

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
LISTENING SESSION TOUR

April 12 – May 25, 2017

COMMENT DOCUMENT

INTRODUCTION

In assembling this document, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“Department” or “DEP”) has addressed all pertinent and relevant comments addressed to the Office of Environmental Justice (“OEJ”). For the purposes of this document, comments of similar subject material have been grouped together and responded to accordingly. The comments have been summarized for clarity where appropriate and direct quotations where appropriate. Those comments that are a direct quotation from the testimony are distinguished by quotation marks.

The Office of Environmental Justice Listening Session tour was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on April 1, 2017 (47 Pa.B. 1918), with a public comment period through May 25, 2017. Listening Sessions were conducted at Waynesburg, Pittsburgh, Williamsport, Erie, Harrisburg, Allentown, Lancaster, Chester and Philadelphia where commentators were able to submit written and/or oral testimony. During the public comment period, the Department received 124 comments in-person and 27 additional comments through email from individuals, corporations and organizations. The following table lists these commentators. The Commentator ID number is found in parenthesis following the comments in the comment document.

Table of Commentators

Commentator ID #	Name	Testimony
1	Andy McAllister	Waynesburg
2	Jim Rosenberg	Waynesburg
3	Jill Kriesky	Waynesburg
4	Lois Bower-Bjornson	Waynesburg
5	Veronica Coptis	Waynesburg
6	Jan Kiefer	Waynesburg
7	Sarah Boyle	Waynesburg
8	Colleen Nelson	Waynesburg
9	Natalie Johnston	Waynesburg
10	Patrice Tomcik	Waynesburg
11	Amy Nassif	Waynesburg
12	Mary Ann Pike	Waynesburg
13	Art Brogley	Waynesburg
14	Kirk Jalbert	Waynesburg
15	Nathan Blake	Waynesburg
16	Carol Cutler	Waynesburg
17	Dennis Simmers	Pittsburgh
18	Carrie Hahn	Pittsburgh
19	Tom Bailey	Pittsburgh
20	Ned Ketyer	Pittsburgh
21	Tom Schuster	Pittsburgh
22	John Stephen	Pittsburgh
23	Wanda Guthrie	Pittsburgh
24	Sarah Buranskas	Pittsburgh
25	Jessa Chaveau	Pittsburgh
26	Tom Hoffman	Pittsburgh
27	Randy Francisco	Pittsburgh
28	Angelo Taranto	Pittsburgh
29	James Fabisiak	Pittsburgh
30	Anne Quinn	Pittsburgh
31	Elisa Beck	Pittsburgh
32	Jennifer England	Pittsburgh
33	Adam Tuznik	Pittsburgh
34	Marisa Manheim	Pittsburgh
35	Laura Dagley	Pittsburgh

36	John Burgess	Pittsburgh
37	Leah Andrascik	Pittsburgh
38	Joe Guthrie	Pittsburgh
39	Katie Guarnaccia	Pittsburgh
40	Thaddeus Popovich	Pittsburgh
41	Maren Cooke	Pittsburgh
42	Barbara Jarmoska	Williamsport
43	Jack McKee	Williamsport
44	Mike Ochs	Williamsport
45	Ralph Kisberg	Williamsport
46	Gail Landers	Williamsport
47	Harvey Katz	Williamsport
48	Jim Dunn	Williamsport
49	Tina McCafferty	Williamsport
50	Karen Frock	Williamsport
51	Jerry Walls	Williamsport
52	Spencer Myers	Williamsport
53	Brian Auman	Williamsport
54	Adam Trott	Erie
55	Kathleen Lutz	Erie
56	Freda Tepfer	Erie
57	Cindy Pervis	Erie
58	Ed Kissel	Erie
59	Ann McCarthy	Erie
60	Al Richardson	Erie
61	Sam Miller	Erie
62	Paul Burroughs	Erie
63	Bonnie Markley	Erie
64	Patty Kim	Harrisburg
65	Kirk Jalbert	Harrisburg
66	Tina Hayes	Harrisburg
67	Ellen Gerhart	Harrisburg
68	Lisa White	Allentown
69	Russell Zerbo	Allentown
70	Jim Birdsall	Allentown
71	Eli Brill	Allentown
72	Tim Spiese	Lancaster
73	Christine Brubaker	Lancaster
74	Regina Detiretano	Lancaster

