20:44,159 --> 00:20:48,960

So what EJSCREEN does? What really

makes EJSCREEN unique?

294
00:20:48,960 --> 00:20:54,960
Is that it combines that environmental
data with some of the demographic data

295
00:20:54,960 --> 00:21:02,507
to highlight areas that might have
disproportionately been impacted by pollution

296
00:21:02,531 --> 00:21:06,333
or where populations
may be more vulnerable.

297
00:21:06,357 --> 00:21:12,799
So that's really the unique thing
about EJSCREEN or those EJ indexes.

298
00:21:12,799 --> 00:21:20,797
And EJSCREEN has been really just a starting
point for a lot of conversations around EJ,

299

00:21:20,821 --> 00:21:29,108

we use EJSCREEN within the agency to

do a lot of our work, to start figuring out

300

00:21:29,132 --> 00:21:34,640

"Hey, this is an area that we might

need to give some more consideration to"

301

00:21:34,640 --> 00:21:40,208

but just outside of the agency, there's a ton of

use of EJSCREEN too with other federal agencies

302

00:21:40,232 --> 00:21:45,649

with state agencies, local

governments, with communities.

303

00:21:45,673 --> 00:21:50,720

It gives that basic starting point

for a conversation around EJ,

304

00:21:50,720 --> 00:21:57,559

and I think that's really one of the most

important and powerful things about EJSCREEN.

305

00:21:58,159 --> 00:22:01,388

So some of the key

features of EJSCREEN,

306

00:22:01,412 --> 00:22:08,799

I mentioned before those EJ Indexes are

really one of those really key functions.

307

00:22:09,600 --> 00:22:12,108

That's where we're taking

that environmental information

308

00:22:12,132 --> 00:22:14,965

and combining it together with

the demographic information,

309

00:22:14,989 --> 00:22:17,715

I'll expand on that a little bit

more later in the presentation.

310

00:22:17,739 --> 00:22:23,600

And I'm sure when Matt gets around
to a demo, you'll be able to see it

311
00:22:23,600 --> 00:22:26,161
more clearly in a
demo of the tool.

312
00:22:26,185 --> 00:22:31,600
One of the other things that we do with
EJSCREEN though that's really important

313
00:22:31,600 --> 00:22:33,524
is our annual updates.

314
00:22:33,548 --> 00:22:37,654
We do every year since we put
the tool out at least an annual update.

315
00:22:37,678 --> 00:22:42,288
If we can do more than an
annual update, we'll do that,

316

00:22:42,312 --> 00:22:46,720

this year we're probably going to

have a second update of the tool,

317

00:22:46,720 --> 00:22:53,360

because some of the demographic data from

the census got delayed due to the pandemic.

318

00:22:53,360 --> 00:22:58,480

So we're hoping to maybe have a second

update of the tool later on this year,

319

00:22:58,480 --> 00:23:03,288

but we do that to keep all of the

environmental data as up-to-date as possible.

320

00:23:03,312 --> 00:23:07,360

We want all that demographic

data to be as up-to-date as possible,

321

00:23:07,360 --> 00:23:10,880

because that information

can change pretty quickly.

322
00:23:10,880 --> 00:23:14,707
And when we're talking
about environmental justice

323
00:23:14,731 --> 00:23:20,880
having that information as updated
as possible is pretty important.

324
00:23:20,880 --> 00:23:25,919
One of the things with the data
that we're using from the census

325
00:23:25,919 --> 00:23:31,247
is that we're using ACS data,
that's block group level data,

326
00:23:31,271 --> 00:23:36,400
it's the finest resolution
of data available.

327
00:23:36,400 --> 00:23:39,588

And we felt that

that was really important

328
00:23:39,612 --> 00:23:46,348

because so much of what happens with environmental

justice is at that neighborhood level

329
00:23:46,372 --> 00:23:51,840

and so getting that granularity

is really important for us.

330
00:23:51,840 --> 00:23:56,922

You'll see a lot of other tools out

there are at the census tract level,

331
00:23:56,946 --> 00:24:01,924

which is still great data, but ours gets

down to that block group level data

332
00:24:01,948 --> 00:24:07,840

and that's on average around

1200 people per block group,

333

00:24:07,840 --> 00:24:14,880

so you can really kind of see

the finest information available.

334

00:24:15,360 --> 00:24:21,279

One of the other things that we've done with

EJSCREEN is we've tried to be very transparent,

335

00:24:21,279 --> 00:24:27,120

and about how it was built and so all

of our data is available for download.

336

00:24:27,120 --> 00:24:36,687

You'll start to see a lot of other entities from

states, from local governments to academics

337

00:24:36,711 --> 00:24:41,679

taking our data downloading

it and building it into other tools.

338

00:24:42,559 --> 00:24:48,720

So we built EJSCREEN to answer

a lot of questions inside the agency,

339
00:24:48,720 --> 00:24:52,308
but it's also more of a platform
where people can take that data

340
00:24:52,332 --> 00:24:56,339
and use it in any way
that they see fit as well.

341
00:24:56,363 --> 00:25:03,760
And then one of the things that I always
like to talk about today's EJSCREEN is just

342
00:25:03,760 --> 00:25:08,073
the focus on making it as
user friendly as possible.

343
00:25:08,097 --> 00:25:13,840
And I think that this update to the
tool has really improved that as well,

344

00:25:13,840 --> 00:25:19,901

but we try to make it so that anybody can
get onto EJSCREEN and start clicking around

345
00:25:19,925 --> 00:25:25,679

and seeing some of the issues
impacting their community.

346
00:25:25,679 --> 00:25:30,007

And just making it as intuitive
and as user-friendly as possible.

347
00:25:30,031 --> 00:25:36,080

So I think this update did a really
big good job of improving that as well.

348
00:25:37,279 --> 00:25:44,496

So internally, we've been using
EJSCREEN for quite a while,

349
00:25:44,520 --> 00:25:49,200

we started building
EJSCREEN in 2010,

350
00:25:49,200 --> 00:25:52,720
because our former deputy
administrator had said

351
00:25:52,720 --> 00:25:56,655
"We had a bunch of different ways
that we looked at environmental justice

352
00:25:56,679 --> 00:25:59,936
in different programs, in different regions,

353
00:25:59,960 --> 00:26:03,638
and our former deputy administrator said
"No, we need to have one consistent way

354
00:26:03,662 --> 00:26:08,720
to look at environmental
justice across the entire nation."

355
00:26:08,720 --> 00:26:10,948
And so we started

building this tool.

356
00:26:10,972 --> 00:26:14,490
We got some feedback from
our from our backup that the NEJAC,

357
00:26:14,514 --> 00:26:19,919
the National Advisory Environmental
Justice Advisory Committee,

358
00:26:19,919 --> 00:26:24,128
they gave us some feedback on how
we could consider environmental justice

359
00:26:24,252 --> 00:26:30,071
and mapping in a tool like this and
in 2012 we started using it internally,

360
00:26:30,095 --> 00:26:35,228
we had the tool peer reviewed and then
in 2015 we released the tool to the public.

361

00:26:35,252 --> 00:26:41,200

And I think that's really in my mind, the

start of when EJSCREEN was really boring,

362

00:26:41,200 --> 00:26:45,848

that's when we started to see all

these different uses of EJSCREEN,

363

00:26:45,872 --> 00:26:50,049

we started seeing communities

coming to the agency,

364

00:26:50,073 --> 00:26:54,846

and saying "Well, I see this information

in EJSCREEN, what's going on there?"

365

00:26:54,870 --> 00:26:58,896

And so it really became a

starting point for a conversation

366

00:26:58,920 --> 00:27:02,179

around environmental justice at that point.

367

00:27:02,203 --> 00:27:05,702

Since then, we put out a

mobile version of the tool

368

00:27:05,726 --> 00:27:10,980

and right now, when we just did that big

update, as we do every year we did our update,

369

00:27:11,004 --> 00:27:17,760

but this is a bigger and more substantial

update than we've done in the past.

370

00:27:17,760 --> 00:27:21,828

Some of the caveats that I always

talk about when I talk about EJSCREEN,

371

00:27:21,852 --> 00:27:27,520

EJSCREEN I think is

one of the best tools out there,

372

00:27:27,520 --> 00:27:31,647

but we still don't have all of the environmental

data that we would like to have in the tool

373
00:27:31,671 --> 00:27:36,640
or even all the environmental justice
data that we'd like to have in the tool.

374
00:27:36,640 --> 00:27:42,388
We're using-- we're making an environmental
justice tool for the entire nation.

375
00:27:42,412 --> 00:27:48,559
So we're only using data sets that are
available at that national scale,

376
00:27:48,559 --> 00:27:56,268
so there's some information on things like
pesticide use or drinking water, for example,

377
00:27:56,292 --> 00:27:58,322
that we would love
to have in this tool,

378

00:27:58,346 --> 00:28:01,112

but often that data is

controlled by states.

379

00:28:01,136 --> 00:28:06,559

And EPA doesn't even necessarily have

a complete picture of some of those issues.

380

00:28:06,559 --> 00:28:10,240

So we're constantly working to

try and improve our data sets to get

381

00:28:10,240 --> 00:28:15,600

more of those really critical issues to

EJ communities into the tool,

382

00:28:15,600 --> 00:28:21,120

and I think this update's done a

pretty good job of that as well.

383

00:28:21,520 --> 00:28:26,293

A lot of these indicators are

very much screening level proxies

384
00:28:26,317 --> 00:28:33,440
and they're not actual exposure risk
and in many cases sometimes they are,

385
00:28:33,440 --> 00:28:38,420
but you'll see for some of
our indicators like lead paint.

386
00:28:38,444 --> 00:28:40,809
We're using pre-1960 housing

387
00:28:40,833 --> 00:28:46,964
to get a sense of where there could be
housing with potential lead pain issues,

388
00:28:46,988 --> 00:28:51,760
but that doesn't mean that the issues
weren't properly remediated or cleaned up,

389
00:28:51,760 --> 00:28:59,120
So is just a proxy

level tool in many instances.

390
00:28:59,120 --> 00:29:03,460
Another thing that we talked about is
that the indicator is very vintage.

391
00:29:03,460 --> 00:29:05,652
You're going to see some of our
data sets are a little bit older

392
00:29:05,676 --> 00:29:09,600
that's the newest
data that's available,

393
00:29:09,600 --> 00:29:14,640
but that doesn't mean that is the
current on the ground situation.

394
00:29:15,279 --> 00:29:19,440
And with the data that we're using, we're
going in at the census block group level

395

00:29:19,440 --> 00:29:22,028

we're coming in at the
finest resolution available,

396
00:29:22,052 --> 00:29:26,399

but that doesn't mean that we
got, we can catch every single place

397
00:29:26,399 --> 00:29:30,408

that might have issues,
especially in some rural areas

398
00:29:30,432 --> 00:29:36,080

where census block
groups could be very large.

399
00:29:36,080 --> 00:29:39,039

We could still obscure
smaller communities,

400
00:29:39,039 --> 00:29:44,080

and for that reason we've always
said that EJSCREEN is just a starting point

401

00:29:44,080 --> 00:29:47,520

the results should be verified

on the ground when possible.

402

00:29:47,520 --> 00:29:52,892

And then I think the final thing is just

that EJSCREEN doesn't label where is

403

00:29:52,916 --> 00:29:59,039

or is not an EJ community, that's very

much up to the community to define,

404

00:29:59,039 --> 00:30:02,388

it is for us just a starting point

for having those conversations.

405

00:30:02,412 --> 00:30:06,733

We're looking in

deeper into these issues,

406

00:30:06,757 --> 00:30:16,720

but we've not ever said that EPA or EJSCREEN

labels where is or is not in the EJ community.

407
00:30:17,360 --> 00:30:22,967
So what's new in EJSCREEN and Matt's

going to get a little bit deeper into this.

408
00:30:22,991 --> 00:30:24,999
So I'm not going to

go into it too much.

409
00:30:25,023 --> 00:30:29,059
That user interface is going to be the

biggest thing that you're going to notice,

410
00:30:29,083 --> 00:30:31,197
and I think as soon

as you get into the tool,

411
00:30:31,221 --> 00:30:36,070
you're going to see it looks a little

bit different, hopefully for the better.

412

00:30:36,094 --> 00:30:41,440

One of the other things that we've done

is just updating all of the background data,

413

00:30:41,440 --> 00:30:45,360

so all that environmental and

demographic data has been updated.

414

00:30:46,960 --> 00:30:51,474

That does include some

new data on AirToxScreen,

415

00:30:51,498 --> 00:30:56,138

so our air toxics data

that used to be NATA data,

416

00:30:56,162 --> 00:31:01,468

now EPA's Office of Air has

changed how they do that,

417

00:31:01,492 --> 00:31:06,399

and so it's a new data

set called AirToxScreen.

418
00:31:06,559 --> 00:31:08,828
It's going to look a little bit
different than it did in the past

419
00:31:08,852 --> 00:31:13,440
so that might be
something to look out for.

420
00:31:13,440 --> 00:31:19,628
Additionally, we've included a new environmental
indicator for the first time in a long time

421
00:31:19,652 --> 00:31:24,040
and it's got a corresponding EJ Index that's
a new data set on underground storage tanks

422
00:31:24,064 --> 00:31:26,169
and leaking underground
storage tanks.

423

00:31:26,193 --> 00:31:29,840

I think that's going to

be a really important one

424

00:31:29,840 --> 00:31:32,868

just because it's

not just a proximity,

425

00:31:32,892 --> 00:31:36,411

it's actually looking at where we have

leaking underground storage things

426

00:31:36,435 --> 00:31:40,880

that are impacting communities.

427

00:31:41,279 --> 00:31:44,319

We've added a new socioeconomic

indicator on unemployment

428

00:31:44,343 --> 00:31:48,320

that's something that people

have asked for a long time.

429

00:31:48,320 --> 00:31:53,952

And I think as you see some of the changes

that we've made, you're going to notice that

430

00:31:53,976 --> 00:31:59,519

a lot of this is very much based on

feedback that we've had from communities.

431

00:31:59,519 --> 00:32:05,039

The health data especially is something that

people have been asking for, for a long time.

432

00:32:05,039 --> 00:32:11,039

And before this last year that

data was not available for the nation

433

00:32:11,039 --> 00:32:15,684

at a high enough resolution, prior to this

year mostly it was available for the nation

434

00:32:15,708 --> 00:32:17,414

at a county level resolution,

435
00:32:17,438 --> 00:32:23,279
which we didn't feel like was
good enough for an EJ tool.

436
00:32:23,279 --> 00:32:25,954
Now we have that
data at a tract level,

437
00:32:25,978 --> 00:32:31,039
so we built in data on low life
expectancy, heart disease and asthma.

438
00:32:31,039 --> 00:32:33,596
We've also built in some
new climate change indicators

439
00:32:33,620 --> 00:32:35,933
we've already had
climate change in the tool.

440
00:32:35,957 --> 00:32:39,519

Some information on

flooding, sea level rise,

441

00:32:39,519 --> 00:32:45,519

but we built in information on

wildfire has a potential in droughts.

442

00:32:45,519 --> 00:32:52,799

We've also built in for the first

time some critical service gaps

443

00:32:52,799 --> 00:32:55,487

and this is something that's really

important for communities as well,

444

00:32:55,511 --> 00:33:02,480

looking at where there

is a lack of access to food

445

00:33:02,480 --> 00:33:06,308

or medical services,

also broadband internet,

446
00:33:06,332 --> 00:33:11,051

that's pretty critical

service in this day and age

447
00:33:11,075 --> 00:33:15,919

so having that information in the

tool was really important to us.

448
00:33:15,919 --> 00:33:18,708

And then one of our final

big changes this year is

449
00:33:18,732 --> 00:33:23,007

we've made all of the tract

level data available for download,

450
00:33:23,031 --> 00:33:29,200

so for a lot of our users that are taking

our data and building it into other tools

451
00:33:29,200 --> 00:33:35,548

you don't have to reprocess all that data

that we've run at that block group level.

452
00:33:35,672 --> 00:33:38,720
If your tool isn't just fine
or granular as our tool,

453
00:33:38,720 --> 00:33:42,068
you can take that down data
now directly from download,

454
00:33:42,092 --> 00:33:46,000
and put it into your tool.

455
00:33:46,960 --> 00:33:54,488
So real quickly, I'm going to talk about
this EJSCREEN interface changes.

456
00:33:54,512 --> 00:33:59,276
So one of the things that we wanted
to do is really to put those maps

457
00:33:59,300 --> 00:34:04,000

and some of those things

that are used most up front.

458
00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:06,808
And I'm not going to talk too

much about this, except to say that,

459
00:34:06,832 --> 00:34:11,955
when you open the new tool, we have a widget

there, all of the maps are right there,

460
00:34:12,079 --> 00:34:17,599
so you can just click around on the

maps, we've also put a places tab in there

461
00:34:17,599 --> 00:34:22,267
where you can overlay some of

those important locations like schools,

462
00:34:22,291 --> 00:34:27,839
like churches or EPA

regulated facilities,

463

00:34:27,839 --> 00:34:30,879

and then we put a

reports tab in there as well,

464

00:34:30,879 --> 00:34:35,119

so you can still have all the functionality

to pull up reports for an area.

465

00:34:35,119 --> 00:34:38,719

And finally what we

did is we took our tools,

466

00:34:38,719 --> 00:34:46,159

which are some of those more advanced features,

things like the ability to pull and shape files.

467

00:34:46,159 --> 00:34:52,287

Those are some of the functions

that our more advanced users use,

468

00:34:52,311 --> 00:34:54,162

but a lot of other people don't,

469

00:34:54,186 --> 00:34:57,274

so we put some of those

functions into a tools tab,

470

00:34:57,298 --> 00:35:03,320

so they're not right up front

there and crowding up the interface.

