

Environmental Justice Advisory Group Meeting
Illinois EPA
March 20, 2012 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Video Conference and Teleconference

Attendees:

Illinois EPA Headquarters:

Ken Page (EJ Officer), Ed Bakowski (Bureau of Air), Jim Ross (Bureau of Air), Brad Frost (Bureau of Air), Dan Heacock (Bureau of Water), Steve Nightingale (Bureau of Land), Chris Pressnall (Division of Legal Counsel), Peter Wenz (University of IL), Brenda Carter (IERG), and Alec Messina (IERG)

Chicago-Thompson Center:

Elmo Dowd (Associate Director), Chris Romaine (Bureau of Air), Jerry mead-Lucero (PERRO), Marilou Martin and Alan Walts (USEPA)

Teleconference: Greg Michaud (ACED), Representative of Green Peace, Brian Urbaszewski (IL Env Council), Jim Monk (IL Energy Assn), and Professor Dhitinut Ratnapradipa (SIU/Carbondale)

- I. **Welcome:** Elmo Dowd/Thank you for attending on behalf of Lisa Bonnett and Agency which is committed to environmental justice. Elmo stated that EJ is stepping up to State/Federal levels.

- II. **Introductions:** Ken Page, IEPA EJ Officer

- III. **Presentations:**
 1. IEPA Permit Portal – BOA represented by Ed Bakowski, BOL by Steve Nightengale and BOW by Dan Heacock. Each explained their respective bureaus for accessing information on this website. This will eliminate not using FOIA as much for public. People will have to run off forms for now but will be able to submit electronically in future within 2 years. Wanting to add link for feed back. We have link to file a complaint already. Employee directory also linked on Permit Portal.

ROSS explained by Ed Bakowski. ROSS link has fact sheets and also links to DCEO website. Question re toxicity issues not in proximity. Mercury considered HAPs. Companies that regulate ½ ton with lower levels. If omit next to school, not eligible under ROSS program and would need permit can't obtain one.

Question: Is there a way for the public to know actual emissions from companies and do these companies have to verify annually to remain eligible.

Answer: Based on complaint filed on companies and their reporting. EPA would either go to site or send letter.

Would be certification in lieu of emission report. New law for smaller sources needing registration for ROSS program.

BOL: Summary doesn't take place with actual regulations. Uncontaminated fill sites not on lists. These are in process to be added. RCRA new. BOL is working on adding forms to their website.

Data bases being developed at different times. Checklists provided for guide to help acquire permits. Not on all web pages. Need to add so applicants have full information when submitting permit.

BOW: Pesticide permitting in EJ communities. Applications involve NPDES permits for pesticides being sprayed over/in/near water. Pesticide page recently developed. 14 day posting list. March/April is start of filing if spraying for mosquitos. This affects watershed thus NPDES permit needed and also if affects actual streams or water's edge. List with types of pest control need permit.

Question: Elmo Dowd: EJ communities interested in urban spraying pesticides. CAFOs listed have permits. Need to add to webpage so people can track EJ sites and what sites are in EJ areas.

2. Plan EJ 2014 by Alan Walts: Alan suggests to google PlanEJ2014. Website will give information on this. Administrator Jackson and Lisa Garcia developed plan. Alan explained the rulemaking July 2011 interim guidance. In Spring 2012, Federal Register notice will come out regarding Plan EJ 2012. EJ area defined. Make sure facilities are in compliance geographically. Community based actions efforts program for EJ. Agency-wide review to help these programs. Inter-agency workgroup formed August 2011. 17 agencies involved which put out draft strategies to address the board. Grant programs for EJ relevant and more organized. EJ built in screening permits within EPA to see if EJ concerns are met.

IV. Old Business

Courtney Eccles said formation of EJ commission going very slow. Anyone wanting to be on commission contact EPA. Elmo stated this is stalled at state level. Government office will make happen. Chairman appointed by Governor. Continue to work with Governor. IEPA Service Staff committee and state agencies are ready to go.

Send comments to Ken Page/Elmo Dowd

V. Open Discussion/Questions

Jerry Mead-Lucero (PERRO) coal plants shut down remediation sites redevelop sites Mayor's task force. EPA shared separate proposal with Jerry. Lead in soil neighborhood (Kramer)2006 resolved problem/2012 problem not resolved EPA had good meeting with them 20% reduction in operation.

- VI. Next meeting date and location:
To be Announced.

Meeting lasted 1 hour, 33 mins and 4 seconds.