75	Saheeb Sabur	Lancaster
76	Patrick Grenter	Lancaster
77	Schirlyn Kamara	Lancaster
78	Tom Torres	Lancaster
79	Joe Heller	Lancaster
80	Roberta Winters	Chester
81	Lan Nguyen	Chester
82	Alice Wright	Chester
83	Horace Strand	Chester
84	John Butler	Chester
85	Sue Edwards	Chester
86	Drew McGinty	Chester
87	Tom McKeon	Chester
88	Aurora Winslade	Chester
89	Mark Wallace	Chester
90	Portia West	Chester
91	Peter Lostino	Chester
92	Melissa Tier	Chester
93	Christine Delva	Chester
94	Marva King	Chester
95	Carol Armstrong	Chester
96	John Shelton	Chester
97	Jocolyn Boswer-Bostick	Chester
98	Kathryn Flagg	Chester
99	John Scott	Chester
100	Thurman Brendlinger	Chester
101	Sarah Caspar	Chester
102	Delore Shelton	Chester
103	Livia Smith	Chester
104	Donna Bullock	Philadelphia
105	Bryan Ratcliffe	Philadelphia
106	Joe Minott	Philadelphia
107	Jasper Jones Bey	Philadelphia
108	John Waffenschmidt	Philadelphia
109	Fred Stine	Philadelphia
110	Marilyn Holworth	Philadelphia
111	Alison Cornish	Philadelphia
112	Peter Winslow	Philadelphia
113	Karen Melton	Philadelphia

114	Adam Cutler	Philadelphia
115	Lese Baxter	Philadelphia
116	Walter Tseu	Philadelphia
117	Coryn Wolk	Philadelphia
118	Linda Rosenwein	Philadelphia
119	Jerome Shabazz	Philadelphia
120	Pat Libby	Philadelphia
121	Shoshana Aikens	Philadelphia
122	Meenal Raval	Philadelphia
123	Laureen Boles	Philadelphia
124	Jo Corninghill	Philadelphia
125	Kelly Finan	Email
126	Gay Thistle	Email
127	Larry Berardi	Email
128	Justice Smashing	Email
129	Heather Makal	Email
130	Jon Bogle	Email
131	Tim Mullen	Email
132	Steve Naylor	Email
133	Lisa Weimer	Email
134	Tracy Carluccio	Email
135	Robert Hughes	Email
136	Marisa Manheim & John Burgess	Email
137	Robyn & Walter Kochan	Email
138	Lucy Carrol	Email
139	Katherine Holden	Email
140	Paige Wolf	Email
141	Paula Kline	Email
142	Andrew Goodman	Email
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145	Tom McClure	Physical submission
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General

1. Commenter testified justice means fairness and that justice does not exist when industry is allowed to harm the residents and the land. (6)
2. Commenter suggested DEP provide “easier online access for permits...more input from regional offices...increased public notice...more notice on the time of meetings...[and] more meetings for voices on either side to be heard.” (7)
3. Commenter suggested that the DEP “should add oil and gas permits to the trigger list... [and] [a]ll permits should be trigger reviews to see if they contribute to cumulative impacts...[a]nd communities should have the right to have a community-based public meeting with the operator of the permits and the DEP.” (10)
4. Commenter suggested that the DEP should expand the definition of environmental justice community to include “the working poor, home ownership rates, assisted school lunch rates, disability and elderly populations, and also language barriers. The reviews should factor in cumulative impacts of more developing relative to existing industrial burdens [...] and allow communities to file a petition to be recognized as vulnerable.” (10)
5. Commenter suggested that the department increase information availability and access because often communities have no idea how to get information and/or how they may be impacted by a project. (12)
6. Commenter testified “[a] major obstacle to effective DEP policymaking regarding public participation is the fragmentation of public participation policy across three kinds of technical guidance documents.” (14)
7. Commenter testified that to “ensure environmental justice so that everyone has an equal seat at the table, I think it's going to take an act of God, because the industry holds these private meetings with your bosses, the Wolf Administration, and those before him and with the members of the legislature.” (16)
8. Commenter testified that three minutes is not long enough for public testimony. (19)
9. Commenter testified that the DEP should provide “direct links to daily air quality and pollution reports” on the website. (20)
10. Commenter testified that the DEP should have “more visible presence in our communities.” (20)
11. Commenter testified that the DEP should be “more proactive in its communication.” (21)
12. Commenter testified that the DEP should “identify at least one point of contact representing a prominent community group for of each designated EJ area, and make sure that that person is notified when an issue arises that could impact the community.” (21)
13. Commenter asked that the DEP create a plan “helping communities mitigate

environmental burdens that are not necessarily the result of permitting issues...lead paint exposure from our older housing stock.” (21)