471

00:35:03,440 --> 00:35:06,381

So quickly on EJSCREEN data.

472

00:35:06,405 --> 00:35:12,640

We have our primary EJSCREEN

data sets, those are our EJ indexes,

473

00:35:12,640 --> 00:35:15,290

our environmental and

social economic indicators.

474

00:35:15,314 --> 00:35:20,000

And then we've got some of those

other secondary maps like our health,

475
00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:23,708
our climate, our critical services.

476
00:35:23,732 --> 00:35:31,760
For our social economic indicators and I'm
not going to go through all these in detail

477
00:35:31,760 --> 00:35:34,868
because we have access
to download the slides,

478
00:35:34,892 --> 00:35:37,571
so you can take a look on there,

479
00:35:37,595 --> 00:35:45,998
but quickly we have information on some
pretty important socioeconomic factors

480
00:35:46,022 --> 00:35:50,823
like people of color, like low income,

obviously we added that unemployment.

481
00:35:50,847 --> 00:35:56,828
We also have some more susceptible populations
like linguistically isolated communities

482
00:35:56,852 --> 00:36:00,320
or households that don't
speak English "very well",

483
00:36:00,320 --> 00:36:05,839
less than high school education and
and people that are more vulnerable.

484
00:36:05,839 --> 00:36:08,251
We look at under age
5 and over age 64.

485
00:36:08,275 --> 00:36:10,560
Finally, we have a
demographic index,

486

00:36:10,560 --> 00:36:13,488

which is that combination of

low income and people of color,

487

00:36:13,512 --> 00:36:18,198

which is how we

create our EJ indexes.

488

00:36:18,222 --> 00:36:24,180

For our environmental indicators, you're going

to notice they're a little bit air heavy.

489

00:36:24,204 --> 00:36:26,400

I'm not going to go

through all of these.

490

00:36:27,280 --> 00:36:31,200

We have a lot more air

data for the entire nation,

491

00:36:31,200 --> 00:36:33,126

but I've included these slides

492

00:36:33,150 --> 00:36:40,160

just in case anybody wanted to see all of

the different data sets that we have in there.

493

00:36:40,160 --> 00:36:44,320

So I'm going to skip these that Matt can

have time for the presentation

494

00:36:45,359 --> 00:36:49,760

So quickly about what

does the EJ Index mean?

495

00:36:49,760 --> 00:36:54,800

As I said before, it is trying

to help us see where we could have

496

00:36:54,800 --> 00:37:00,320

some higher potential for pollution

burden or federal populations,

497

00:37:00,320 --> 00:37:04,936

but basically with that

demographic index that is low-income

498
00:37:04,960 --> 00:37:07,969
and people of color, an
average of those two,

499
00:37:07,993 --> 00:37:11,466
we're showing the highest
intersection of three factors,

500
00:37:11,490 --> 00:37:18,200
which is a given environmental pollutant,
low income, and people of color, basically.

501
00:37:18,324 --> 00:37:25,200
And so it's basically showing
that intersection of those three factors.

502
00:37:25,599 --> 00:37:30,148
One of the things we've done with EJSCREEN
is all the results are ranked as percentiles,

503

00:37:30,172 --> 00:37:34,511

which just makes it easier for

people to understand the results,

504

00:37:34,535 --> 00:37:38,908

so rather than me telling you

a pollution level for an area,

505

00:37:38,932 --> 00:37:45,599

you can see how that place compares to the

rest of the state or to the rest of the nation.

506

00:37:48,560 --> 00:37:53,520

So finally, I just wanted to share that

if you get onto the EJSCREEN website

507

00:37:53,520 --> 00:37:57,839

there's a ton of resources

on how to use EJSCREEN?

508

00:37:57,839 --> 00:37:59,187

We have some videos.

509

00:37:59,211 --> 00:38:03,280

We have all the technical

information about how the tool was built.

510

00:38:04,480 --> 00:38:10,640

So go to the EJSCREEN website, that's a good

starting point for all of the information,

511

00:38:10,640 --> 00:38:16,720

if you have anything else feel

free to reach out to us for the agency.

512

00:38:16,800 --> 00:38:20,686

And then lastly, we have a

couple of more events coming up

513

00:38:20,710 --> 00:38:23,346

directly focused on EJSCREEN,

514

00:38:23,370 --> 00:38:28,550

so tomorrow we have our

Bi-monthly EJSCREEN Office Hours,

515
00:38:28,574 --> 00:38:31,265
and that's just an open
forum for anyone to get online

516
00:38:31,289 --> 00:38:36,960
and talk to us about some of the
questions they've had around EJSCREEN

517
00:38:36,960 --> 00:38:39,040
or talk through any issues.

518
00:38:39,040 --> 00:38:44,929
So feel free to hop on those EJSCREEN
office hours tomorrow, if you would like,

519
00:38:44,953 --> 00:38:49,839
and then on March 9th we're
going to have a dedicated overview

520
00:38:49,839 --> 00:38:54,880
and training session on how

to use the EJSCREEN 2.0.

521
00:38:54,880 --> 00:38:58,480
So I'm going to stop there.

522
00:38:58,480 --> 00:39:04,748
And I will hold off on taking questions until
Matt Lee goes through and does his demo.

523
00:39:04,772 --> 00:39:07,901
So I'm going to turn it
over to him real quick.

524
00:39:07,925 --> 00:39:08,960
Matt?

525
00:39:08,960 --> 00:39:12,280
Take it away.

526
00:39:16,800 --> 00:39:19,284
Matthew Lee: Thanks,
Tai, appreciate it.

527

00:39:19,308 --> 00:39:23,599

Let me pull up

my screen real quick.

528

00:39:23,599 --> 00:39:28,267

Go right here, oops--

Sorry about that.

529

00:39:28,291 --> 00:39:30,266

Okay, here we are.

530

00:39:30,290 --> 00:39:39,359

Now as Tai mentioned, this is

EJSCREEN 2.0, this went live on Friday,

531

00:39:39,359 --> 00:39:44,750

but I will really quickly show you if you

do want to go back to EJSCREEN 1.0

532

00:39:44,774 --> 00:39:47,753

to the classic

version, it is still live,

533
00:39:47,777 --> 00:39:54,480
and available with all the new updated
information via this link right here.

534
00:39:54,480 --> 00:39:58,368
But this demo is to go over
the updates with you.

535
00:39:58,392 --> 00:40:06,948
So first and foremost, you can probably
see that the toolbar has been removed

536
00:40:06,972 --> 00:40:13,839
and we have added the most common features
which are the maps right up front in the tool.

537
00:40:13,839 --> 00:40:20,162
So if we go to where the
administrator just started his journey

538

00:40:20,186 --> 00:40:25,995

to justice tour in Jackson, Mississippi,

we can zoom in on that area,

539

00:40:26,019 --> 00:40:30,313

and the first thing we'll pop

on the screen is the EJ indices.

540

00:40:30,337 --> 00:40:38,000

As Tai mentioned, the EJ indices are that

combination of the single environmental indicator

541

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:40,511

with the demographic

information,

542

00:40:40,535 --> 00:40:47,040

and the new 12th EJ index that we have

is on those underground storage tanks.

543

00:40:47,040 --> 00:40:52,307

So here you can see the underground storage

tanks information in this percentile format.

544
00:40:52,331 --> 00:40:55,919
This is giving you the
national percentiles,

545
00:40:55,943 --> 00:41:00,834
and again, anything in
the 95th to 100th percentile

546
00:41:00,858 --> 00:41:07,119
is meaning that only 5% of the nation has
a higher particular value or higher value

547
00:41:07,119 --> 00:41:10,079
for this particular indicator.

548
00:41:10,079 --> 00:41:15,347
Again, you can look at each
of the EJ indices on their own

549
00:41:15,371 --> 00:41:19,850
or you can also look at the

environmental indicator itself on its own.

550
00:41:19,874 --> 00:41:25,177
So if you wanted to look at the underground
storage tanks environmental indicator,

551
00:41:25,201 --> 00:41:31,760
for example, on its own,
you can do that right here.

552
00:41:31,760 --> 00:41:38,428
Likewise, we have social-- the new socioeconomic
indicator we have is the unemployment rate

553
00:41:38,452 --> 00:41:41,041
and again you can look
at the unemployment rate

554
00:41:41,065 --> 00:41:43,254
as it compares to
the national average

555

00:41:43,278 --> 00:41:49,708

or you can also look at things like as it

compares to the state average as well

556

00:41:49,732 --> 00:41:54,800

and see how that changes and

compare Mississippi to Mississippi.

557

00:41:54,800 --> 00:42:02,319

Let's fly out west here off to show

off some of the other indicators.

558

00:42:02,319 --> 00:42:08,448

We will go out to Oakland where one of the

things you've always been able to do in the tool

559

00:42:08,472 --> 00:42:13,920

is look at things like the geographic

distribution of people of color in

560

00:42:13,920 --> 00:42:15,917

and around any certain area.

561
00:42:15,941 --> 00:42:19,813
And one of the really nice features
that we have now, that we've added to

562
00:42:19,837 --> 00:42:23,068
is these climate change layers.

563
00:42:23,092 --> 00:42:26,640
And I'm going to come back to the
health disparities in a second here.

564
00:42:26,640 --> 00:42:28,410
But the climate change layers,

565
00:42:28,434 --> 00:42:33,174
we've always had coastal flood hazard,
100 year flood plain and sea level rise.

566
00:42:33,198 --> 00:42:37,435
And again if you wanted to
look at things like the correlation

567
00:42:37,459 --> 00:42:41,599
between people of color
and coastal flood hazard,

568
00:42:41,599 --> 00:42:45,520
you can do that very easily
within the EJSCREEN.

569
00:42:45,520 --> 00:42:49,707
And one of the new nice features
or two of the newer nicer features

570
00:42:49,731 --> 00:42:54,181
and data points that we have in
the tool is wildlife hazard--

571
00:42:54,205 --> 00:43:00,000
well, sorry wildfire hazard
potential and drought.

572
00:43:00,000 --> 00:43:09,760
So you can see where the highest potential

for wildfire hazard is in your area of interest.

573
00:43:09,760 --> 00:43:13,552
Likewise, you can do

the same thing for drought.

574
00:43:13,576 --> 00:43:19,137
To show off some of the

more critical service gap layers,

575
00:43:19,161 --> 00:43:23,768
I'm going to go to some of

the rural areas in the country,

576
00:43:23,792 --> 00:43:26,960
this is in eastern

Kentucky in Appalachia.

577
00:43:28,400 --> 00:43:32,168
And one of the really nice things

with this critical service gaps

578

00:43:32,192 --> 00:43:43,316

is that now we're able to see that EJSCREEN

utility in rural areas has greatly been enhanced.

579

00:43:43,340 --> 00:43:47,768

So Siler, Kentucky again

in eastern Tennessee,

580

00:43:47,792 --> 00:43:51,564

we can look at things

like access to broadband

581

00:43:51,588 --> 00:43:59,200

and you can see, this is in the

95th to 100th percentile in the state

582

00:43:59,200 --> 00:44:02,788

for lack of broadband

subscriptions.

583

00:44:02,812 --> 00:44:08,831

Likewise, you can see the

area is also a food desert-- sorry

584

00:44:08,855 --> 00:44:12,961

the map's taken a second to

highlight here or to load here,

585

00:44:12,985 --> 00:44:19,359

there's also a food desert and

in a medically underserved area.

586

00:44:19,359 --> 00:44:25,324

So again, the EJSCREEN used in rural

areas has been greatly enhanced

587

00:44:25,348 --> 00:44:28,800

sorry it's taken for a

second to load here,

588

00:44:28,800 --> 00:44:33,040

but also so you can see

these critical service gaps,

589

00:44:33,040 --> 00:44:37,119

and we will also show--

I'm going to take these off

590
00:44:37,119 --> 00:44:41,440
and show some of this new
health data that we have as well,

591
00:44:41,440 --> 00:44:46,316
showing things like heart
disease and asthma.

592
00:44:46,340 --> 00:44:53,067
So again these are some of the new
features, new layers built into the tool

593
00:44:53,091 --> 00:44:57,440
to show off some of the other functions.

594
00:44:57,440 --> 00:45:05,920
I'm going to fly out east close to
where I am physically in New Jersey.

595

00:45:05,920 --> 00:45:08,321

It will take off this asthma layer.

596

00:45:08,345 --> 00:45:15,280

So these were the maps, and again I

think we've put them in a very user-friendly place,

597

00:45:15,280 --> 00:45:21,098

you can also add in, as you were always able

to do, different EPA regulated facilities

598

00:45:21,122 --> 00:45:27,119

and places that are of interest, that

may be of interest to the community.

599

00:45:27,119 --> 00:45:29,559

For example, if you

wanted to throw on

600

00:45:29,583 --> 00:45:34,085

where the Superfund sites are

located in and around Camden,

601
00:45:34,110 --> 00:45:37,556
you can layer those on here
and then, as Tai was talking about,

602
00:45:37,580 --> 00:45:43,680
you can then generate reports
on any of these given areas,

603
00:45:43,680 --> 00:45:47,200
so a block group, census tract, even a city.

604
00:45:47,200 --> 00:45:51,131
So if you wanted select
the census block group

605
00:45:51,155 --> 00:45:55,642
which contains these
particular Superfund sites

606
00:45:55,866 --> 00:46:01,599
and do things like explore
reports on those areas.

607

00:46:01,599 --> 00:46:05,760

So again and then

generate standard reports.

608

00:46:05,760 --> 00:46:14,640

So this is all been housed together in the

reports layer or the reports tab right here.

609

00:46:14,640 --> 00:46:19,034

And then and I think we did get a

question about this in the chat earlier,

610

00:46:19,058 --> 00:46:21,469

we've put all our

tools into one section,

611

00:46:21,493 --> 00:46:24,632

so if you do want to

bookmark or save your session,

612

00:46:24,656 --> 00:46:29,072

you can still do that here, you can

do some other rudimentary GIS things

613
00:46:29,096 --> 00:46:32,880
like measuring, doing

side-by-side comparison--

614
00:46:32,880 --> 00:46:39,148
As Tai mentioned, EJSCREEN

is a starting point, we recognize

615
00:46:39,172 --> 00:46:45,119
that it doesn't have every single

pertinent data set available,

616
00:46:45,119 --> 00:46:52,400
but we do offer a lot of ways to add in those

individual layers that you may have of interest.

617
00:46:52,400 --> 00:46:55,957
So if you have your own

individual shape file or GIS layer,

618

00:46:55,981 --> 00:46:58,240

you can add it into the tool.

619

00:46:58,240 --> 00:47:01,399

If your information is

available on the Geo Platform,

620

00:47:01,423 --> 00:47:07,440

you can directly link it to into EJSCREEN,

same thing with the map service.

621

00:47:07,440 --> 00:47:13,680

So all the other functionality that you're

used to in the EJSCREEN 1.0 is still available.

622

00:47:13,680 --> 00:47:19,680

We just think it's available in a more

user-friendly and intuitive way.

623

00:47:19,680 --> 00:47:22,444

So I'm going to stop there

and break for questions,

624

00:47:22,468 --> 00:47:27,760

and hopefully you all enjoyed

this presentation and demo.

625

00:47:32,240 --> 00:47:33,520

Matthew Tejada: All right.

626

00:47:33,520 --> 00:47:35,389

Well, thank you both so much.

627

00:47:35,413 --> 00:47:37,476

I think Christina is

going to join us now,

628

00:47:37,500 --> 00:47:40,823

and ask a few of the questions,

we've received quite a few questions

629

00:47:40,847 --> 00:47:44,484

we're going to plow through a

small number of them quickly.

630

00:47:44,508 --> 00:47:48,800

So Tai and Matthew, if we can

keep our answers to the point,

631

00:47:48,800 --> 00:47:50,845

because we want to get over to our

colleagues

632

00:47:50,869 --> 00:47:55,026

from the Office of Enforcement and Compliance

Assurance, and get that session going as well.

633

00:47:55,050 --> 00:47:57,920

But Christina do you want

to ask a few questions?

634

00:47:57,920 --> 00:48:00,386

Christina Motilal: Absolutely.

635

00:48:00,410 --> 00:48:07,620

So the first question or more comment

to elaborate on was submitted by Ramona,

636
00:48:07,920 --> 00:48:14,862
and they say, "My organization is a
thriving earth exchange 2022-2023 cohort.

637
00:48:14,886 --> 00:48:21,280
Our project is examining the systems that have
regulatory influence or lack thereof over lead.

638
00:48:21,280 --> 00:48:28,160
Your speaker mentioned lead tracking, I'd
like to hear more about how to utilize it."

639
00:48:29,599 --> 00:48:32,720
Tai Lung: I'll take this first one, Matt.

640
00:48:32,720 --> 00:48:42,800
So EJSCREEN has a layer, a lead paint indicator
in the tool that's looking at pre-1960 housing,

641
00:48:42,800 --> 00:48:51,280

however there are other lead layers that might

be relevant to something like was mentioned here.

642

00:48:51,280 --> 00:48:57,188

There is often information

on lead pipes for a lot of cities

643

00:48:57,212 --> 00:49:02,428

and a lot of urban areas that's available,

our Office of Water is also trying

644

00:49:02,452 --> 00:49:06,120

to see if they can pull together a

national level lead pipe indicator

645

00:49:06,144 --> 00:49:11,760

so that might be something that we

could build into the tool at a future time.

646

00:49:11,760 --> 00:49:16,274

And it looks like Matt has pulled

up some of the data on lead paint,

647

00:49:16,298 --> 00:49:18,960

so Matt do you want

to talk about that?

648

00:49:18,960 --> 00:49:23,040

Matthew Lee: So I just wanted to quickly

visualize what Tai was describing.

