

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**DEP SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE**  
400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA  
August 2, 2016

**Members in Attendance**

Clea Hollis, Kirk Jalbert, Allison Robinson, John Waffenschmidt, Eli Brill, Adam Cutler, and Arthur Frank

**Members Absent**

Laureen Boles, Hazem Hijazi, Horace Strand, and Mark White

**Non-Members**

Carl Jones and Nora Alwine

**Call to Order**

Chairman Arthur Frank welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Arthur Frank made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 3, 2016. John Waffenschmidt made a motion that the Minutes be amended, which was seconded by Allison Robinson and unanimously approved. Minutes adopted.

**Presentations:**

**Southwest Regional Office Update:**

Susan Malone provided a general update of the Southwest Regional office.

**Office of Environmental Justice Update:**

Director Jones indicated that all of the office's goals and agenda items are moving forward.

The Department has reformed an internal Environmental Justice Workgroup. The purpose of the workgroup sessions is to discuss ways to engrain environmental justice into the Department, what constitutes environmental justice, how the Department thinks of environmental justice, how individuals see environmental justice not just within the Department but also within their own communities, and thinking about environmental justice as a larger, holistic initiative.

**Safe Drinking Water Report:**

Alan Eichler, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager in the Southwest Regional Office, discussed the lead and copper rule, passed by the EPA in 1991, which required public water supplies to address corrosion control in water systems and indicated that Pennsylvania had passed regulations to incorporate the EPA requirements. Further, he discussed the compliance matter involving the Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority and the DEP role and response.

**Public Comment****Public Comment No. 1:**

Veronica Coptis is Deputy Director for the Center for Coalfield Justice, an environmental justice organization that is based in Washington and Greene Counties. Veronica is concerned about the destruction of homes, streams, and entire valleys that are being filled with toxic coal waste. She expressed the importance of not only listening to impacted communities, but also the need to provide feedback to those comments.

**Public Comment No. 2:**

Patricia Demarco is a member of the Forest Hills Borough Council in Forest Hills, Pennsylvania. She is also associated with the Institute for Green Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University and is a geneticist by training, a writer by practice. Patricia believes the existential crisis of her lifetime is climate change. She believes that the issue must be addressed urgently, diligently, and with full attention at all levels of government and all levels of every person.

**Legislative Update:**

Sarah Clark, Legislative Director at DEP, provided an update on legislation currently pending.

**Southwest and Northwest Region EJ Update:**

Nora Alwine, Southwest and Northwest Region EJ Coordinator, provided an update on the EJ issues and communities with whom she is working.

**NextGen Presentation:**

David Weiskopf, NextGen Finance America; Drs. Elena Krieger and Ana McPhail, PSE Healthy Energy. This presentation discussed the health risks and harms across Pennsylvania and beyond by the State's coal and natural gas power plants. A copy of their presentation may be found online.

**Shell Cracker Plant Presentation:**

Ron Schwartz, Assistant Director for the Southwest Regional Office, provided an overview of the Shell Cracker plant. Ron discussed in detail many of the issues involved in this complex transaction, including historical contamination on the site, the current status of the facility, how the buildings would be demolished, closing the landfill, historic artifacts found on the property, environmental issues such as air emissions, drinking water, cooling water, sanitary waste water, stream encroachments and wetlands, asbestos notifications and clearances.

**New/Unfinished Business:**

- Evolving definition of EJ.
- Chairman Frank suggested the topic of climate change for the next meeting.
- Director Jones stated that there will be four EJAB meetings next year.
- Director Jones would like to see a 2017 evening EJ listening session for the Board.

Clea Hollis made a motion to adjourn, which motion was seconded by Allison Robinson.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.