14. Commenter suggested that the DEP and DOH create “targeted intensive education and remediation programs.” (21)
15. Commenter suggested that the DEP use direct mailing “as an effective communication tool...that meetings take place on evenings and weekends and that childcare services be available to all community members that can participate...[and] the role of the DEP needs to be clearly communicated, including well-publicized clarification as to what kind of reporting is under their purview.” (24)
16. Commenter suggested that the DEP develop and promote a “311 style app for use by community residents.” (24)
17. Commenter testified that the DEP needs to “respond to resident complaints in a timely and thorough way.” (25)
18. Commenter suggested that the DEP “take a more active role at ensuring specific guidelines and criteria are met and better facilitate the identification, notification and engagement of all the relevant community stakeholders.” (29)
19. Commenter suggested better lead data collection. (36)
20. Commenter requested that DEP hold meetings later in the day. (37)
21. Commenter testified that we should invest in green infrastructure and renewable energy sources “in coal communities.” (41).
22. Commenter testified that her “biggest complaint to DEP is that there is really no information provided to the public about permit violations.” (42)
23. Commenter testified that the DEP can “be more engaged with these communities [by] mov[ing] these meetings...and go hang out where these folks live.” (42)
24. Commenter suggested that “we have an opportunity here to make the shift to a renewable, sustainable economy and it is for our economic and environmental benefit.” (42)
25. Commenter suggested that the DEP “look at the big picture because that’s where the justice is.” (42)
26. Commenter testified about not knowing which agency to go to for answers on certain types of questions and the lack of a resource where a citizen can go and be pointed in the right direction. (43)
27. Commenter suggested “we need DEP to monitor all surfaces and come up with true aggregations and a basic system that keeps us from becoming an energy sacrifice, which

- would be an environmental injustice for all.” (45)
28. Commenter testified the most important thing to do for marginalized communities in the area is “to connect them to nature.” (48)
 29. Commenter suggested that “[e]veryone in the Environmental Department should be standing up.” (49)
 30. Commenter testified about the effects climate change has had on her community and the increase of floods because of the change in climate. (50)
 31. Commenter testified that she wishes there was a better way to navigate state government to know what agency to turn to because “we don’t always know where to go.” (50)
 32. Commenter suggested that “[t]here’s a lack of real, meaningful public participation, and therefore, lack of any control over what takes place on lands that belong to all of us.” (50)
 33. Commenter requested that if there was “anything you can do to help citizens and municipalities with monitoring capabilities, because we know DEP can't be everywhere and you rely on us citizens to help bring things to attention, both for sound, noise --- noise limits and also, of course, emissions and other aspects” to please assist. (50)
 34. Commenter testified that he is “scared out of” his mind by the effects that climate change will have on the world and wants the DEP to play a bigger role in educating communities on the “true cost of carbon and other greenhouse gases.” (52)
 35. Commenter testified that the economic gain from the natural gas and fossil fuel industry are not long term solutions and that there should be more “investment in cleaner energies or fuels.” (52)
 36. Commenter testified that "the environmental justice concern that’s most pressing to [her] in this community is the issue of lead poisoning in children " due to the "housing stock issue". (55) (57)
 37. Commenter recognized that this lead exposure is not due to drinking water, but requested that we all do a better job of not just identifying who these children are, but also "begin tracking them for possible disabilities in the future or for a lack of development or developmental issues". (55) (57)
 38. Commenter stated that the East Street Viaduct project was supposed to have two additional public meetings that were not held. (56)
 39. Commenter stated that DEP AQ has done very well following up on complaints with inspections and remedying the issues, as well as, handling “seepage coming out of the banks near the water factory.” (56)
 40. Commenter asked how to get on the Citizens Advisory Council and EJAB. (60)

41. Commenter also asked why “does DEP su[e] those communities for trying to protect their own environment?” (60)
42. Commenter testified that the public was not engaged in the “cracker plant that’s going in northeast of Pittsburgh” until the “very last minute”. (61)
43. Commenter asked that the department provide information in an easy and accessible manner for all to use. (62)
44. Commenter asked for the department to do more presentations in communities to engage them on what’s occurring in their neighborhoods. (62)
45. Commenter spoke about the lack of resources for the elderly who may have lead in their home and need assistance in the remediation process. (63)
46. Commenter also asked for any information on a project being conducted under the MacBride viaduct. (63)
47. Commenter testified that as the state representative for Harrisburg they have had problems reaching marginalized communities and the way they have combatted this problem is to build relationships with trusted members of “the community, which takes time and energy.” (64)
48. Commenter testified “I know that one of the complaints that I hear from people is that the DEP doesn't do enough to listen to its constituents...I know you all have some kind of a concern that's related to one of these seven questions, and I encourage you to please come up and give some sort of testimony if you could...I think that it will help us kind of contextualize as a Board what we should be thinking about in terms of reevaluating environmental justice, and I think that it would help the agency as well.” (65)
49. Commenter suggested that the DEP disseminate information to communities “where people pay [their] bills.” (66)
50. Commenter gave testimony that coal waster power plants drive “extreme weather that results in exorbitant electric bills as well as the costs recovering from floods.” (69)
51. Commenter requested the DEP switch from an alternative energy portfolio to a renewable energy portfolio. (69)
52. Commenter testified that the “DEP needs to work with these low income communities to recognize that just fining them or penalizing them or having them before the Environmental Hearing Board is not helpful.” (70)
53. Commenter provided testimony on the distribution of funds from the Volkswagen settlement and asked that department to direct funds towards EJ communities since they tend to bear the impacts of diesel pollution if possible. (71) (100) (106)
54. Commenter testified that DEP could help “communities of color and low income