649

00:49:23,040 --> 00:49:29,548

This pre-1960 housing, we're simply

looking at that lead paint on its own,

650

00:49:29,572 --> 00:49:36,267

not the lead paint and the EJ index or the

demographic index in the form of the EJ index.

651

00:49:36,291 --> 00:49:47,613

And these are the different block groups showing

the age of housing and percentile format.

652

00:49:47,937 --> 00:49:54,191

Matthew Tejada: All right, Christina,

you want to do the next question?

653

00:49:54,215 --> 00:49:55,241

Christina Motilal: Yes, absolutely.

654

00:49:55,265 --> 00:50:01,087

The next question is from Yvette and they ask
"Is information from the Superfund tool layered

655

00:50:01,111 --> 00:50:04,160

in the EJSCREEN update?"

656

00:50:05,119 --> 00:50:10,240

Tai Lung: So, yes one of our indicators,
Matt, if you don't mind to pull that up,

657

00:50:10,240 --> 00:50:13,302

is a Superfund proximity indicator.

658

00:50:13,326 --> 00:50:20,960

And so yeah, we've always had that as one
of our primary indicators within EJSCREEN,

659

00:50:20,960 --> 00:50:25,342

and it's updated every year.

660

00:50:25,366 --> 00:50:26,619

All right.

661

00:50:26,643 --> 00:50:28,486

Christina Motilal: Great.

662

00:50:29,440 --> 00:50:30,800

Thank you.

663

00:50:30,800 --> 00:50:39,800

The next question we have, "Is EPA

considering adding a disability indicator?"

664

00:50:41,440 --> 00:50:43,476

Tai Lung: I guess I'll hop in again.

665

00:50:43,500 --> 00:50:49,503

So disability is one of the topics

that we had talked about the potential

666
00:50:49,527 --> 00:50:52,779

for adding into our demographics.

667
00:50:52,803 --> 00:50:55,298

We are still talking about that.

668
00:50:55,322 --> 00:50:59,149

There is obviously some

impacts from disabilities

669
00:50:59,173 --> 00:51:04,255

for things like

resiliency planning.

670
00:51:04,279 --> 00:51:12,559

But, we so far kept it strictly demographics

based on some of the other factors

671
00:51:12,559 --> 00:51:17,119

that is something we may be

building in the future though.

672
00:51:17,599 --> 00:51:21,179
Matthew Tejada: Yeah, those
are exactly the sorts of suggestions

673
00:51:21,203 --> 00:51:24,000
that we like
and need to hear,

674
00:51:24,000 --> 00:51:26,344
because we'll be tinkering
around with things,

675
00:51:26,368 --> 00:51:29,480
but when people ask or
maybe if you can pop us an email

676
00:51:29,504 --> 00:51:33,440
and maybe give us a little more context
around what you might be thinking about

677
00:51:33,440 --> 00:51:35,169
in terms of adding in disability

678
00:51:35,193 --> 00:51:39,280
that might help us kind of think through
"Oh, okay well maybe we could do it this way,

679
00:51:39,280 --> 00:51:42,800
maybe it would, it's just
mapping something like disability.

680
00:51:42,800 --> 00:51:46,559
How would we map it in a
way that would be meaningful on the map?

681
00:51:46,559 --> 00:51:49,032
That would interact in the
rest with the rest of the data

682
00:51:49,056 --> 00:51:51,440
in a way that's actually
revealing us something about

683

00:51:51,440 --> 00:51:54,400

community level vulnerability.

684

00:51:54,400 --> 00:51:57,124

But those are the things that

we're always looking to hear about

685

00:51:57,148 --> 00:52:01,960

to incorporate into

future updates of the tool.

686

00:52:04,240 --> 00:52:06,029

Christina Motilal: Great, thanks.

687

00:52:06,053 --> 00:52:11,760

The next one we have

is from I believe it's Mala,

688

00:52:11,760 --> 00:52:16,104

and she asked "What is the intended

meaning of the percentiles for pollutants,

689

00:52:16,128 --> 00:52:22,244

such as ozone and PM, which is particulate

matter, where the percentile may be high,

690

00:52:22,268 --> 00:52:28,079

but the pollutant concentration

is far below the NAAQS?

691

00:52:28,079 --> 00:52:33,640

Thanks for all your great work

on these revisions, they are great."

692

00:52:35,599 --> 00:52:37,947

Matthew Tejada: You're gonna

take percentiles Tai?

693

00:52:37,971 --> 00:52:41,827

Tai Lung: Sure, Matt do you

wanna pull up some of those maps?

694

00:52:41,851 --> 00:52:43,359

Matthew Lee: Sure, here is.

695
00:52:43,359 --> 00:52:45,747
Let's see, I think

ozone was mentioned.

696
00:52:45,771 --> 00:52:48,646
Tai Lung: So yeah--

so with a lot of our things

697
00:52:48,670 --> 00:52:54,777
like I said we're putting them

into to a common number

698
00:52:54,801 --> 00:53:00,247
because if I told you the PM level for an

area, that wouldn't mean much to anybody

699
00:53:00,271 --> 00:53:04,640
but an air scientist.

700
00:53:04,640 --> 00:53:10,290

So what we're doing is we're showing how that

place compares to the rest of the country

701
00:53:10,314 --> 00:53:11,839
to rest the state.

702
00:53:11,839 --> 00:53:14,272
It obviously doesn't equal risk,

703
00:53:14,296 --> 00:53:19,777
you might have an air level that
could be at the 90th percentile,

704
00:53:19,801 --> 00:53:25,947
but that doesn't mean necessarily that those
levels are high enough that it is severely--

705
00:53:25,971 --> 00:53:29,324
there
seems to be a risk to it.

706
00:53:29,348 --> 00:53:34,065

So I think that that is kind
of the answer to the question.

707
00:53:34,089 --> 00:53:36,220
I didn't fully get everything
about the question,

708
00:53:36,244 --> 00:53:40,319
did you hear anything
that I missed Matthew Lee?

709
00:53:40,800 --> 00:53:45,231
Matthew Lee: I think like you said
with the concept of percentiles,

710
00:53:45,255 --> 00:53:47,708
it's just adding that
that relativity to it

711
00:53:47,732 --> 00:53:53,640
and even with adding the ability
to look at things at the national percentile

712

00:53:53,664 --> 00:53:55,202

or the state percentile,

713

00:53:55,226 --> 00:53:58,194

it's just a different way
of looking at the data

714

00:53:58,218 --> 00:54:02,298

and you're exactly right,
it could be below the next,

715

00:54:02,322 --> 00:54:06,400

but it's just comparing--

716

00:54:06,400 --> 00:54:13,119

it's just comparing each block group or in
this case each census tract to each other.

717

00:54:17,440 --> 00:54:19,440

Victoria Robinson: All right, thank you very much.

718

00:54:19,440 --> 00:54:21,964

Matthew, we have one

person with her hand raised,

719

00:54:21,988 --> 00:54:28,224

and I thought we'd go ahead and ask

give her the opportunity to ask a question,

720

00:54:28,248 --> 00:54:30,801

and then we can move

on to the next presentation.

721

00:54:30,825 --> 00:54:34,534

For those of you who have

posed questions in the Q&A pod,

722

00:54:34,558 --> 00:54:36,908

we will be continuing

answering them,

723

00:54:36,932 --> 00:54:41,850

and if you do want to ask a question

around EJSCREEN, please, raise your hand,

724

00:54:41,874 --> 00:54:47,464

and we will get to that after we give

our colleagues the opportunity

725

00:54:47,488 --> 00:54:49,367

to do their presentation.

726

00:54:49,391 --> 00:54:57,459

We do see you and we're doing our best to

try to get everybody an opportunity to speak.

727

00:54:57,483 --> 00:55:07,160

So Dr. Sung Chai if, you can unmute

yourself so you can ask your question.

728

00:55:08,880 --> 00:55:11,520

Go ahead doctor.

729

00:55:11,839 --> 00:55:17,958

Sung Chai: Dr. Sung Chai,

the founder and the director--[DOGS BARKING]

730

00:55:17,982 --> 00:55:19,889

excuse me, someone's at the door--

731

00:55:19,913 --> 00:55:23,191

of the Hunter's Point
bio monitoring program,

732

00:55:23,215 --> 00:55:25,711

and I wanted to thank
you for your presentation.

733

00:55:25,735 --> 00:55:32,720

I've been using the EJSCREEN
for a couple of years as an adjunct

734

00:55:32,720 --> 00:55:36,547

to our urinary bio monitoring screenings
and our own geospatial mappings

735

00:55:36,571 --> 00:55:45,690

and it is just enormously, amplifying, it

also is so valuable as a educational a tool.

736
00:55:45,814 --> 00:55:50,202
I have a six-year-old, who can
navigate the EJSCREEN,

737
00:55:50,226 --> 00:55:57,520
just type in the location and pull down
the mappings and I'm glad you've expanded it.

738
00:55:57,520 --> 00:56:03,468
My point is that the National Resource
Defense Council has a website that documents

739
00:56:03,492 --> 00:56:09,359
the location of state health department
verified cancer and disease clusters

740
00:56:09,359 --> 00:56:14,160
There are 3 verified in Florida,
8 in California and large clusters

741

00:56:14,160 --> 00:56:17,200

along the chemical corridor in Louisiana.

742

00:56:17,200 --> 00:56:22,003

Additionally, there is independent

research that documents cancer clusters

743

00:56:22,027 --> 00:56:26,448

around federal Superfund sites, especially

brain and central nervous system.

744

00:56:26,472 --> 00:56:32,880

And again, my point is that I can

see the future of the EPA EJSCREEN

745

00:56:32,880 --> 00:56:43,040

incorporating proximity to verified cancer

and disease clusters as one of the indicators.

746

00:56:43,040 --> 00:56:45,627

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, thank

you so much for that Dr. Sung Chai.

747
00:56:45,651 --> 00:56:48,275
That's a great suggestion.

748
00:56:48,299 --> 00:56:53,119
One of the things that we
always struggle with in EJSCREEN

749
00:56:53,119 --> 00:56:59,948
is getting data that is nationally consistent
and relevant to a lot of the country.

750
00:56:59,972 --> 00:57:03,701
And so there are different
things that would have EJ relevance,

751
00:57:03,725 --> 00:57:07,401
but they're just not-- they only
are in 50 places or 100 places,

752
00:57:07,425 --> 00:57:11,384
and we always struggle
with well, it's you know--

753
00:57:11,408 --> 00:57:15,420
Because we get a lot of requests for a lot
of different things to go into EJSCREEN

754
00:57:15,544 --> 00:57:19,034
and it can't just turn into a tool
that has everything everyone wants

755
00:57:19,158 --> 00:57:21,825
because then it's just
a mess of a tool, right?

756
00:57:21,849 --> 00:57:26,640
So we have to do some decision
making about what makes it into EJSCREEN

757
00:57:26,640 --> 00:57:31,908
and on first blush the cancer cluster thing
might be something that it's small enough

758
00:57:31,932 --> 00:57:35,871

we would say well, I'm sure NRDC

if they don't they could easily turn

759
00:57:35,895 --> 00:57:40,816

that into a map service and you could

bring that into EJSCREEN if you want,

760
00:57:40,840 --> 00:57:45,280

but then when you were talking about like

maybe proximity to cancer cluster, well maybe

761
00:57:45,280 --> 00:57:49,073

that's a great suggestion,

so that is another one that,

762
00:57:49,097 --> 00:57:53,634

this is exactly the sort of reason why

we are continually engaging on EJSCREEN

763
00:57:53,658 --> 00:57:57,040

to hear exactly those sorts

of suggestions for us to pull them in,

764

00:57:57,040 --> 00:58:01,440

and play around with them and

maybe see what some other folks think.

765

00:58:01,440 --> 00:58:04,319

So that's another one that we'll put on

the list to kind of see how it might be able

766

00:58:04,319 --> 00:58:08,000

to integrate into the tool.

767

00:58:08,000 --> 00:58:08,808

Thank you for that.

768

00:58:08,832 --> 00:58:10,314

Victoria Robinson: All

right, thank you Dr. Sung Chai.

769

00:58:10,338 --> 00:58:13,490

I understand Christina had

one more she wanted to read out,

770

00:58:13,514 --> 00:58:16,960

and then we will turn it

over to our colleagues.

771

00:58:16,960 --> 00:58:18,088

Christina Motilal: Yes, thank you, Victoria.

772

00:58:18,112 --> 00:58:22,776

This one was just more of a comment

for Tai and Matt Lee and for the Office.

773

00:58:22,800 --> 00:58:27,168

EJSCREEN used to highlight high numbers

in the indicators like for asthma risk

774

00:58:27,192 --> 00:58:30,162

and now it no longer does.

775

00:58:30,186 --> 00:58:35,640

I would like EPA

to consider doing that again.

776

00:58:36,400 --> 00:58:38,428

Tai Lung: Thank you for the feedback.

777

00:58:38,452 --> 00:58:42,227

I'm not 100% sure what

that refers to but,

778

00:58:42,251 --> 00:58:45,110

I'm happy to have a

conversation offline about it.

779

00:58:45,134 --> 00:58:51,599

All of our changes that we make to the tool

are literally based on user feedback.

780

00:58:51,599 --> 00:58:57,839

So if there is some better way

that we can characterize that we love to talk

781

00:58:57,839 --> 00:58:59,839

to the users around it.

782

00:58:59,839 --> 00:59:02,708

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, and I mean

we've never had asthma risk in the tool,

783

00:59:02,732 --> 00:59:06,543

we have respiratory

hazard, which is still in there.

784

00:59:06,567 --> 00:59:09,729

As as one of the EJ indexes

Matt's going to go to it right now,

785

00:59:09,753 --> 00:59:12,797

so you can see

respiratory hazard

786

00:59:12,821 --> 00:59:18,920

that's another of what used to

be the national air toxic system [INAUDIBLE]

787

00:59:30,000 --> 00:59:33,680

And do we still, I mean the only thing we

would have had in the past high were

788
00:59:33,680 --> 00:59:39,520
just the county level CDC scores--
are we still tying those--

789
00:59:39,520 --> 00:59:43,946
Tai Lung: So yeah, I don't think that, I'm not quite
sure exactly what they're referring to,

790
00:59:43,970 --> 00:59:47,268
but all of the information that used
to be in the tool is still in the tool.

791
00:59:47,292 --> 00:59:51,410
We haven't changed the way that we're
calculating the data or how it's represented.

792
00:59:51,434 --> 00:59:54,905
So if there are some
questions around it,

793

00:59:54,929 --> 00:59:58,400

yeah, I'd be happy to

have a conversation.

794

00:59:58,400 --> 01:00:00,445

Matthew Tejada: Okay, awesome.

795

01:00:00,469 --> 01:00:05,568

Well, with that, I think Victoria

we're going to pass it over

796

01:00:05,592 --> 01:00:09,119

to our colleagues from OECA.

797

01:00:13,040 --> 01:00:17,759

And I think Victoria is going

to be pulling up-- there we go.

798

01:00:17,783 --> 01:00:23,123

So Thanne Berg and Amy Miller from

our Region 9 Office are both joining us.

799

01:00:23,147 --> 01:00:28,079

And I'm not sure who's going to go first,

so I'll just pass it over to both of you.

800

01:00:28,079 --> 01:00:28,880

Thanne Berg: Hi.

801

01:00:28,880 --> 01:00:31,280

Hello everyone, my name is Thanne Berg

802

01:00:31,280 --> 01:00:36,799

and I'm Senior Program Advisor for the Office

of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

803

01:00:36,799 --> 01:00:41,200

I don't know if Amy is on-- wants to

turn on her camera and introduce herself

804

01:00:41,200 --> 01:00:46,362

but Amy Miller is also here to join me from

Region 9's Office,

805

01:00:46,386 --> 01:00:49,308

the Pacific Southwest Regional Office

806

01:00:49,332 --> 01:00:55,520

and she is the Division Director for the

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division there.

807

01:00:55,520 --> 01:00:57,200

We're going to share the presentation.

808

01:00:57,200 --> 01:01:01,975

I'm going to take the first half and

she'll take the second half.

809

01:01:05,599 --> 01:01:09,536

All right, so glad to see

everyone here today, virtually.

810

01:01:09,560 --> 01:01:11,428

We're very excited to be here.

811

01:01:11,452 --> 01:01:14,207

These are some of
the topics we want to cover.

812
01:01:14,231 --> 01:01:19,728
The objective today is to talk to
you about our enforcement strategies

813
01:01:19,752 --> 01:01:25,920
to bring environmental justice
throughout the enforcement process.

814
01:01:25,920 --> 01:01:28,000
I know some of you
probably are not familiar

815
01:01:28,024 --> 01:01:31,119
with the Office of Enforcement
and Compliance Assurance

816
01:01:31,119 --> 01:01:38,799
and so what I'd like to do now is tell
you a little bit about us and what we do.

817
01:01:38,799 --> 01:01:40,559
Next slide, please.

818
01:01:40,559 --> 01:01:44,079
All right, the Office of Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance,

819
01:01:44,079 --> 01:01:48,196
in shorthand referred to
ourselves as OECA

820
01:01:48,220 --> 01:01:53,627
and we're the enforcement arm of
the Environmental Protection Agency.

821
01:01:53,651 --> 01:01:58,268
So OECA with the regional offices,
we enforce environmental laws,

822
01:01:58,292 --> 01:02:02,559
the criminal and civil enforcement laws.

823

01:02:02,559 --> 01:02:08,319

We work with the regional offices that

are located throughout the country.

824

01:02:08,319 --> 01:02:12,148

Most of the inspectors located at EPA

are in the regional offices

825

01:02:12,172 --> 01:02:16,640

and those are the people you'll probably

see in your community doing inspections.

