



# Office of Environmental Justice

Aggregate Advisory Board

November 7, 2018



Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

# DEP Mission

To protect Pennsylvania's air, land, and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments and businesses to prevent pollution and restore our natural resources.

# What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice (EJ) is the **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

# History of EJ

- Civil Rights and Environmental Movements of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s
- First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held in 1991
- Executive Order 12898 issued in 1994
- Environmental Justice Act of 2017 (introduced 10/17)

# History of EJ in PA

- Chester Title VI Action Filed in 1996
- DEP Environmental Justice Work Group (EJWG) created in 1999
- EJWG Report and Recommendations released in 2001
- Office of Environmental Advocate (OEA) established in 2002 and the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) in 2004

# ▶ Office of Environmental Justice Goals

- **Minimizing Adverse Environmental Impacts** - All communities are not unjustly and/or disproportionately burdened with adverse environmental impacts
- **Empowering Communities** - Ensuring citizens have meaningful involvement and a voice in decision-making process
- **Fostering Economic Opportunities** - Enable environmentally responsible economic development to and within EJ communities and in some cases build collaborations and relationships with the community and industry

# Visioning and Planning

- Develop protocol and data retention practices for identifying permits reviewed and addressed by OEJ through EJ Public Participation Policy and other OEJ policies
- Strengthen public participation, community engagement and environmental literacy in EJ Areas
- Strengthen capacity for OEJ to address environmental justice issues

# EJ Public Participation Policy

- Created in 2004 and revisions were proposed in 2018 (pending a public comment period – refer to the next slide)
- EJ Areas
- Enhanced public participation
- Applies to Trigger and Opt-in Permits



# EJ Public Participation Policy

- Comment period in June – August 2018
- 206 Comments Received
- Comment Category Overview
  - Oil and Gas Permits
  - EJ Areas Definition
  - General Definitions
  - Permit Process
  - Environmental Rights Amendment
  - Public Participation
  - Trigger Permit List
  - Authority of EJ Policy
  - Measurement/Consideration of Environmental Impacts



# Office of Environmental Justice

General Comments & Questions

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