

National Environmental Justice  
Advisory Committee  
Air Quality & Community Monitoring Workgroup

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## ***We monitored the air, now what?***

*Gathering public and community input on data management, interpretation, access, application, and impact of air quality monitoring data in anticipation of ARP grants and new techniques*

# 8 Questions

1. What are the key ways in which the public and EJ communities will want to engage with the air quality data from new technologies that may be funded under ARP or other types of funding? What questions or uses are anticipated?
2. What are the issues related to understanding the quality of the data obtained?
  - a. How will communities and regulators evaluate the quality?
  - b. From the community perspective, what are the strengths and limitations of various types of monitoring approaches?
3. How might we improve public understanding about issues such as what geographic scope or timing of monitoring? Or how to relate measures to human exposures or health-relevant benchmarks?
4. From the community perspective, how should EPA evaluate and interpret the data communities are collecting?

## 8 Questions (continued)

5. From the community perspective, how should EPA engage with state and local agencies responsible for air quality related to ARP data?
6. How might we improve practices and future decision-making regarding permitting, siting, compliance reviews, enforcement actions, and ways we convey the purpose of the data collection to enhance its use, application and impact, and avoid misuse or lack of consideration of community-generated data?
7. What are examples of previous successful programs or pilots with lessons learned about using new monitoring data to meet community needs?
8. What strategies and approaches should EPA consider to reduce harm to fence-line communities from cumulative impacts from multiple sources of air pollution?

# What are we hoping to accomplish?

Provide recommendations that, if implemented:

- **Improve the quality of community air monitoring programs** and the impact that community air monitoring programs have on reducing air pollution,
- **Enable members of overburdened and vulnerable communities** to have greater influence over government decision-making that affects their lives,
- Systematically **reduce environmental hazards** in the most overburdened and vulnerable communities, and
- **Reduce environmental inequality** across communities.

*Q1: What are the key ways in which the public and EJ communities will want to engage with the air quality data from new technologies that may be funded under ARP or other types of funding, (e.g., FRM/and equivalent monitors, sensors or mobile equipment, remote-sensing techniques and other techniques)? What questions or uses are anticipated?*

#### Issues

1. Ensuring that community data is considered in permitting, compliance, enforcement
2. Clear definition/agreement on quality requirements for community-generated (CG) data
3. Clear definition of community role in CG data acquisition
4. Clear definition of roles/responsibilities of other stakeholders
5. Obligations and accountabilities of regulators
6. (6+) Mapping, accessibility, interpretation, visualization, trends

#### Recommendations

1. Develop Joint Data Communication and Response Plan with Communities
2. Develop Joint Data Accessibility and Data Visualization Tools for Communities
3. Provide communities with guidance on Equipment Choices and Operational Support
4. Others?

# Timeline / Path Forward

Task or Milestone	Date/ Date Range
Virtual Workshop	9/1
AQCM members submit follow up comments	9/2- 9/7
Prepare Revised Draft of Recommendations	9/8- 9/20
Send Revised Draft to NEJAC Council	9/21
Revised Draft available to the Public	9/26 (estimated)
Present AQCM Workgroup Recommendations to NEJAC, receive verbal feedback from NEJAC members	9/28 (public meeting)
Written comments due from NEJAC members	10/5
Written comments due from the Public	10/12
Prepare Draft Final Recommendations	10/13- 10/19
Send Draft Final Recommendations to NEJAC members	10/20
NEJAC Discussion and Vote on Recommendations	10/26 (during the Public Meeting)