826

01:02:16,640 --> 01:02:21,247

We work closely in partnership with

state tribal and territory governments

827

01:02:21,271 --> 01:02:24,799

to ensure that environmental

laws are complied with.

828

01:02:24,799 --> 01:02:28,812

And we also work closely with our

federal partner agencies

829
01:02:28,836 --> 01:02:35,599
to ensure that they are complying with
environmental regulations and leading by example.

830
01:02:35,599 --> 01:02:41,839
We target the most serious threats
caused by pollution to water, air and land.

831
01:02:41,839 --> 01:02:47,182
We have a cleanup program at EPA and enforcement
is a very essential part of that program

832
01:02:47,206 --> 01:02:50,887
to ensure that responsible
parties clean up hazardous waste

833
01:02:50,911 --> 01:02:57,440
and if they don't clean it up they pay
EPA the money that we spent cleaning it up.

834

01:02:57,440 --> 01:03:00,640

Enforcement is a very important tool,

835
01:03:00,640 --> 01:03:05,630

it is very effective in getting the regulated

community to follow the requirements

836
01:03:05,654 --> 01:03:08,160

that are in environmental laws.

837
01:03:08,960 --> 01:03:12,240

But it's also a very important

tool in a couple of other ways.

838
01:03:12,240 --> 01:03:17,200

It creates a level playing field,

so that those individuals or entities

839
01:03:17,200 --> 01:03:23,133

that decide not to comply, that they don't

enjoy an economic or competitive advantage

840

01:03:23,157 --> 01:03:25,839

over other people who do comply.

841

01:03:25,839 --> 01:03:28,799

It also creates a deterrent effect,

842

01:03:28,799 --> 01:03:34,363

so hopefully those who are

considering to disregard the requirements,

843

01:03:34,387 --> 01:03:39,119

they will think twice because

enforcement could come their way.

844

01:03:39,119 --> 01:03:45,359

OECA also has a National

Compliance Assistance Program

845

01:03:45,359 --> 01:03:49,359

to help the regulated communities

understand what the laws mean.

846

01:03:49,359 --> 01:03:54,880

We have outreach and education

to help the regulated community

847

01:03:54,880 --> 01:04:00,368

and we also have enforcement and compliance

data available for the general public

848

01:04:00,392 --> 01:04:06,247

on a web-based platform called the

Enforcement and Compliance History Online

849

01:04:06,271 --> 01:04:09,680

and we refer to that as ECHO.

850

01:04:09,680 --> 01:04:13,160

Next slide, please.

851

01:04:14,480 --> 01:04:19,680

For the past 25 years, OECA in

partnership with the regional offices,

852

01:04:19,680 --> 01:04:23,920

we've built environmental justice

principles and all the work that we do.

853

01:04:23,920 --> 01:04:30,295

We were there and heavily involved in

the agency to develop both plan EJ 2014

854

01:04:30,319 --> 01:04:34,400

as well as EJ 2020 action agenda,

855

01:04:34,400 --> 01:04:39,248

but this administration has really

reinvigorated environmental justice

856

01:04:39,272 --> 01:04:43,359

into everything we

do across the agency.

857

01:04:43,359 --> 01:04:48,045

President Biden charged the EPA to strengthen

enforcement of environmental violations

858

01:04:48,069 --> 01:04:50,492

that impact overburdened communities

859

01:04:50,516 --> 01:04:55,348

and Administrator Regan echoed

this executive order by directing EPA

860

01:04:55,372 --> 01:05:00,480

to strengthen enforcement of

environmental and civil rights laws.

861

01:05:00,480 --> 01:05:05,680

OECA then followed these directives

and issued four memos last year

862

01:05:05,680 --> 01:05:11,680

that have become the backbone of our

environmental justice priorities and agenda.

863

01:05:12,799 --> 01:05:15,760

So I'd like to go through

each one of those.

864

01:05:15,760 --> 01:05:21,200

The first one is using all appropriate

injunctive relief tools in civil enforcement

865

01:05:21,200 --> 01:05:26,963

and in this memo directs staff to use a full

array of policy and legal tools available

866

01:05:26,987 --> 01:05:32,400

to deliver real tangible benefits

to individuals and communities.

867

01:05:32,400 --> 01:05:37,039

Some of these tools include

advanced monitoring.

868

01:05:37,039 --> 01:05:41,554

So as opportunities arise, EPA will increase

the use of air monitoring technology,

869

01:05:41,578 --> 01:05:47,028

this could be fence line monitoring

or other real time kind of monitoring,

870
01:05:47,052 --> 01:05:50,880
say for example, continuous

monitoring of sewer overflows

871
01:05:50,880 --> 01:05:54,880
and incorporate advanced

monitoring into our settlements.

872
01:05:54,880 --> 01:05:59,920
We're going to incorporate audits and

independent third-party verification tools.

873
01:05:59,920 --> 01:06:03,967
We're also going to include

electronic reporting

874
01:06:03,991 --> 01:06:07,920
in order to increase

transparency of compliance data.

875
01:06:07,920 --> 01:06:12,725
So in our settlements requiring settling

parties to provide information electronically

876
01:06:12,749 --> 01:06:18,880
allows us to make that available to

the communities as quickly as possible.

877
01:06:18,880 --> 01:06:22,090
And finally we're going to include

settlement provisions

878
01:06:22,114 --> 01:06:25,599
that address past harms

to community.

879
01:06:25,599 --> 01:06:28,810
These could be through

say mitigation projects

880
01:06:28,834 --> 01:06:33,839
or when available supplemental

environmental projects.

881
01:06:36,079 --> 01:06:39,008
Moving on to the next
memo that was issued.

882
01:06:39,032 --> 01:06:42,480
It has to deal with our civil
enforcement program,

883
01:06:42,480 --> 01:06:46,407
strengthening enforcement in communities
with environmental justice concerns.

884
01:06:46,431 --> 01:06:50,799
And it's really broken down
into three major components.

885
01:06:50,799 --> 01:06:56,960
The first one is to increase our presence
in overburdened and vulnerable communities

886

01:06:56,960 --> 01:07:01,520

by increasing the number of inspections

that we do in those communities.

887

01:07:01,520 --> 01:07:08,127

We're going to go from just under 30%

to 45% of all inspections done by EPA

888

01:07:08,151 --> 01:07:12,015

to make sure they occur in

overburdened communities.

889

01:07:12,039 --> 01:07:16,207

And we're going to increase

this to 55% of our inspections

890

01:07:16,231 --> 01:07:22,319

will be done in communities

with EJ concerns by 2026.

891

01:07:22,319 --> 01:07:27,039

We're also going to incorporate EJ

considerations into the implementation

892
01:07:27,039 --> 01:07:29,839
of our national compliance initiatives.

893
01:07:29,839 --> 01:07:35,280
And these are areas where there's
high level of environmental violations

894
01:07:35,280 --> 01:07:39,839
and these very serious violations we
target on a national basis

895
01:07:39,839 --> 01:07:42,400
to try to tackle those big problems.

896
01:07:42,400 --> 01:07:48,799
So we're going to make sure that EJ is
integrated within those strategies nationwide.

897
01:07:48,799 --> 01:07:53,929
The second main component of this memo
has to deal with resolving non-compliance

898
01:07:53,953 --> 01:07:58,960
through remedies that bring

tangible benefits to communities.

899
01:07:58,960 --> 01:08:05,599
And it really draws upon the memo I spoke

about a few minutes ago on enforcement tools.

900
01:08:05,599 --> 01:08:10,079
We're going to seek early relief for

affected communities

901
01:08:10,079 --> 01:08:13,210
through orders to expedite

implementation of controls

902
01:08:13,234 --> 01:08:15,440
or other interim measures.

903
01:08:15,440 --> 01:08:20,552
For example, issuing orders

requiring fence line monitoring

904
01:08:20,576 --> 01:08:23,279
to detect harmful air emissions.

905
01:08:23,279 --> 01:08:27,107
Or another example would be an order
requiring alternative water

906
01:08:27,131 --> 01:08:30,640
when drinking water is contaminated.

907
01:08:30,640 --> 01:08:34,948
And the third component of this memo is
to increase community engagement

908
01:08:34,972 --> 01:08:38,048
which is one reason
why we're here today.

909
01:08:38,072 --> 01:08:42,526
This is an area, an opportunity for

growth for the enforcement program

910
01:08:42,550 --> 01:08:47,048
and we're committed to provide more
information about facilities, pollution

911
01:08:47,072 --> 01:08:49,359
and enforcement activities.

912
01:08:49,359 --> 01:08:55,279
We want to do public
meetings and listening sessions,

913
01:08:55,279 --> 01:08:59,279
we want to make sure that the
information is provided in a language

914
01:08:59,279 --> 01:09:02,847
that is dominating that community and
that we're not just providing data

915
01:09:02,871 --> 01:09:08,479

but we're also explaining

what the data means.

916
01:09:11,359 --> 01:09:16,167
Okay, now to our third memo and it has to
do with our criminal program.

917
01:09:16,191 --> 01:09:18,799
EPA has criminal
agents across the country

918
01:09:18,799 --> 01:09:23,679
investigating environmental
crimes and prosecuting offenders.

919
01:09:23,679 --> 01:09:26,800
We're going to strengthen our
detection of environmental crimes

920
01:09:26,824 --> 01:09:28,587
in overburdened communities.

921

01:09:28,611 --> 01:09:33,198

This means more effective

civil and criminal coordination

922

01:09:33,198 --> 01:09:39,198

and integrating EJ considerations into

every criminal investigation and prosecution.

923

01:09:39,198 --> 01:09:42,479

We're going to improve

our outreach to crime victims.

924

01:09:42,479 --> 01:09:44,608

In partnership with the Department of

Justice

925

01:09:44,632 --> 01:09:48,147

to improve support to victims

of environmental crimes,

926

01:09:48,171 --> 01:09:54,560

we're creating the Environmental

Crime Victims Assistance program.

927

01:09:54,560 --> 01:10:00,000

We're the first agency to use the tool

of the Nextdoor app

928

01:10:00,000 --> 01:10:02,808

to conduct outreach in

vulnerable communities

929

01:10:02,832 --> 01:10:06,719

seeking information about

environmental crimes.

930

01:10:06,719 --> 01:10:12,908

We piloted the use of this tool in southeast

Texas and we intend to use it again

931

01:10:12,932 --> 01:10:17,199

in 10 cities across the

nation in the near future.

932

01:10:17,199 --> 01:10:20,928

We're exploring out

direct outreach to communities

933
01:10:20,952 --> 01:10:24,917
using different types of social
media that can disseminate information

934
01:10:24,941 --> 01:10:30,800
related to pollution, victim services
and the status of criminal cases.

935
01:10:30,800 --> 01:10:35,360
We want to enhance remedies
sought in criminal cases.

936
01:10:35,360 --> 01:10:40,640
Remedies in the criminal world should always
be sufficient to achieve the goal of deterrence.

937
01:10:40,640 --> 01:10:46,960
We'll also seek restitution or community
service in order to redress the harm

938
01:10:46,960 --> 01:10:50,159
done to communities by the offenders.

939
01:10:50,159 --> 01:10:56,239
So far our work in this area has
been successful in a short period of time.

940
01:10:56,239 --> 01:11:01,241
In 2021, nearly 30% of defendants charged
committed crimes

941
01:11:01,265 --> 01:11:05,840
that impacted communities
with EJ concerns.

942
01:11:07,600 --> 01:11:10,590
And now to our final memo
that was issued last year.

943
01:11:10,614 --> 01:11:13,120
It has to do with our
cleanup program.

944
01:11:13,120 --> 01:11:17,460
Like I said previously, EPA has
a strong cleanup program

945
01:11:17,484 --> 01:11:21,408
and enforcement is an integral
part of that program

946
01:11:21,432 --> 01:11:25,600
to ensure that responsible
parties clean up hazardous waste

947
01:11:25,600 --> 01:11:28,560
in order to protect communities.

948
01:11:28,560 --> 01:11:31,828
We're committed to do
early cleanup actions

949
01:11:31,852 --> 01:11:35,840
to address the most

urgent risks to human health.

950
01:11:35,840 --> 01:11:40,707
This could be issuing orders to protect the
public by reducing or eliminating exposure

951
01:11:40,731 --> 01:11:45,840
to contamination while the
long-term solution is being developed.

952
01:11:45,840 --> 01:11:49,667
We're going to expedite cleanups and
develop enforcement instruments

953
01:11:49,691 --> 01:11:53,440
targeted to mitigate
impacts to communities.

954
01:11:53,440 --> 01:11:57,679
We're going to expedite
negotiations with responsible parties.

955

01:11:57,679 --> 01:12:03,360

Our goal is to complete negotiations

for long-term cleanups within one year.

956

01:12:03,360 --> 01:12:08,316

At the close of that year, if negotiations

haven't resulted in a settlement,

957

01:12:08,340 --> 01:12:13,452

we're gonna evaluate other options we

may have in order to expedite the cleanup

958

01:12:13,476 --> 01:12:15,689

which may mean

starting the cleanup

959

01:12:15,713 --> 01:12:21,360

and on a parallel track resolving

long-term issues with the parties.

960

01:12:21,360 --> 01:12:24,728

We're going to develop more robust

enforcement instruments

961
01:12:24,752 --> 01:12:27,520
and increase community engagement.

962
01:12:27,520 --> 01:12:31,721
EPA has modeled or standardized
settlement agreements

963
01:12:31,745 --> 01:12:35,488
to ensure that cleanup actions
across the country are conducted

964
01:12:35,512 --> 01:12:39,920
in a consistent manner and are
protected of human health.

965
01:12:39,920 --> 01:12:45,520
In these model documents, we're going to
require community impact mitigation plans

966
01:12:45,520 --> 01:12:51,336
and we're going to require that parties

submit data and schedules electronically,

967
01:12:51,360 --> 01:12:55,840
so that that information can
be shared with a community.

968
01:12:55,840 --> 01:13:00,880
And finally, we're going to enhance
oversight of cleanup agreements.

969
01:13:00,880 --> 01:13:02,848
As a cleanup action is going on,

970
01:13:02,872 --> 01:13:07,873
we're going to evaluate it to
ensure that the work being done

971
01:13:07,897 --> 01:13:15,199
under that agreement is not resulting in
unintended adverse impacts to the community.

972
01:13:15,199 --> 01:13:20,640

Those could be something like odor,

increased noise or traffic.

973
01:13:20,640 --> 01:13:24,960
And we're going to review the
use of legal or physical controls,

974
01:13:24,960 --> 01:13:30,719
also called institutional controls to
eliminate community exposure to contamination.

975
01:13:30,719 --> 01:13:34,888
And as these institutional controls are
in these settlement documents,

976
01:13:34,912 --> 01:13:39,920
we're going to ensure that they're
reaching their intended effect.

977
01:13:39,920 --> 01:13:44,288
So these are the four memos or directives
they've been given

978

01:13:44,312 --> 01:13:46,868

to the enforcement program nationwide.

979

01:13:46,892 --> 01:13:51,306

And now I'm going to turn it over to Amy

to talk about some of our initial successes

980

01:13:51,330 --> 01:13:54,560

over the last seven months.

981

01:13:54,560 --> 01:13:56,320

Amy Miller: Thank you, Thanne.

982

01:13:56,320 --> 01:14:03,280

So while we were developing our

EJ strategies, we also took early action.

983

01:14:03,280 --> 01:14:07,879

Here are some examples of

enforcement actions we took in 2021

984

01:14:07,903 --> 01:14:11,840

in communities

overburdened by pollution.

985

01:14:11,840 --> 01:14:17,988

We issued two Clean Air Act emergency

orders to facilities in the United States

986

01:14:18,012 --> 01:14:20,640

Virgin Islands and South Carolina.

987

01:14:20,640 --> 01:14:26,988

We also issued 47 safe drinking water

act orders to public water systems

988

01:14:27,012 --> 01:14:35,199

in places like Cahokia Heights, Clarksburg,

West Virginia, Jackson, Mississippi

989

01:14:35,199 --> 01:14:41,440

and tribal areas such as Torres Martinez

Desert, Cahuilla Indian Reservation.

990

01:14:41,440 --> 01:14:47,108

We also issued two Resource Conservation

and Recovery Act emergency orders

991

01:14:47,132 --> 01:14:57,280

to facilities in Atlanta, Georgia and Gatson,

Alabama, and handling storage of hazardous waste.

992

01:14:57,280 --> 01:15:00,228

In a nationwide settlement

with Home Depot,

993

01:15:00,252 --> 01:15:07,520

EPA resolved by violations of EPA's

lead renovation repair and painting rule

994

01:15:07,520 --> 01:15:12,224

which will result in system-wide changes

to ensure that contractors

995

01:15:12,248 --> 01:15:19,575

who perform work in homes constructed

before 1978 are pre-EPA certified

996
01:15:19,599 --> 01:15:22,480
and follow lead safe practices.

997
01:15:22,480 --> 01:15:28,800
This action will significantly reduce
children's exposure to lead paint hazards.

998
01:15:28,800 --> 01:15:34,604
Also in our cleanup enforcement program,
we finalized agreements with parties

999
01:15:34,628 --> 01:15:39,607
to clean up lead contamination at
Superfund sites adjacent to communities

1000
01:15:39,631 --> 01:15:42,320
with environmental justice concerns,

1001
01:15:42,320 --> 01:15:46,577
including one site associated with two

residential neighborhoods

1002
01:15:46,601 --> 01:15:50,560
located near Atlanta's
downtown business district.

1003
01:15:50,560 --> 01:15:53,840
Next slide.

