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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Environmental Justice Advisory Board

Dr. Arthur Frank, Chairman

Rachel Carson State Office Building

400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA

16th Floor, Delaware Room

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Call in numbers: 717.612.4788 and 855.734.4390

Pin #: 756545

February 2, 2016

EJAB Meeting

- Introductions
- Approval of November 5, 2015 Minutes



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Secretary John Quigley Agency Update



Environmental Justice Director

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Director, Office Environmental Justice

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Mission for Office of Environmental Justice

- The Office of Environmental Justice fulfills a critical role within DEP – ensuring that the Pennsylvanians most at risk from pollution and other environmental impacts have a voice in the decision-making process. In 2015, the Office of Environmental Advocate was reconstituted to reflect the commitment to justice and became the Office of Environmental Justice. The OEJ’s mission is to help the DEP ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies, regulation and laws; as well as, with respect to the identification of environmental issues that affect the most vulnerable communities.

Goals for Office of Environmental Justice

- **Minimizing Adverse Environmental Impacts:** Low income and minorities are especially vulnerable to the negative impacts of pollution. Previously the focus of the EJ office was to ensure that communities were aware of the impacts that a project may have – now that focus must be on ensuring that all projects, both in and outside of EJ communities, are considering those most at risk regardless of where the project is located.
- **Empowering Communities:** One of the primary goals of the Office of Environmental Justice is to ensure that all citizens are treated fairly. Environmental Justice Communities typically have the least access to the political processes that can affect them the most, so it is critical that they have a seat at the table. In addition to the permit triggers, there must be an open dialogue between Pennsylvania industries and EJ communities.
- **Fostering Economic Opportunities:** Environmental justice communities are often economically depressed. The Office of Environmental Justice hopes to foster environmentally responsible economic development to and within EJ communities. For example, when there are projects proposed and already existing in EJ communities the OEJ will foster relationships with the community and industry make sure that the local residents who are bearing the environment burden are receiving an economic benefit from the project if possible.

Direction for Office of Environmental Justice

- Environmental Justice = Public Policy + Social Justice + Environmentalism
 - Education
 - Internal and external
 - Process Reformation
 - Community Development and Business Integration
 - Sustainability



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EJAB Board Member Presentations



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Rev. Dr. Horace Strand



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Laureen M. Boles



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Eli Brill, Esq.



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Adam Cutler, Esq.



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Hazem Hijazi



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Dr. Clea Hollis



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Dr. Allison Robinson



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John G. Waffensmidt



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Dr. Mark White



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Dr. Arthur Frank

Public Comment

Board Working Session

- **Currently How we define the area of concern**
 - **Department staff will determine the project's area of concern, as defined below. For all trigger permits, the area of concern will be defined as:**
 - **A circle defined by a radius of one-half mile from the center of a proposed permit activity or, where an activity is not centralized, an area extending one-half mile beyond the boundary of the proposed activity**
 - **Areas of impact for which DEP is authorized to require analysis, such as traffic corridors, groundwater plumes and areas of significant air impact**
 - **Other reasonably anticipated impacts such as noise, subsidence, vibration or odor associated with the proposed permitted activity.**
 - **If there is any census tract, entirely or in part, within this area of concern with a 30 percent or greater minority population or 20 percent or greater at or below the poverty level as defined by the US census bureau, the area of concern and the census tract together are considered an Environmental Justice Area. The enhanced public participation provisions of this policy apply to the area located within the area of concern and to the census tract.**
 - **If no such census tract exists within the area of concern, it is not considered an Environmental Justice Area and this policy does not apply**

Board Working Session

- **Is the current definition for defining areas of concerns and EJ communities adequate?**
- **Does a bright line rule help or hurt us?**
- **How are other states defining the area of concern?**
- **How does the EPA define the area of concern?**

Board Working Session

- **Meaningful Involvement**
 - What does that mean?
 - How can we make it happen?

Board Working Session

- **EJAB Board**
 - **Purpose**
 - **Function**
 - **Mission**
 - **Aspirations for 2016**

New/Unfinished Business



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Adjournment