

Environmental Justice Advisory Group Meeting
Illinois EPA/Springfield
October 17, 2013 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Video Conference and Teleconference

Attendees:

Illinois EPA Headquarters:

Elmo Dowd (Associate Director), Ken Page (EJ Officer), Kurt Neibergall (Office of Community Relations), Brad Frost (Office of Community Relations), Scott Phillips (Bureau of Land), Bob Bernoteit (Bureau of Air), Rick Cobb (Bureau of Water), Chris Pressnall (Division of Legal Counsel), Amy Walkenbach (Bureau of Water), Rick Pinneo (Bureau of Water), David Bloomberg (Air Quality Planning Section, Bureau of Air), Brenda Carter (Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group) and Tamika Gibson (Illinois Environmental Council), Debbie Daugherty (Associate Director's Office/IEPA).

Chicago-Thompson Center:

Lara Lasky (USEPA/Region 5); Debbie Meyers Martin (Mayor – Village of Olympia Fields) and Sharonda Williams (Attorney).

Teleconference: Greg Michaud (American Council of Engineering Companies), Kim Wasserman (LVEJO/EJ Commission Group Chair), Dr. Sylvia Hood Washington (EJ Advisory Group co-chair) Professor Dhitinut Ratnapradipa, PhD. (SIU Carbondale), Keith Harley (Chicago Legal Clinic), Jerry Mead-Lucero (PERRO) and Naomi Davis (Blacks in Green "BIG").

- I. **Welcome:** Elmo Dowd/Thank you for attending on behalf of Lisa Bonnett and Agency which is committed to environmental justice.
Dr. Sylvia Washington – EJ Advisory Group Co-Chair
- II. **Introductions:** Ken Page, IEPA EJ Officer
- III. **Presentations:**
 1. **Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program presentation given by Naomi Davis**
Naomi wanted to know who is aware of this program. Jerry (PERRO) stated he's heard of it and also Ken Page (IEPA). Majority of money for this program comes from the city of Chicago not railroads. The Southside of Chicago is the epicenter for the railroad intermodal expansions being funded by CREATE. These communities receive the least benefits of this expansion. The Environmental Impact Statement for the expansion is being reviewed by USEPA-Region 5. Naomi is overseeing this process and providing comments. Naomi was asked if she had contact with USEPA Region 5 and she responded that Danielle and Parsons are contacts. Also names of Laura West/Elizabeth Poole were given. Ken will share this information with IDOT. Jerry (PERRO) had question of how city pays and not the railroads. \$3 million made available with \$1 million set aside for neighborhood improvement fund. Tamika Gibson (Illinois Environmental Council) will share with her organization too.

2. PM2.5 presentation given by David Bloomberg (AQPS-BOA)
David stated that there are PM2.5 non-attainment designations in Chicago and Metro-East St. Louis areas. A notice of two public meetings in regard to PM2.5 was given out. David suggests attending these meetings. There will be 44 slides from these meetings put on IEPA's website. Ken will forward to EJ Members. **Attached is a summary of David's presentation.**
3. IL Green Infrastructure Grants program presented by Amy Walkenbach (BOW)
Amy presented 25 slides which were emailed to EJ members. Amy defined 'Green Infrastructure' and provided different examples of what green infrastructure looks like and what the benefits are to the community. She also defined the different project categories under the grant program. Amy provided a link for IGIG Progress Report <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/igig.html>.
4. Nat'l/Reg'l updates given by Lara Lasky (USEPA)
New administrator Gina McCarty will continue to focus on EJ with collaboration from other agencies. There will also be a focus on green infrastructure and brownfields. Four EPA Small Grants were announced ranging from \$25-\$30k. The grants focused on the areas of: Reducing asthma with environmental health watch; pesticide use in childcare facilities; China Town area being watched for asthma rates related to 2nd hand smoke and fish consumption survey grant/fish advisory. Lara provided a link to EPA's new website <http://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/sustainability>. Elmo had questions about the Office of Civil Rights and Plan EJ 2014. Lara said that she would reach out to her colleague in the Office of Civil Rights and have them speak about this on the next EJ Advisory Group Meeting.

IV. **Status of EJ Commission**

Last meeting was August 14th. Jerry (PERRO) wanted to meet in Sept but next meeting is scheduled for the first part of Nov. Commissioners had to be renewed along with reporting requirements. Ken suggested getting a facilitator for these meetings.

V. **Open discussion:**

Debbie Meyers Martin asked the group whether they had information about the Village of Robbins underground rock quarry. Many people in the group had heard about it from the news but didn't have clear information about the project. She asked whether this project presented an EJ issue. Ken responded that the agency has not received any permits in relation to this project. Chris Pressnall posted the revised EJ Public Participation Policy on October 16, 2013. Kim Wasserman announced that on Nov 8th from 9 am to 4 pm there would be a listening session in Chicago regarding Carbon Pollution Standards.

VI. **Next meeting date early 2014**

Adjournment 11:45 am.