1004
01:15:54,719 --> 01:15:57,967
In response to concerns
voiced by residents,

1005
01:15:57,991 --> 01:16:03,488
enforcement is also playing a key
role in investigating air quality concerns

1006
01:16:03,512 --> 01:16:08,800
in overburdened communities in
Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

1007
01:16:08,800 --> 01:16:15,040

Following administrator Regan's Journey
to Justice Tour in November 2021,

1008
01:16:15,040 --> 01:16:22,400
EPA will deploy a multi-scale monitoring
project called the pollution accountability team.

1009
01:16:22,400 --> 01:16:27,768
EPA also will use high-tech air
pollution monitoring equipment

1010
01:16:27,792 --> 01:16:33,748
in the sky and on the ground to
identify potential sources of pollution.

1011
01:16:33,772 --> 01:16:38,640
Boots-on-the-ground inspectors
will conduct unannounced inspections

1012
01:16:38,640 --> 01:16:41,920
of suspected non-compliant facilities.

1013

01:16:41,920 --> 01:16:47,521

When non-compliance is found, EPA

will hold these facilities accountable.

1014

01:16:47,545 --> 01:16:54,640

This is a bold and proactive plan to respond

to concerns raised in these communities.

1015

01:16:54,640 --> 01:16:57,280

Next slide.

1016

01:16:58,480 --> 01:17:02,147

Regional enforcement programs

are pursuing opportunities

1017

01:17:02,171 --> 01:17:05,120

to increase community engagement.

1018

01:17:05,120 --> 01:17:10,800

Like in Clarksburg, West Virginia or in

Coachella Valley in California

1019

01:17:10,800 --> 01:17:17,040

or targeted pesticide

outreach in the Pacific northwest.

1020

01:17:17,040 --> 01:17:21,107

When appropriate, EPA is requiring

parties performing cleanup work

1021

01:17:21,131 --> 01:17:28,127

to provide schedules of obligations in a format

that is suitable for sharing with the public

1022

01:17:28,151 --> 01:17:34,880

so that communities can be kept

apprised and provide input on compliance.

1023

01:17:34,880 --> 01:17:40,409

We will also increase public availability

of cleanup data and clean up schedules

1024

01:17:40,433 --> 01:17:45,408

and seek opportunities to

include community focused provisions

1025

01:17:45,432 --> 01:17:49,120

in model cleanup

settlement agreements.

1026

01:17:49,120 --> 01:17:57,040

OECA is also developing tools to make it

easier to find and review compliance data

1027

01:17:57,040 --> 01:17:59,600

to improve transparency.

1028

01:17:59,600 --> 01:18:06,800

As Thanne mentioned, EPA's Enforcement and

Compliance History Online also known as ECHO,

1029

01:18:06,800 --> 01:18:13,280

provides compliance and enforcement data

about regulated facilities to the public.

1030

01:18:13,280 --> 01:18:18,468

ECHO Notify will provide

individuals the ability to receive

1031
01:18:18,492 --> 01:18:24,320
customizable weekly notifications
of enforcement related activities

1032
01:18:24,320 --> 01:18:28,960
within a geographic
area based on zip code.

1033
01:18:28,960 --> 01:18:36,400
EPA will seek input from communities
through Report a Violation

1034
01:18:36,400 --> 01:18:42,880
which is a web-based tool for members of
the public to report suspected violations.

1035
01:18:42,880 --> 01:18:47,007
Nextdoor application which they had
mentioned earlier seeking tips

1036

01:18:47,031 --> 01:18:50,800

from the public to

identify criminal behavior.

1037

01:18:50,800 --> 01:18:54,000

Next slide.

1038

01:18:54,000 --> 01:19:00,468

In rural communities and tribes, we are

providing support to critical drinking water

1039

01:19:00,492 --> 01:19:05,440

and wastewater services through

our Compliance Advisor Program.

1040

01:19:05,440 --> 01:19:13,360

This program provides these utilities

hand-on technical assistance.

1041

01:19:13,360 --> 01:19:19,360

In 2021, we provided assistance to over

100 drinking water systems

1042

01:19:19,360 --> 01:19:26,080

and 50 wastewater

systems in non-compliance.

1043

01:19:26,080 --> 01:19:28,719

Next slide.

1044

01:19:30,719 --> 01:19:39,108

Within EPA, all programs are focused on

integrating EJ's strategies in their work.

1045

01:19:39,132 --> 01:19:42,888

The enforcement program works

closely with EPA program offices

1046

01:19:42,912 --> 01:19:46,560

to integrate our efforts with theirs.

1047

01:19:46,560 --> 01:19:52,608

OECA has also been coordinating with the

environment and natural resource division

1048

01:19:52,632 --> 01:19:59,920

at the Department of Justice as they

develop their comprehensive EJ strategy

1049

01:19:59,920 --> 01:20:07,040

which seeks to provide timely remedies

for systematic environmental violations

1050

01:20:07,040 --> 01:20:11,679

and contaminations and

injury to natural resources.

1051

01:20:11,679 --> 01:20:14,588

The Department of

Justice is currently reviewing

1052

01:20:14,612 --> 01:20:21,360

the prior administration's rule limiting

supplemental environmental projects.

1053

01:20:21,360 --> 01:20:26,000

Supplemental environmental projects have

proven to be a powerful settlement tool

1054
01:20:26,000 --> 01:20:30,448
for securing significant environmental
and public health benefits

1055
01:20:30,472 --> 01:20:36,880
for communities impacted by
violations of environmental law.

1056
01:20:36,880 --> 01:20:43,768
Supporting our environmental justice efforts
includes American Rescue Plan funding.

1057
01:20:43,792 --> 01:20:51,679
OECA is directing 5.13 million
received to be used for enforcement,

1058
01:20:51,679 --> 01:20:59,679
among other things, monitoring for pollution
causing drinking water and air violations

1059

01:20:59,679 --> 01:21:03,199

in near low-income communities.

1060

01:21:03,199 --> 01:21:08,320

Our efforts are also integrated into

Justice40.

1061

01:21:08,320 --> 01:21:14,708

As you may be aware, the administration has

set a goal that 40% of the overall benefits

1062

01:21:14,732 --> 01:21:21,588

of certain federal investments should

follow to disadvantaged communities.

1063

01:21:21,612 --> 01:21:27,520

As part of that effort, OECA is increasing

inspections in overburdened communities

1064

01:21:27,520 --> 01:21:32,400

up to 55% by 2026.

1065

01:21:32,400 --> 01:21:35,040

Next slide.

1066

01:21:38,000 --> 01:21:42,948

More information about OECA's programs

and OECA's efforts can be found

1067

01:21:42,972 --> 01:21:47,520

on our environmental justice website.

1068

01:21:47,520 --> 01:21:54,660

And I would like to refer that to

you along with the ECHO website

1069

01:21:54,684 --> 01:22:01,508

which is located at

the bottom of this slide.

1070

01:22:01,532 --> 01:22:03,600

Thank you.

1071

01:22:03,624 --> 01:22:05,624

[NOTIFICATION RINGING]

1072
01:22:08,719 --> 01:22:10,927
Matthew Tejada: All right, thank you both.

1073
01:22:10,951 --> 01:22:14,459
I think we have quite a

few questions lined up.

1074
01:22:14,483 --> 01:22:17,600
I was looking through them, there's

some pretty good ones in there.

1075
01:22:17,600 --> 01:22:20,947
So I'm not sure if Christina

is gonna come back on

1076
01:22:20,971 --> 01:22:23,600
and help us go through

some questions.

1077
01:22:23,600 --> 01:22:25,840

Christina Motilal: Yep, absolutely.

1078
01:22:25,840 --> 01:22:27,199
Okay.

1079
01:22:27,199 --> 01:22:31,920
The first question we have is
from an anonymous submitter

1080
01:22:31,920 --> 01:22:37,447
and they ask can you say more
about Safe Drinking Water Act orders?

1081
01:22:37,471 --> 01:22:39,920
How are actions initiated?

1082
01:22:39,920 --> 01:22:42,563
What actions do you
take against municipalities

1083
01:22:42,587 --> 01:22:48,239
that have inadequate lead

service line replacement plans?

1084
01:22:51,280 --> 01:22:54,480
Thanne Berge: You
may take that one, Amy?

1085
01:22:55,600 --> 01:22:58,000
Amy Miller: Okay.

1086
01:22:58,000 --> 01:23:03,830
So Safe Drinking Water
Act orders are issued typically

1087
01:23:03,854 --> 01:23:12,159
when they're there are non-compliances usually
when there are health-based exceedances,

1088
01:23:12,159 --> 01:23:17,360
we will issue an order, we have
several different types of orders.

1089
01:23:17,360 --> 01:23:26,560

When it does involve health-based violations
we do consider issuing emergency orders.

1090
01:23:26,560 --> 01:23:35,280
The specific question
regarding the lead pipes.

1091
01:23:35,280 --> 01:23:43,480
I will have to get back to you with
some more detailed information offline.

1092
01:23:50,320 --> 01:23:52,560
Christina Motilal: Okay, thank you.

1093
01:23:52,560 --> 01:23:56,239
The next question we
have is from Shannon.

1094
01:23:56,239 --> 01:23:59,296
She says "Thank you
for your commitment to EJ,

1095

01:23:59,320 --> 01:24:02,560

I left my last role in

state level compliance and enforcement

1096

01:24:02,560 --> 01:24:05,028

in part because of my department's

active refusal

1097

01:24:05,052 --> 01:24:10,239

to even discuss applications

of EJ to water pollution cases.

1098

01:24:10,239 --> 01:24:14,480

How do you plan to work with state

agencies to improve integration of EJ

1099

01:24:14,480 --> 01:24:18,239

into everyday work on the ground?"

1100

01:24:18,960 --> 01:24:20,639

Amy Miller: I'll take that, Thanne.

1101

01:24:20,639 --> 01:24:27,468

So as a Regional Enforcement

Director this is near and dear to my heart

1102

01:24:27,492 --> 01:24:31,388

and is something I've been

working on with my states

1103

01:24:31,412 --> 01:24:33,920

here in the Pacific southwest.

1104

01:24:33,920 --> 01:24:39,942

For instance, we have entered

into a memorandum of understanding

1105

01:24:39,966 --> 01:24:45,679

with CalEPA in California

to coordinate our efforts.

1106

01:24:45,679 --> 01:24:51,520

Also working with other states to see

how we can work closely together.

1107

01:24:52,400 --> 01:25:00,320

Our enforcement programs work closely with

states and tribes and territorial governments

1108

01:25:00,320 --> 01:25:07,207

and so this is definitely a topic that we

have been engaging with our states on

1109

01:25:07,231 --> 01:25:14,639

and look forward to working with them

collaboratively, thank you for your question.

1110

01:25:18,960 --> 01:25:21,679

Christina Motilal: Great, thank you so much.

1111

01:25:21,679 --> 01:25:25,231

And then I know we need to save

some time for folks on the phone.

1112

01:25:25,255 --> 01:25:28,827

So Victoria, I'll let you make

the call after I read this one.

1113
01:25:28,851 --> 01:25:32,320
The next question we have is,

1114
01:25:32,320 --> 01:25:36,960
will OECA increase non-technical
common language so that our communities

1115
01:25:36,960 --> 01:25:41,840
don't have to apply for technical
assistance grants?

1116
01:25:44,639 --> 01:25:47,040
Thanne Berg: Could you repeat
that one more time, Christina?

1117
01:25:47,040 --> 01:25:48,960
Christina Motilal: Sure, no problem.

1118
01:25:48,960 --> 01:25:54,957
Yvette asks, will OECA increase
non-technical common language

1119

01:25:54,981 --> 01:26:01,920

so that our communities don't have

to apply for technical assistance grants?

1120

01:26:02,159 --> 01:26:05,849

Thanne Berg: So unfortunately, I'm not

entirely sure I understand the question.

1121

01:26:05,873 --> 01:26:09,638

Amy, please interrupt me

if you have a better sense.

1122

01:26:09,662 --> 01:26:14,320

So I know that there are technical

assistance grants through the cleanup program

1123

01:26:14,320 --> 01:26:18,480

but not through other parts of the

civil enforcement program,

1124

01:26:18,480 --> 01:26:22,348

so I don't have enough information

right now to give you an answer

1125
01:26:22,372 --> 01:26:25,367
on the the TAG grants,
technical assistance grants

1126
01:26:25,391 --> 01:26:29,440
and we have to get back
to you on that question.

1127
01:26:29,440 --> 01:26:31,600
Matthew Tejada: Yeah
but I think just to add to that--

1128
01:26:31,600 --> 01:26:35,447
that is something that OECA
has looked at in the past

1129
01:26:35,471 --> 01:26:39,428
in terms of trying to make
the results of enforcement,

1130
01:26:39,452 --> 01:26:44,560
particularly if enforcement
results in additional monitoring

1131
01:26:44,560 --> 01:26:47,948
at the community level or
within and around facilities

1132
01:26:47,972 --> 01:26:54,560
to try to make that that monitoring data
meaningful and tangible and transparent

1133
01:26:54,560 --> 01:26:58,880
to communities and it is something that
is pointed at

1134
01:26:58,880 --> 01:27:03,880
in the memoranda that were
signed out on environmental justice

1135
01:27:03,904 --> 01:27:08,148
from the Office of Enforcement and

Compliance Assurance over the summer,

1136
01:27:08,172 --> 01:27:12,239
it's always a process
but there is a clear commitment.

1137
01:27:12,239 --> 01:27:17,840
From within OECA as leadership
and just more broadly across EPA

1138
01:27:17,840 --> 01:27:23,679
to really get the bureaucracy to stop speaking
like a bureaucracy and to actually talk

1139
01:27:23,679 --> 01:27:29,040
human language to the other humans
that need to get that information from us.

1140
01:27:29,040 --> 01:27:35,760
And I think I can speak for the folks in
OECA as well as anywhere else in EPA,

1141

01:27:35,760 --> 01:27:42,652

if there are instances where we fail to do

so or any other constructive criticism for us

1142

01:27:42,676 --> 01:27:49,967

to help us be better at using language that is

meaningful especially to impacted communities

1143

01:27:49,991 --> 01:27:54,608

or to limited English proficiency

communities, we are always open to that,

1144

01:27:54,632 --> 01:27:57,600

we're always looking

to improve on that.

1145

01:27:57,600 --> 01:28:01,782

Thanne Berg: Absolutely

agree, I thank you for helping me

1146

01:28:01,806 --> 01:28:03,448

understand that question better.

1147

01:28:03,472 --> 01:28:08,065

Yes, absolutely we want to make the

information accessible to the general public

1148

01:28:08,089 --> 01:28:11,423

and sometimes we do go

into our acronym lingo

1149

01:28:11,447 --> 01:28:15,808

and want to make sure that when we're giving

you data, we want to make it accessible

1150

01:28:16,480 --> 01:28:20,400

to the community that's very important.

1151

01:28:24,400 --> 01:28:26,239

Victoria Robinson: Wonderful,

thank you very much.

1152

01:28:26,239 --> 01:28:31,043

It's now 3:29 and Matthew I suggest that

what we're going to do is

1153

01:28:31,067 --> 01:28:33,147

now go into the listening

session and dialogue.

1154

01:28:33,171 --> 01:28:38,188

This is an opportunity for people to

pose questions about both the EJSCREEN

1155

01:28:38,212 --> 01:28:44,047

and the OECA EJ action plan

presentations that you just saw

1156

01:28:44,071 --> 01:28:46,988

as well as ask any broader

questions that you may have.

1157

01:28:47,012 --> 01:28:53,910

How this will work is that we will do a

combination of reading some questions out

1158

01:28:53,934 --> 01:28:56,068

from the the Q&A pod

that have been posted

1159
01:28:56,092 --> 01:29:00,578
but this is also an opportunity

for you to raise your hands, virtually

1160
01:29:00,602 --> 01:29:02,601
so that we can call on you.

1161
01:29:02,625 --> 01:29:10,095
So those of you are on a Zoom app,

whether on your phone or on your computer

1162
01:29:10,119 --> 01:29:14,000
you can click and

raise your hand virtually.

1163
01:29:14,000 --> 01:29:19,767
And if you are on your phone, you

can actually press *9 to raise your hands

1164

01:29:19,791 --> 01:29:22,808

that we know you

wanna ask a question.

1165

01:29:22,832 --> 01:29:27,008

So we recommend continue writing any

comments or questions into the Q&A pod

1166

01:29:27,032 --> 01:29:28,728

and when we do call

you when we're prompted,

1167

01:29:28,752 --> 01:29:35,708

then we'll go ahead and answer calling

you to ask your question or make a comment.

1168

01:29:35,732 --> 01:29:39,415

And again, just a reminder if you can

please limit your questions or comments

1169

01:29:39,439 --> 01:29:40,767

to about a minute or so.

1170

01:29:40,791 --> 01:29:43,850

So I'm going to go ahead and start

with the first two persons

1171

01:29:43,874 --> 01:29:46,400

who raised their hands

1172

01:29:46,400 --> 01:29:49,648

and then that will give Christina

some time to line up which questions

1173

01:29:49,672 --> 01:29:51,649

she want to read out loud.

1174

01:29:51,673 --> 01:29:59,760

So the first person is going to be Yvette

Arellano and I sorry if I mangled your name.

1175

01:29:59,760 --> 01:30:04,708

If you want to go ahead and unmute

yourself to ask your question, Yvette.

1176

01:30:04,732 --> 01:30:06,150

Yvette Arellano: Thank you so much, ma'am.

1177

01:30:06,174 --> 01:30:09,908

I really appreciate the organization

of this meeting and the agenda,

1178

01:30:09,932 --> 01:30:11,280

thank you so much.

1179

01:30:11,280 --> 01:30:13,840

And I know good job--

1180

01:30:13,840 --> 01:30:15,440

Matthew Tejada: Hey, are we getting better even?

1181

01:30:15,440 --> 01:30:18,960

Okay, good.

1182

01:30:18,960 --> 01:30:21,679

Yvette Arellano: I'd like to make a suggestion and just

1183

01:30:21,679 --> 01:30:29,679

ask that EJSCREEN please, please, please

reconnect the TRI facility report link

1184

01:30:29,679 --> 01:30:36,400

to the EJSCREEN in the air

pollution and toxic release dot map,

1185

01:30:36,400 --> 01:30:41,679

and I'm specifically talking about the

pop-up window that labels registry ID,

1186

01:30:41,679 --> 01:30:46,639

address for facilities-- it

used to have the TRI facility.

1187

01:30:46,639 --> 01:30:48,908

So if you could please

consider adding that back.

1188

01:30:48,932 --> 01:30:50,719

That was my comment, thank you.

1189

01:30:50,719 --> 01:30:57,199

Tai is that one of the ties that we just

hadn't tied back in order to release last Friday?

1190

01:30:57,199 --> 01:31:01,280

Tai Lung: No, we'd still include the

RSEI's data and the tool

1191

01:31:01,280 --> 01:31:03,988

in the same way that

we've always included it.

1192

01:31:04,012 --> 01:31:10,320

I'm not 100 sure what you're referring to

because I believe, as we've always done,

1193

01:31:10,320 --> 01:31:15,360

you should be able to click on the

facilities and get more information,

1194

01:31:15,360 --> 01:31:18,080

maybe that's not working,

let me double check that.

1195

01:31:19,199 --> 01:31:21,500

Matthew Tejada: Did you understand

what she's asking for though Tai,

1196

01:31:21,524 --> 01:31:23,520

so we can try to figure it out?

1197

01:31:23,520 --> 01:31:26,911

Tai Lung: I think I did but if you

don't mind to send an email over

1198

01:31:26,935 --> 01:31:31,047

then I can double check to make sure that all

the same recent functionalities are available.

1199

01:31:31,071 --> 01:31:35,440

I believe though all of the same RSEI

functionality should still be available

1200

01:31:35,440 --> 01:31:38,560

because we're still putting it in the

same way that we always have.

1201

01:31:38,560 --> 01:31:42,948

Yvette Arellano: Yeah, well thank you

so much and it's in the generate report tab,

1202

01:31:42,972 --> 01:31:47,997

it was actually a link that used

to be included at the facility URL link

1203

01:31:48,021 --> 01:31:51,108

and now it's shooting us to somewhere else.

1204

01:31:51,132 --> 01:31:53,668

So we're trying to update

our information too.

1205

01:31:53,692 --> 01:31:55,908

So yeah I'll shoot you an email,

thank you so much.

1206

01:31:55,932 --> 01:31:56,960

Matthew Tejada: Yeah thanks for that,

1207

01:31:56,960 --> 01:32:02,719

yeah we don't want-- we want everything to
get better with this version of EJSCREEN,

1208

01:32:02,719 --> 01:32:05,468

not for something that
people found useful to go away.

1209

01:32:05,492 --> 01:32:08,800

So if anybody, Yvette
or anybody else

1210

01:32:08,800 --> 01:32:12,960

thinks that they can't find something or
something got worse for you,

1211

01:32:12,960 --> 01:32:16,108

please, please, please that is why we have

so many different ways for you all

1212
01:32:16,132 --> 01:32:18,788
to get in touch with us
as we want that feedback,

1213
01:32:18,812 --> 01:32:24,239
we want to make sure the tool works
the way that people need it to work.

1214
01:32:24,800 --> 01:32:26,400
Victoria Robinson: Thank you very much, Yvette.

1215
01:32:26,400 --> 01:32:30,308
Okay, Shelly Fudge
has her hand raised

1216
01:32:30,332 --> 01:32:36,639
and Shelly if you want to
unmute yourself that'd be great.

1217
01:32:36,800 --> 01:32:38,719

Shelly Fudge: Can you hear me?

1218
01:32:38,719 --> 01:32:40,927
Victoria Robinson: Yes
indeed, welcome Shelly.

1219
01:32:40,951 --> 01:32:42,880
Shelly Fudge: Hi everybody.

1220
01:32:42,880 --> 01:32:48,948
I have a question actually about RSEI as
opposed to I think the last caller was asking

1221
01:32:48,972 --> 01:32:54,000
specifically about the
access to specific TRI data.

1222
01:32:54,000 --> 01:32:58,639
so I'm asking about the risk screening
environmental indicators, RSEI tool

1223
01:32:58,639 --> 01:33:05,679

and wondering why it has not been

added to the EJ indices in version 2.0.

1224
01:33:05,679 --> 01:33:13,308
It's buried as it was previously now under
places and then other environmental data,

1225
01:33:13,332 --> 01:33:19,360
and the way it's displayed is still very
confusing and difficult to understand.

1226
01:33:19,360 --> 01:33:24,006
Will you consider adding it to the EJ
indices in the next version

1227
01:33:24,030 --> 01:33:28,080
or at least make it easier
to use and understand,

1228
01:33:28,080 --> 01:33:35,120
such as focusing specifically on RSEI score
which is of course what the risk

1229

01:33:35,120 --> 01:33:38,047

screening environmental

indicator stands for

1230

01:33:38,071 --> 01:33:42,639

rather than various ways to look

at the RSEI data,

1231

01:33:42,639 --> 01:33:47,148

because it just makes it very

confusing as I said

1232

01:33:47,172 --> 01:33:49,440

and not very useful.

1233

01:33:50,480 --> 01:33:56,000

Tai Lung: Hi Shelly, and I'm sure you know

the RSEI's data way better than we do,

1234

01:33:57,120 --> 01:34:06,320

I will say with the RSEI scores we

have been talking with the TRI program

1235

01:34:06,320 --> 01:34:10,800

about how we can better

incorporate that risky data into the tool.

1236

01:34:10,800 --> 01:34:15,280

We pretty much rely on the

programs to tell us how to do it.

1237

01:34:15,280 --> 01:34:19,648

So with that TRI data we've been working

to see if there's a better way

1238

01:34:19,672 --> 01:34:23,391

that we can incorporate the

RSEI data into it into EJSCREEN

1239

01:34:23,415 --> 01:34:26,388

and if that means taking

out the pounds and the hazard score

1240

01:34:26,412 --> 01:34:30,954

and just only having the single VC

score, we would be happy to do that

1241
01:34:30,978 --> 01:34:32,808

but that's going to come

from the TRI program,

1242
01:34:32,832 --> 01:34:40,159

not that decision that the tool makes itself

because we always rely on those programs.

1243
01:34:40,159 --> 01:34:45,760

That said the with the RSEI

score as an environmental indicator,

1244
01:34:45,760 --> 01:34:51,727

one of the reasons why we

haven't incorporated that is because

1245
01:34:51,751 --> 01:34:55,679

the RSEI data would overlap with

a lot of our other air data.

1246

01:34:55,679 --> 01:35:04,639

As you know, the RSEI is a smaller subset

of some of the different air toxics data

1247

01:35:04,639 --> 01:35:12,080

and so we're not-- if we include both of

them it would be in some ways double counting.

1248

01:35:13,360 --> 01:35:16,247

So that's what we've done in the past,

1249

01:35:16,271 --> 01:35:21,074

we've had some conversations at

the agency level of could we include this

1250

01:35:21,098 --> 01:35:25,415

and how should we include it but

we haven't really come to a decision

1251

01:35:25,439 --> 01:35:27,794

that it would be more meaningful.

1252

01:35:27,818 --> 01:35:34,348

Everyone has thus far said that in many ways

the the air data that we currently use is better

1253

01:35:34,372 --> 01:35:43,119

because it includes mobile source pollution as

well as just that smaller subset of facilities.

1254

01:35:43,119 --> 01:35:46,000

Shelly Fudge: Well, thanks and I'll certainly be

1255

01:35:46,000 --> 01:35:51,068

talking to some more of the TRI folks

and look forward to hearing more about this.

1256

01:35:51,092 --> 01:35:52,320

Thank you.

1257

01:35:52,320 --> 01:35:54,648

Tai Lung: Thanks Shelly,

nice to hear from you.

1258

01:35:55,440 --> 01:36:01,440

Victoria Robinson: All right, the

next person we have is Kimberly Terrell,

1259

01:36:01,440 --> 01:36:06,320

and if you go ahead

Kimberly to unmute.

1260

01:36:06,880 --> 01:36:08,296

Kimberly Terrell: Hi, thanks so much.

1261

01:36:08,320 --> 01:36:11,679

It's really exciting

to see all the new updates.

1262

01:36:11,679 --> 01:36:18,560

I understand that EPA needs to be careful

and talk about the limitations of EJSCREEN

1263

01:36:18,560 --> 01:36:23,611

but I wonder if you all might consider kind of

revisiting the specific language that you use.

1264

01:36:23,635 --> 01:36:27,288

So for example when EPA

says that EJSCREEN shouldn't be used

1265

01:36:27,312 --> 01:36:31,040

to identify an environmental

justice community,

1266

01:36:31,040 --> 01:36:34,522

I've seen agencies

kind of use that

1267

01:36:34,546 --> 01:36:41,280

as a way to kind of just dismiss

the entire EJSCREEN data set.

1268

01:36:41,280 --> 01:36:47,217

And then it would also be super helpful

if there was one technical document

1269

01:36:47,241 --> 01:36:51,109

for each EJSCREEN update because

there's been a ton of confusion.

1270
01:36:51,133 --> 01:36:54,557
I think there was like a
2011 technical document

1271
01:36:54,581 --> 01:36:58,529
that was associated with a couple
different versions of EJSCREEN

1272
01:36:58,553 --> 01:37:03,828
so it gets a little bit confusing trying
to link specific EJSCREEN reports

1273
01:37:03,852 --> 01:37:06,880
to supporting technical information.

1274
01:37:06,880 --> 01:37:08,639
Thanks.

1275
01:37:08,639 --> 01:37:09,760

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Kim.

1276
01:37:09,760 --> 01:37:11,588
And I think you had a
couple other questions in chat

1277
01:37:11,612 --> 01:37:15,119
that I think we're going to
try to get answers to in chat.

1278
01:37:15,119 --> 01:37:20,239
Christina Motilal: Yeah, I can
just go ahead and read one of Kim's--

1279
01:37:20,239 --> 01:37:22,288
Matthew Tejada: Let's handle
those two first if we could, Christina

1280
01:37:22,312 --> 01:37:26,772
and then maybe do the two from
the chat because that's like four now

1281

01:37:26,796 --> 01:37:29,360

but they're all good questions.

1282

01:37:29,360 --> 01:37:33,040

Tai did you want to

address the technical doc?

1283

01:37:33,040 --> 01:37:36,159

Tai Lung: Yes, so with

the technical documentation

1284

01:37:36,159 --> 01:37:42,525

we keep the most up-to-date technical

documentation on the website at all times.

1285

01:37:42,549 --> 01:37:46,487

Right now, I think our

contractor is a little behind,

1286

01:37:46,511 --> 01:37:52,178

we should have our technical documentation

updated in the next couple of days

1287

01:37:52,202 --> 01:37:55,760

but it is still the old

technical documentation.

1288

01:37:56,560 --> 01:37:59,920

One of the things that

we were also thinking to do

1289

01:37:59,920 --> 01:38:04,000

and we didn't do it at this update but

we're going to do it at the next update,

1290

01:38:04,000 --> 01:38:10,067

is to create a change log so that moving

forward you'll be able to see in 2020

1291

01:38:10,091 --> 01:38:15,859

we added this new indicator

and then in 2019 we took this out

1292

01:38:15,883 --> 01:38:19,568

so that you can kind of see how

things have changed over time.

1293
01:38:19,592 --> 01:38:25,360
So that change log is going to
help address that as well, Kimberly.

1294
01:38:27,119 --> 01:38:31,186
Matthew Tejada: This is the first time we've done
an update where we've been able to pay people

1295
01:38:31,210 --> 01:38:36,639
to do those things, it's basically
been us or Tai for the most part

1296
01:38:36,639 --> 01:38:41,440
stealing time from other folks that
could help us with those things

1297
01:38:41,440 --> 01:38:43,727
for the entire history of EJSCREEN.

1298
01:38:43,751 --> 01:38:46,208

So now that we finally
have a little bit of resources,

1299
01:38:46,232 --> 01:38:49,679
we're going to be able to do
some of those more professional--

1300
01:38:49,679 --> 01:38:52,617
what you would expect from a tool as
widely used as EJSCREEN.

1301
01:38:52,641 --> 01:38:55,360
It's finally
getting the level of support I think--

1302
01:38:56,400 --> 01:38:59,600
Well, let me say this, it's not getting
nearly the level of support it deserves

1303
01:38:59,600 --> 01:39:03,920
but it's finally getting a level of
support that allows us to do some stuff.

1304
01:39:03,920 --> 01:39:06,080
And then on the first question, Kim

1305
01:39:06,080 --> 01:39:13,280
I would really say that that issue
cuts many ways more than just two.

1306
01:39:14,400 --> 01:39:18,239
I think if a state or some
other actor out there is saying

1307
01:39:18,239 --> 01:39:23,560
"Well, EJSCREEN doesn't define an EJ
community, therefore this is all illegitimate."

1308
01:39:23,584 --> 01:39:28,320
I think the problem is beyond
what EJSCREEN can do.

1309
01:39:28,320 --> 01:39:34,257
And I would say that the the bigger danger
there is if we did turn EJSCREEN into a tool

1310
01:39:34,281 --> 01:39:39,087
that drew borders around certain

communities that would make it even harder

1311
01:39:39,111 --> 01:39:45,207
in many instances to get a state or a local

government or whoever business and industry

1312
01:39:45,231 --> 01:39:49,199
to actually respond to a place

that maybe for whatever reason of data

1313
01:39:49,199 --> 01:39:51,840
wasn't included on that map.

1314
01:39:51,840 --> 01:39:55,814
There is real upside and downside to

drawing a map of places

1315
01:39:55,838 --> 01:40:02,320
as we're all kind of watching in real

time as we work to make Justice40 a reality.

1316
01:40:02,320 --> 01:40:06,960
It is pretty challenging and
and for purposes of EJSCREEN

1317
01:40:08,560 --> 01:40:12,634
I don't think we'll ever have EJSCREEN
produce a map of EJ communities

1318
01:40:12,658 --> 01:40:13,532
around the United States.

1319
01:40:13,556 --> 01:40:18,288
I don't think there is such thing as a map
of EJ communities around the United States.

1320
01:40:18,312 --> 01:40:20,622
It is there is so much
subjectivity in there,

1321
01:40:20,646 --> 01:40:24,827

there is so much right of the

community to determine what it is

1322
01:40:24,851 --> 01:40:30,800
and how it is labeled that is far beyond the

capability of the government to produce a tool

1323
01:40:30,800 --> 01:40:33,121
but I hear you on that.

1324
01:40:33,145 --> 01:40:40,159
I just think that doing something like that

with EJSCREEN to solve that sort of an issue

1325
01:40:40,159 --> 01:40:43,840
is not the best way to attack that.

1326
01:40:43,840 --> 01:40:46,402
Kimberly Terrel: Well and

just quickly I'll say for example,

1327
01:40:46,426 --> 01:40:50,528

you could say that EJSCREEN

shouldn't be used as the sole basis

1328

01:40:50,552 --> 01:40:57,840

for identifying EJ community as opposed to it

shouldn't be used for identifying EJ communities.

1329

01:40:57,840 --> 01:40:59,328

Matthew Tejada: And

we are, thank you for that.

1330

01:40:59,352 --> 01:41:02,494

We have been working on some

better language to that point, Kim

1331

01:41:02,518 --> 01:41:05,383

and we're we're actually, I'm

not sure where that language is

1332

01:41:05,407 --> 01:41:11,520

we're kind of using a much clearer,

stronger such statement inside of the agency

1333

01:41:11,520 --> 01:41:16,560

and again as we evolve EJSCREEN

with a lot more support

1334

01:41:16,560 --> 01:41:21,780

I think we're on the cusp of being able to

make those sorts of very clear statements

1335

01:41:21,804 --> 01:41:27,440

as a defining characteristic

of EJSCREEN in public.

1336

01:41:27,440 --> 01:41:29,920

So yeah on that point absolutely.

1337

01:41:29,920 --> 01:41:31,087

Kimberly Terrel: Thanks, Matthew.

1338

01:41:31,111 --> 01:41:31,920

Victoria Robinson: Yeah, thank you Matthew.

1339

01:41:31,920 --> 01:41:33,056

Thank you, Kimberly.

1340

01:41:33,080 --> 01:41:35,768

Christina we have one more

hand raised we'll go ahead

1341

01:41:35,792 --> 01:41:39,040

and I'll have Brandy

ask her question

1342

01:41:39,040 --> 01:41:44,647

and then we can go back to reading any questions

that you have identified in the Q&A pod

1343

01:41:44,671 --> 01:41:45,199

Okay?

1344

01:41:45,199 --> 01:41:46,181

Christina Motilal: Okay.

1345

01:41:46,205 --> 01:41:47,600

Victoria Robinson: Yeah, there she is.

1346
01:41:47,600 --> 01:41:55,600
All right, Brandy I'm going to ask
you to unmute yourself, thank you.

1347
01:41:55,600 --> 01:41:56,719
Brandy: Hello.

1348
01:41:56,719 --> 01:42:04,560
Thank you all for taking your time to give
us all the information on the new EJ tool.

1349
01:42:04,560 --> 01:42:12,239
I like that it's been updated and is most
of the EJ tool really revolving on the TRI?

1350
01:42:12,239 --> 01:42:13,360
Matthew Tejada: No.

1351
01:42:13,360 --> 01:42:14,508
Brandy: No?

1352

01:42:14,532 --> 01:42:20,719

Matthew Tejada: TRI is one small data set

within many many data sets in the tool.

1353

01:42:20,719 --> 01:42:21,520

Brandy: Okay.

1354

01:42:21,520 --> 01:42:26,828

If a polluter like-- we have a polluter called

Graphic Packaging, Matthew knows all about them.

1355

01:42:26,852 --> 01:42:30,628

They're like a paper mill

that's located like right next door

1356

01:42:30,652 --> 01:42:37,234

to our fenceline community and they have

not been reporting accurately on the TRI

1357

01:42:37,258 --> 01:42:39,388

since about 2014, I think.

1358

01:42:39,412 --> 01:42:42,808

They've only been saying they

release four pounds of lead

1359

01:42:42,832 --> 01:42:48,560

and they release like 800 000 tons of

all different toxic gases and chemicals.

1360

01:42:48,560 --> 01:42:58,239

So if companies aren't like reporting properly

to the TRI, won't that affect the EJ tool?

1361

01:42:58,239 --> 01:43:04,428

Matthew Tejada: That's part of the reason

why we don't rely on TRI in that way.

1362

01:43:06,480 --> 01:43:16,428

The air toxic data that we have in EJ screen

is the richest, densest most covering data set

1363

01:43:16,452 --> 01:43:20,267

that is available to us at EPA

or anywhere in the United States

1364
01:43:20,291 --> 01:43:24,468
and that's why like when you
look in the tool, it's 2017 data

1365
01:43:24,492 --> 01:43:28,948
because there is so many different
data streams that get pulled together

1366
01:43:28,972 --> 01:43:30,151
for that one analysis.

1367
01:43:30,175 --> 01:43:35,327
It takes years to fuse-- it's called a-- few
that the scientists always say is a fusion

1368
01:43:35,351 --> 01:43:39,679
because it's all of the model
data, it's all of the monitoring data,

1369

01:43:39,679 --> 01:43:44,247

it's air emissions report data that
isn't necessarily TRI stuff,

1370
01:43:44,271 --> 01:43:45,908

that just comes from straight--

1371
01:43:45,932 --> 01:43:50,613

they pull in everything they can
into that one air toxics data set,

1372
01:43:50,637 --> 01:43:55,401

it's still not perfect right
yeah it's far from perfect

1373
01:43:55,425 --> 01:44:02,037

but it is by far, we think, the best
most insightful national scope

1374
01:44:02,061 --> 01:44:05,760

of being able to show what is
actually happening on the ground.

1375

01:44:05,760 --> 01:44:11,040

There's a lot of people out

there looking at RSEI, looking at TRI.

1376

01:44:12,000 --> 01:44:15,168

We've made choices about

which we use and highlight

1377

01:44:15,192 --> 01:44:19,348

and we've always felt that what

we use in terms of AirToxScreen

1378

01:44:19,372 --> 01:44:22,880

that used to be the national

air toxics assessment,

1379

01:44:22,880 --> 01:44:27,189

for looking across the entire United

States, is the most complete data

1380

01:44:27,213 --> 01:44:29,888

that serves the

purpose of EJSCREEN.

1381
01:44:29,912 --> 01:44:32,208
But we still make that
other data available.

1382
01:44:32,232 --> 01:44:36,808
As Shelly said-- in Shelly's opinion, we're
hiding it, we're not hiding it on purpose

1383
01:44:36,832 --> 01:44:40,480
but we can we'll work to try to
make sure that it is more easily found

1384
01:44:40,480 --> 01:44:42,423
or a bigger part of
the tool potentially.

1385
01:44:42,447 --> 01:44:46,855
We'll take a look at that but we're
as in everything else on EJSCREEN,

1386

01:44:46,879 --> 01:44:50,800

we're limited by the data

that we have available to us.

1387

01:44:50,800 --> 01:44:53,533

Brandy: The climate justice

tool that just came on Friday,

1388

01:44:53,557 --> 01:44:57,679

they point out every disadvantaged

community in every state

1389

01:44:57,679 --> 01:45:00,568

as long as you put like each

city and then it says like

1390

01:45:00,592 --> 01:45:03,243

"This is a disadvantaged

community and this is the health risks"

1391

01:45:03,267 --> 01:45:06,943

and so I kind of like that climate justice

tool, the White House released as well,

1392
01:45:06,967 --> 01:45:09,300
it's kind of similar to this one.

1393
01:45:09,324 --> 01:45:13,287
Matthew Tejada: It is and they're
using a lot of EJSCREEN data in it,

1394
01:45:13,311 --> 01:45:15,280
they've pulled in a lot of other data

1395
01:45:15,280 --> 01:45:19,214
but again they were given
a very clear policy question.

1396
01:45:19,238 --> 01:45:24,039
They were told identify disadvantaged
communities for purpose of Justice40,

1397
01:45:24,063 --> 01:45:25,826
So that is what that tool does.

1398

01:45:25,850 --> 01:45:28,828

We've never been given

that sort of a charge with EJSCREEN.

1399

01:45:28,852 --> 01:45:33,689

EJSCREEN was always supposed

to be a really flexible broad tool

1400

01:45:33,713 --> 01:45:40,080

for a lot of different purposes and

they're very different in that regard.

1401

01:45:40,080 --> 01:45:42,769

Brandy: And then I just had

another question about Justice40.

1402

01:45:42,793 --> 01:45:48,823

I was wondering like is Justice40 going

to be-- well is or in this EJ tool together,

1403

01:45:48,847 --> 01:45:53,908

is this going to allow for any relocation?

1404
01:45:53,932 --> 01:45:57,128
I know that you can get
relocation under Superfund

1405
01:45:57,152 --> 01:46:01,520
and our neighborhood
is part of a Superfund,

1406
01:46:01,520 --> 01:46:07,468
part of the plume of a Superfund site
over there and will help this relocation

1407
01:46:07,492 --> 01:46:11,108
because how are you going to really
clean up like all this contamination

1408
01:46:11,132 --> 01:46:13,440
if everybody's like
living around it?

1409
01:46:13,440 --> 01:46:18,080

Matthew Tejada: So Justice40

isn't any new money and it's not--

1410
01:46:18,080 --> 01:46:23,108
a presidential executive order isn't
going to supersede what is in statute

1411
01:46:23,132 --> 01:46:24,551
in something like CERCLA.

1412
01:46:24,575 --> 01:46:33,440
And CERCLA, if I'm not mistaken, I
think it's the only statute we have at EPA

1413
01:46:33,440 --> 01:46:40,628
that allows for an emergency move of a
community for substantial endangerment

1414
01:46:40,652 --> 01:46:44,548
and maybe Amy's on, Amy feel free
to correct me if I'm getting that wrong,

1415

she would probably know better,

1416
01:46:45,616 --> 01:46:48,239
but I think CERCLA is the
only one where we can actually pop up

1417
01:46:48,239 --> 01:46:51,920
and say "This is so dangerous, we're
going to move these people immediately."

1418
01:46:51,920 --> 01:46:58,576
And Justice40 isn't really a policy that's going
to alter our ability to do those sorts of things.

1419
01:46:58,600 --> 01:47:04,480
Justice40 is really looking at--
I mean Superfund is already--

1420
01:47:04,480 --> 01:47:10,428
the Superfund program is going to
have no problem hitting the 40% mandate.

1421
01:47:10,452 --> 01:47:13,808
Brandy: Yeah, I'm just trying to figure
out what it's going to be used for exactly.

1422
01:47:13,832 --> 01:47:16,880
How are they going to--

1423
01:47:16,880 --> 01:47:19,347
What is it going to do
to help the communities

1424
01:47:19,371 --> 01:47:22,560
because honestly, everybody's
getting poisoned so bad

1425
01:47:22,560 --> 01:47:25,776
there's like 14, 50 death gaps in
these fence line communities.

1426
01:47:25,800 --> 01:47:30,316
I'm trying to figure out that where's
the help going to come from

1427

01:47:30,340 --> 01:47:32,529

to help the people that are suffering.

1428

01:47:32,553 --> 01:47:34,320

Matthew Tejada: So here's an example.

1429

01:47:34,320 --> 01:47:37,840

I'm going to use-- no, no

this is no because

1430

01:47:37,840 --> 01:47:41,555

I cannot tell how confusing

Justice40 is to folks.

1431

01:47:42,239 --> 01:47:47,410

You can say it in a dozen words and

there are three hugely confusing pieces

1432

01:47:47,434 --> 01:47:49,448

just in those dozen words.

1433

01:47:49,472 --> 01:47:56,087

So I'll give you an example that isn't like

a CERCLA Superfund emergency removal action.

1434

01:47:56,111 --> 01:47:58,719

Look at our Diesel

Emission Reduction program.

1435

01:47:58,719 --> 01:48:03,040

We have for years one of the most

popular programs at EPA,

1436

01:48:03,040 --> 01:48:07,128

is EPA gets a big pot of money every

year from congress to go out

1437

01:48:07,152 --> 01:48:13,040

and retrofit or replace the biggest, dirtiest

diesel engines across the United States

1438

01:48:13,040 --> 01:48:17,280

because diesel engines

can run for a billion years

1439
01:48:17,280 --> 01:48:20,665
and unless you actually pay
to replace them or retrofit them,

1440
01:48:20,689 --> 01:48:23,031
they're going to
be just as dirty today

1441
01:48:23,055 --> 01:48:26,719
as they were when
they came off the line in 1985.

1442
01:48:26,719 --> 01:48:31,408
So we go out and we pay to remove
or replace the particulate matter

1443
01:48:31,432 --> 01:48:33,428
that's coming out of those diesel engines.

1444
01:48:33,452 --> 01:48:36,747

What Justice40 is going
to do and is already doing--

1445
01:48:36,771 --> 01:48:42,159
are our colleagues over in the
Office of Transportation Air Quality

1446
01:48:42,159 --> 01:48:45,828
that runs that DERA Diesel Emission
Reduction Act program,

1447
01:48:45,852 --> 01:48:49,679
what they are already doing
is looking inside of that grant,

1448
01:48:49,679 --> 01:48:52,639
looking inside of the
requirements of that grant,

1449
01:48:52,639 --> 01:48:57,679
looking at what sort of qualifications
or directions they can put in there

1450

01:48:57,679 --> 01:49:03,280

to make sure that more of that

money is very explicitly going

1451

01:49:03,280 --> 01:49:07,440

to the communities that have the

greatest diesel pollution burden in them,

1452

01:49:07,440 --> 01:49:13,436

trying to match up the resources of the

government with the places of greatest need.

1453

01:49:13,460 --> 01:49:18,135

And now we have this tool, the

Climate Economic Justice Screening Tool

1454

01:49:18,159 --> 01:49:22,320

that was released by the CEQ

by the White House on Friday

1455

01:49:22,320 --> 01:49:28,368

and so six months from now, a year from now

as our colleagues that run that DERA program,

1456
01:49:28,392 --> 01:49:32,508
as they're giving out grants, they're
going to be able to look at the CEJST tool,

1457
01:49:32,532 --> 01:49:35,300
this map that they created and
they're going to be able to say

1458
01:49:35,324 --> 01:49:41,168
"Wow, only about 30% of our grants
went to the places in the CEJST tool"

1459
01:49:41,192 --> 01:49:44,080
and they'll be able to look at
EJSCREEN and we will say,

1460
01:49:44,080 --> 01:49:49,408
"Well, yeah but about 35%
of them went to the top 80th--

1461

01:49:49,432 --> 01:49:53,444

took places above the 80th percentile

for the diesel particulate matter score."

1462

01:49:53,468 --> 01:49:56,048

So you're going to have two

different ways to look at a tool.

1463

01:49:56,072 --> 01:50:00,719

One that's going to give you more

precise, more flexible information

1464

01:50:00,719 --> 01:50:02,929

but one that's just going to

give you a very clear answer

1465

01:50:02,953 --> 01:50:05,408

and with that sort of information we say

1466

01:50:05,432 --> 01:50:10,208

"Wow only 30% went into those communities,

we want to get up to 40% next year,"

1467

01:50:10,232 --> 01:50:16,590

Just like our colleagues in OECA, they're

already using EJSCREEN very aggressively

1468

01:50:16,614 --> 01:50:20,767

to start to say they want

to go from 40 to 50 to 55.

1469

01:50:20,791 --> 01:50:25,248

As soon as you start actually integrating

these sorts of maps into these programs,

1470

01:50:25,272 --> 01:50:29,314

you get some sort of a sense

of where you're having an impact,

1471

01:50:29,338 --> 01:50:32,000

where your activities

are touching ground

1472

01:50:32,000 --> 01:50:34,488

and then you can start

modifying things inside,

1473
01:50:34,512 --> 01:50:38,088
things that-- a lot of the
things that people are gonna--

1474
01:50:38,112 --> 01:50:40,428
the little knobs that they're
gonna turn inside these programs

1475
01:50:40,452 --> 01:50:42,547
you might never see from the outside.

1476
01:50:42,571 --> 01:50:47,867
It might be you might be adding two points
onto the scoring criteria for a grant

1477
01:50:47,891 --> 01:50:52,988
or it might be one direction in terms
of the engagement that a utility has

1478
01:50:53,012 --> 01:50:54,788

to have with their local community.

1479
01:50:54,812 --> 01:50:59,005
So we're going to be twisting all of
these knobs inside of the bureaucracy

1480
01:50:59,029 --> 01:51:01,613
to try to make that number go higher

1481
01:51:01,637 --> 01:51:05,447
in terms of where are the benefits
of these programs showing up.

1482
01:51:05,471 --> 01:51:08,227
That's going to happen with water
infrastructure, financing.

1483
01:51:08,251 --> 01:51:11,567
It's already happening with
Superfund, with Brownfields.

1484
01:51:11,591 --> 01:51:13,707

We're going to have some waste
grants coming out soon,

1485
01:51:13,731 --> 01:51:16,008
it's happening with
diesel emission reduction.

1486
01:51:16,032 --> 01:51:19,237
Those are kind of the
beginning ones for us at EPA,

1487
01:51:19,261 --> 01:51:22,080
those are our pilot programs for Justice40.

1488
01:51:22,080 --> 01:51:26,008
And as we learn more about how
to apply this tool now that it's out

1489
01:51:26,032 --> 01:51:30,748
and what sort of changes we have to
make inside of each one of those programs

1490

01:51:30,772 --> 01:51:35,748

to get closer to that 40% goal, then

we'll start adding other programs in,

1491

01:51:35,772 --> 01:51:38,743

a lot of programs that people

have probably never heard about.

1492

01:51:38,767 --> 01:51:41,628

I found a bunch of new programs

at EPA that I never heard of before

1493

01:51:41,652 --> 01:51:44,719

when we were doing

all this Justice40 stuff last year.

1494

01:51:44,719 --> 01:51:46,428

we're going to start adding those programs in

1495

01:51:46,452 --> 01:51:48,492

and they're going to have to

look at this new tool

1496
01:51:48,516 --> 01:51:52,627
and they're going to have to see how much
of their benefit is going to those places

1497
01:51:52,651 --> 01:51:55,373
and then they're going to
have to start react year over year,

1498
01:51:55,397 --> 01:51:57,228
changing how government happens--

1499
01:51:57,252 --> 01:51:59,679
It's not going to happen all in year one,

1500
01:51:59,679 --> 01:52:03,268
it's not going to be like you walk
out tomorrow and the world changes

1501
01:52:03,292 --> 01:52:08,800
but what Justice40 is trying to do is
to over the course of this administration

1502
01:52:08,800 --> 01:52:10,880
change the way that government operates.

1503
01:52:10,880 --> 01:52:15,963
So that the benefits of government
really go to the communities

1504
01:52:15,987 --> 01:52:21,148
that have the greatest need and that's
going to be a process that takes time

1505
01:52:21,172 --> 01:52:26,320
but at least the CEJST tool
now that it's out year over year,

1506
01:52:26,320 --> 01:52:32,515
we should be able to look at each of
these programs or each agency potentially

1507
01:52:32,539 --> 01:52:37,280
and see how how much better we do
year over year across the government.

1508

01:52:37,280 --> 01:52:41,360

Brandy: And you think this tool also

will help with enforcement?

1509

01:52:41,360 --> 01:52:46,185

Matthew Tejada: It's going to be, it's

another tool to look at for enforcement.

1510

01:52:46,209 --> 01:52:50,080

Enforcement is already deeply

ingrained with the EJSCREEN tool.

1511

01:52:50,080 --> 01:52:53,599

I mean they were one of

the first adopters of it at EPA,

1512

01:52:53,599 --> 01:52:58,080

they're using it very aggressively

in a very great way here.

1513

01:52:58,080 --> 01:53:00,437

The CEJST tool is going to

be another data point for them.

1514

01:53:00,461 --> 01:53:04,647

To look at what's in CEJST and compare it

to what we're already doing in EJSCREEN

1515

01:53:04,671 --> 01:53:07,107

and hey maybe there's

places that light up in CEJST

1516

01:53:07,131 --> 01:53:08,878

that we're not getting

to in the EJSCREEN tool.

1517

01:53:08,902 --> 01:53:12,287

That's going to be something for our enforcement

folks and something for us to look at

1518

01:53:12,311 --> 01:53:17,148

in looking at the EJSCREEN tool, that's part of

the benefit of having multiple tools out there.

1519
01:53:17,172 --> 01:53:19,965
There was a lot of consternation,

1520
01:53:19,989 --> 01:53:24,400
a lot of a lot of people really
puckered up for the last few months

1521
01:53:24,400 --> 01:53:26,661
because they were worried
that this would be confusion.

1522
01:53:26,685 --> 01:53:29,879
"Oh my gosh, there's two tools
and nobody's going to understand

1523
01:53:29,903 --> 01:53:34,320
and it's going to be chaos" and
we're like "No, this is going to be great."

1524
01:53:34,320 --> 01:53:36,000
There might be a moment or two

1525

01:53:36,000 --> 01:53:38,265

of "Well, what's this? What's

this? What's the difference?"

1526

01:53:38,289 --> 01:53:41,968

But we can explain that and once

there are multiple tools out there

1527

01:53:41,992 --> 01:53:45,268

then you really start to see

things, you start to see differences,

1528

01:53:45,292 --> 01:53:49,840

you start to ask better questions, you

start to see there are strengths in EJSCREEN,

1529

01:53:49,840 --> 01:53:52,788

you start to see their strengths in the

way they did it in the CEJST tool

1530

01:53:52,812 --> 01:53:54,960

and how can we learn

from those different things,

1531
01:53:54,960 --> 01:53:57,208
how can we use these
tools in different ways

1532
01:53:57,232 --> 01:54:02,000
and at the end of the day
how can we ask better questions

1533
01:54:02,000 --> 01:54:04,800
about how to advance equity and justice

1534
01:54:04,800 --> 01:54:08,301
because these tools are
illuminating the reality on the ground

1535
01:54:08,325 --> 01:54:12,560
much more, much better, much
more quickly, much more powerful.

1536
01:54:12,560 --> 01:54:14,948

Brandy: Thank you for
answering all those questions.

1537
01:54:14,972 --> 01:54:19,147
The main thing to me is like reducing
the health risks to the community.

1538
01:54:19,171 --> 01:54:20,400
So thank you.

1539
01:54:20,400 --> 01:54:22,639
Matthew Tejada: Absolutely, no thank you Brandy.

1540
01:54:22,639 --> 01:54:24,000
Victoria Robinson: Yes, thank you.

1541
01:54:24,000 --> 01:54:30,560
Matthew we have I think one or two questions
that Christina would like to have read--

1542
01:54:30,560 --> 01:54:33,119
to read from the Q&A pod.

1543

01:54:33,119 --> 01:54:36,388

Then we'll move on

to the end from there.

1544

01:54:36,412 --> 01:54:37,599

Thank you.

1545

01:54:37,599 --> 01:54:42,608

Christina Motilal: I'll do ask very quickly

since we are running up against time.

1546

01:54:42,632 --> 01:54:49,679

One of the questions is again from Kim

regarding a question for OECA

1547

01:54:49,679 --> 01:54:51,768

and then we do have

two additional questions

1548

01:54:51,792 --> 01:54:56,573

that I think are very relevant to the Justice40

conversation we were just having, Matt

1549
01:54:56,597 --> 01:55:00,128
so I do want to just
ask very quickly if we can either--

1550
01:55:00,152 --> 01:55:04,354
would you prefer we stay on
the Justice40 thread for right now

1551
01:55:04,378 --> 01:55:06,348
and see if our OECA of folks can--

1552
01:55:06,372 --> 01:55:10,166
or do we want to go to OECA, I just
want to see what works best for everyone

1553
01:55:10,190 --> 01:55:12,888
but I do want to make sure that
Kim's question gets answered

1554
01:55:12,912 --> 01:55:15,167

and the two Justice40 questions as well.

1555
01:55:15,191 --> 01:55:17,248
Matthew Tejada: Let's do
an enforcement question.

1556
01:55:17,272 --> 01:55:20,159
Amy's been sending us
to stay here and Thanne.

1557
01:55:20,159 --> 01:55:23,763
Christina Motilal: Great, so this
is from Kim and the question is,

1558
01:55:23,787 --> 01:55:29,925
how did EPA establish the 55% target for
inspections in overburdened communities?

1559
01:55:29,949 --> 01:55:34,906
It still seems disproportionately
low since overburdened communities

1560

01:55:34,930 --> 01:55:42,000

by definition presumably represent

the majority of facilities in the US.

1561

01:55:42,159 --> 01:55:46,719

Amy Miller: Hi Kim, thanks for

your question, it's a good one.

1562

01:55:46,719 --> 01:55:54,048

There are many different factors

that we we took into consideration

1563

01:55:54,072 --> 01:55:56,400

in coming up with this number.

1564

01:55:56,400 --> 01:55:59,868

We did come up with

some sort of baseline

1565

01:55:59,892 --> 01:56:07,520

but the most important factor is that

overall we are trying to target and increase

1566

01:56:07,520 --> 01:56:10,658

across the board and all of our

enforcement programs,

1567

01:56:10,682 --> 01:56:17,488

just increase the level of inspections that

we are doing in overburdened communities.

1568

01:56:17,512 --> 01:56:21,527

And again, we're going to be

using things like EJSCREEN

1569

01:56:21,551 --> 01:56:26,467

and local knowledge as

well as just other factors

1570

01:56:26,491 --> 01:56:29,920

to kind of come to those conclusions.

1571

01:56:30,880 --> 01:56:38,628

And we have embedded this again in our

national compliance initiative work as well,

1572

01:56:38,652 --> 01:56:49,920

so we think this goal is ambitious but at

the same time something that we can achieve.

1573

01:56:49,920 --> 01:56:53,159

Thank you.

1574

01:56:56,880 --> 01:56:58,963

Christina Motilal: Great, thank you.

1575

01:56:58,987 --> 01:57:00,080

It's very helpful.

1576

01:57:00,080 --> 01:57:06,719

So Matt, there are two

Justice40 questions,

1577

01:57:06,719 --> 01:57:09,827

so I can either read them one at a time or

I can kind of mush them together

1578

01:57:09,851 --> 01:57:12,800

a little bit whatever

works-- Push them? All right.

1579

01:57:12,800 --> 01:57:14,960

We're gonna mush, all right.

1580

01:57:14,960 --> 01:57:17,888

So from Kirsten we have,

1581

01:57:17,912 --> 01:57:23,608

has EPA released a strategic plan with

methodologies community engagement processes

1582

01:57:23,632 --> 01:57:26,788

for ensuring that the

agency will carry out J40?

1583

01:57:26,812 --> 01:57:29,137

And if so, where can

we access them?

1584

01:57:29,161 --> 01:57:33,545

And then the next question is from

an anonymous submitter and it is,

1585

01:57:33,569 --> 01:57:38,088

how will Justice40 affect agency

decisions aside from grant programs

1586

01:57:38,112 --> 01:57:39,607

like the one you mentioned before?

1587

01:57:39,631 --> 01:57:41,119

So that's the two-part question.

1588

01:57:41,119 --> 01:57:43,920

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, thanks for that.

1589

01:57:43,920 --> 01:57:48,504

So there's several-- part of the

challenge of this administration

1590

01:57:48,528 --> 01:57:52,707

that came in with I think the strongest

justice and equity mandate in history,

1591

01:57:52,731 --> 01:57:56,320

isn't that they told us to do one thing,

they told us to do many things

1592

01:57:56,320 --> 01:57:58,047

and that is by no means complaining.

1593

01:57:58,071 --> 01:58:03,599

This is an unprecedented time of

focus and of support and of leadership

1594

01:58:03,599 --> 01:58:06,228

from the White House, from

the president all the way down.

1595

01:58:06,252 --> 01:58:09,608

It's taking us a

minute-- it took us a minute in 2021

1596
01:58:09,632 --> 01:58:12,828
to kind of take all
these different threads,

1597
01:58:12,852 --> 01:58:19,328
whether it's Executive Order 13985
on racial equity, 14008 with Justice40,

1598
01:58:19,352 --> 01:58:22,027
our own multi-year strategic plan.

1599
01:58:22,051 --> 01:58:25,520
There were a lot of these
threads to tie together.

1600
01:58:25,520 --> 01:58:27,348
I'm going to give you
an unsatisfying answer

1601
01:58:27,372 --> 01:58:30,880
because we can't show
you any of the plans yet.

1602

01:58:30,880 --> 01:58:36,639

We had a draft strategic plan for EPA

that was released back in the fall,

1603

01:58:36,639 --> 01:58:42,000

it's being finalized in

the next few hours actually I understand

1604

01:58:42,000 --> 01:58:44,400

and will be made publicly available--

1605

01:58:44,400 --> 01:58:50,268

I think the last I heard was when the

president's budget for FY23 is released,

1606

01:58:50,292 --> 01:58:51,928

which will be in the next few weeks.

1607

01:58:51,952 --> 01:58:56,400

They're going to release the

final multi-year strategic plan for EPA,

1608
01:58:56,400 --> 01:59:00,000
so you'll be able to see some
of these threads coming together

1609
01:59:00,000 --> 01:59:03,468
in a way that's measurable, in a way
where we have very clear commitments

1610
01:59:03,492 --> 01:59:05,679
in that strategic plan.

1611
01:59:05,679 --> 01:59:09,408
After that strategic plan is released,
we'll also be releasing a draft

1612
01:59:09,432 --> 01:59:13,840
of the implementation guidance
that goes along with that strategic plan,

1613
01:59:13,840 --> 01:59:18,647
that's going to have even more details

and much more detail around actual metrics

1614
01:59:18,671 --> 01:59:24,048
and measures for achieving the
goals included in that strategic plan.

1615
01:59:24,072 --> 01:59:30,429
In addition, we also crafted
an Agency Equity Action plan

1616
01:59:30,453 --> 01:59:37,040
in answer to executive order 13985
that was finished at EPA on January 20th.

1617
01:59:37,040 --> 01:59:40,208
We've passed it up to the domestic
policy council of the White House,

1618
01:59:40,232 --> 01:59:42,960
the domestic policy council has it

1619
01:59:42,960 --> 01:59:46,431

and I believe intends on releasing

those in the next month or so--

1620
01:59:46,455 --> 01:59:49,328
late winter, early spring
was what they said.

1621
01:59:49,352 --> 01:59:51,647
So that plan should
be coming out very soon,

1622
01:59:51,671 --> 01:59:55,815
and if that was the only plan
we did at EPA, it would be historic

1623
01:59:55,839 --> 02:00:01,280
because it's a great plan and it is a mini plan
compared to the other plans we have going on.

1624
02:00:01,280 --> 02:00:05,920
Then we are also waiting on
guidance from the White House

1625

02:00:05,920 --> 02:00:10,080

in terms of the implementation

of the infrastructure funding

1626

02:00:10,080 --> 02:00:14,007

which is going to have Justice40

centrally considered in the guidance

1627

02:00:14,031 --> 02:00:17,028

for how we implement

these infrastructure programs,

1628

02:00:17,052 --> 02:00:21,222

including things like how we're tracking,

what are we tracking, where are we tracking

1629

02:00:21,246 --> 02:00:25,440

what are the benefits, where

do things actually shake out.

1630

02:00:25,440 --> 02:00:28,627

So all of these things are coming

together here in the next few weeks.

1631
02:00:28,651 --> 02:00:31,407
We haven't been waiting
for all of them to get published,

1632
02:00:31,431 --> 02:00:37,360
it's just it's hard for us to show and
talk publicly about them in any detail

1633
02:00:38,239 --> 02:00:41,360
until they're all published
by the White House.

1634
02:00:41,360 --> 02:00:44,159
So those things hopefully
will be coming out soon.

1635
02:00:44,183 --> 02:00:51,119
And to the question about decisions,
it absolutely is not just about grants.

1636

02:00:51,119 --> 02:00:55,508

Justice40 is about benefits, that doesn't

mean it's just about grant programs,

1637

02:00:55,532 --> 02:00:58,688

there are programs in there

that are not classic grant programs

1638

02:00:58,712 --> 02:01:03,599

or programs that will be included

that are not classic grant programs.

1639

02:01:03,599 --> 02:01:07,728

Justice40 is one piece of a

multi-pronged approach here.

1640

02:01:07,752 --> 02:01:11,128

When you see our Agency

Equity Action plan come out,

1641

02:01:11,152 --> 02:01:14,574

when you see an accompaniment

to the strategic plan,

1642

02:01:14,598 --> 02:01:18,320

the agency is actually

making an agency priority goal,

1643

02:01:18,320 --> 02:01:23,599

so instead of achieving things by 2026

we'll actually achieve them by 2023

1644

02:01:23,599 --> 02:01:28,162

where we're talking about actually having

an applied framework for cumulative impacts

1645

02:01:28,186 --> 02:01:31,908

in our decision making, across

all the decisions we make at EPA.

1646

02:01:31,932 --> 02:01:36,908

In the next few weeks, couple months, a lot

more of these things are going to become clear.

1647

02:01:36,932 --> 02:01:40,418

We'll be engaging on them

as they come out on these calls,

1648
02:01:40,442 --> 02:01:43,040
unpacking them, taking questions.

1649
02:01:43,040 --> 02:01:47,331
All that to say if you're not already signed

up for our listserv or following us on Twitter

1650
02:01:47,355 --> 02:01:51,771
please do so, I think we're going to have a

slide come up that explains how to do that.

1651
02:01:51,795 --> 02:01:53,428
As these things come out,

1652
02:01:53,452 --> 02:01:56,968
as we address them on these

monthly national engagement calls,

1653
02:01:56,992 --> 02:02:01,832

I invite everyone to come

back, give us your questions,

1654

02:02:01,856 --> 02:02:07,040

we'll help answer, we'll unpack things for you,

we'll take feedback and criticism on them all,

1655

02:02:07,040 --> 02:02:14,480

it is going to continue to be an exciting time

for equity and justice across the administration.

1656

02:02:14,480 --> 02:02:19,488

It is a lot though that the world has

never been this big for equity and justice,

1657

02:02:19,512 --> 02:02:23,688

so it is a lot to see it all at one time

and understand how these things tie together.

1658

02:02:23,712 --> 02:02:28,366

And part of the reason we do these calls

is to help folks see that entire expanse

1659

02:02:28,390 --> 02:02:32,974

and try to make sense of it in real time

with us as we're trying to make sense of it.

1660

02:02:32,998 --> 02:02:36,503

So that what we are thinking and

doing is tied as much as we can

1661

02:02:36,527 --> 02:02:41,119

with the realities and the feedback we

receive from the impacted communities.

1662

02:02:41,119 --> 02:02:42,472

With that, we're over time.

1663

02:02:42,496 --> 02:02:43,748

Victoria's back on.

1664

02:02:43,772 --> 02:02:46,328

Nestor and Joe Mora,

thank you so much.

1665

02:02:46,352 --> 02:02:48,287

I'm going to let

Victoria blow us out.

1666

02:02:48,311 --> 02:02:50,400

Victoria Robinson: Great, thank you Matthew.

1667

02:02:51,199 --> 02:02:55,081

I'm not going to go through each of the

upcoming engagement and training opportunities,

1668

02:02:55,105 --> 02:02:58,719

this is part of the slide

deck that is available online already

1669

02:02:58,719 --> 02:03:02,128

but you'll see that we have some

activities on a public meeting

1670

02:03:02,152 --> 02:03:06,068

about EJ considerations related to

drinking water regulations for PFAS.

1671

02:03:06,092 --> 02:03:09,040

So if you're really interested

in that take a look at that

1672

02:03:09,040 --> 02:03:11,847

how to register and

attend that session.

1673

02:03:11,871 --> 02:03:15,920

We have some Brownfields

virtual listening sessions

1674

02:03:15,920 --> 02:03:21,040

and the links in all of these

are available on the slide deck.

1675

02:03:21,040 --> 02:03:27,760

We also have the White House CEQ for

people to build their email listserv for EJ

1676

02:03:27,760 --> 02:03:31,162

and you can access that

through their survey

1677
02:03:31,186 --> 02:03:36,800
and of course our we have a our standing

webinar series for tribes and indigenous peoples.

1678
02:03:36,800 --> 02:03:40,056
So again the information is very

specific, is going to be in--

1679
02:03:40,080 --> 02:03:42,400
it's in the slide

deck online already.

1680
02:03:42,400 --> 02:03:46,202
Our next EJ community engagement

call is scheduled for March 15th,

1681
02:03:46,226 --> 02:03:48,259
again a Tuesday at 2 p.m eastern,

1682

02:03:48,283 --> 02:03:54,418

and on the slide you'll see the link to be

able to access how to go about registering.

1683

02:03:54,442 --> 02:03:59,760

The registration link will

go live I believe tomorrow

1684

02:03:59,760 --> 02:04:02,320

and so then you can go ahead and sign up.

1685

02:04:02,320 --> 02:04:06,800

You can also subscribe to our

listserv if you have not already done so,

1686

02:04:06,800 --> 02:04:10,480

again, there's a link in here

about how to join our listserv.

1687

02:04:10,480 --> 02:04:16,270

You can also keep track of us and

follow us on Twitter @EPAEnvJustice

1688

02:04:16,294 --> 02:04:23,538

or you can also send follow-up questions

comments to environmental-justice@epa.gov.

1689

02:04:23,562 --> 02:04:28,448

We're going to take the Q&A pod

today and we will go through it, format it

1690

02:04:28,472 --> 02:04:32,227

and we will make sure that we forward

questions over to the appropriate programs

1691

02:04:32,251 --> 02:04:35,888

and regional offices for any

kind of site specific questions

1692

02:04:35,912 --> 02:04:39,748

and so that way we make sure that

the information that you've requested

1693

02:04:39,772 --> 02:04:43,978

or the questions you have get posted

or pass on to the appropriate people.

1694
02:04:44,002 --> 02:04:48,948
And once again, we thank everybody
including our wonderful interpreters

1695
02:04:48,972 --> 02:04:54,348
for taking the time today to follow us
and and participate in this conversation.

1696
02:04:54,372 --> 02:04:56,175
It's always a great conversation.

1697
02:04:56,199 --> 02:04:59,519
So have yourself a good
week, stay warm, stay dry

1698
02:04:59,543 --> 02:05:05,159
and we'll see you guys in
three weeks, thank you very much.