- communities to help them apply for the money and get the grants (Volkswagen) where it could do the most good.” (71)
55. Commenter testified that she is “concerned about the cost of living” and affordability to live in Lancaster. (74)
 56. Commenter asked the DEP to do more to “use the authority it already has to address” citizen concerns. (76)
 57. Commenter asked for better information and more information transparency because “I know the piecemeal permitting structure that allows combined impacts of different industries, shale, gas and coal mining, to go unaccounted for.” (76)
 58. Commenter requested that “I hope Director Jones is empowered to have an opportunity to weigh in on all activities that DEP undergoes. It should not be its own entity. It should be --- it should be - it should be part of the culture of DEP. Take Environmental Justice seriously into consideration on every single permit that you do.” (76)
 59. Commenter testified that we should “teach[] young people about global warming and environmental issues.” (77)
 60. Commenter discussed educating communities on clothing waste and how this impacts our landfills and our climate. (77)
 61. Commenter testified about how they have created a program that teaches people how to recycle clothing waste and earn money. (77)
 62. Commenter requested “the DEP to do all in its power to ensure that the people of Pennsylvania have the information necessary to provide informed public comment and that sufficient participation opportunities are provided by the Department.” (78)
 63. Commenter asked that the DEP “play an active role in correlating with the state and federal agencies to allow for transparency and comprehensive public participation as required by state law.” (78)
 64. Commenter suggested that “the DEP should ensure that a comprehensive cumulative impact analysis that includes at a minimum a list of products - to be expected in these projects, and a quantification of impacts for all natural gas infrastructure projects.” (78)
 65. Commenter requested that “Pennsylvania DEP should ensure that the needs are consistent with the environmental - with states. The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment.” (78)
 66. Commenter asked that the DEP promote listening, education, and action by educating communities about the environment and how to mitigate risks. (80)
 67. Commenter further asked that the DEP prohibit the “issuances of permits or anything that

- will do further harm.” (80)
68. Commenter requested DEP “conduct epidemiological studies to gather data and help quantify impacts”. (80)
 69. Commenter suggested the DEP “use your regulatory power to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Please gather data through additional monitoring of air, land and water. Mandate the industry to assess available practices to reduce pollution and promote emergency preparedness.” (80)
 70. Commenter suggested DEP “be proactive in providing strategies to cope with rising waters in this area, compliments of climate change.” (80)
 71. Commenter suggested the DEP look into “information on the health and safety of the community in Chester.” (81)
 72. Commenter suggested that the DEP work to build a “relationship in all the municipalities and towns with the zoning board and DEP. When zoning boards are making decisions about facilities in a zone named environmental justice communities, they have some kind of a understanding of environmental justice and what that industry's effect can have on that community.” (82)
 73. Commenter suggested that the DEP use the success of the Chester Environmental Partnership as a model for other communities because it is a “community that is perfect example of what can happen when people work together”. (83)
 74. Commenter thanked the DEP for “the sensitivity, your hard work to help a community that worked very hard to help itself, protect its own interest, accomplishing many things that they’re accomplishing.” (83)
 75. Commenter suggested that the DEP and DOT work together to ensure environmental justice areas are considered in the “Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2019”. (84)
 76. Commenter testified that the DEP “needs to attend to legacy pollution problems, not just new facilities, and to cumulative impacts and not just the impact of one additional request for a permit.” (85)
 77. Commenter suggested that DEP work on helping communities get jobs in the “new energy economy.” (85)
 78. Commenter testified “[p]ollution doesn’t stay in artificial boundaries.” (85)
 79. Commenter thanked the department and the OEJ for the work they are doing. (86)
 80. Commenter volunteered himself as a resource to the community in his new role as a “liaison from the Community Outreach and Engagement Core at the Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology at the University of Pennsylvania.” (87)

81. Commenter proposed “a public-private partnership that got together, public sector and private sector, colleges and universities around the shared vision of goals and also the metrics that we can use to reach our goals (EJ).” (88)
82. Commenter offered her services as the Director of Sustainability at Swarthmore College as a resource for work in the environmental justice arena. (88)
83. Commenter testified “that Chester City has suffered incredible disproportionate environmental impacts over the years.” (89)
84. Commenter stated that “no other town or community would endure the degrading environmental impacts that Chester has. But Chester has put up with this because folks in Chester, largely African American, oftentimes middle to low income, have not been able to leave this area in spite of the impacts.” (89)
85. Commenter offered his organization called the Swarthmore Chester Leadership Institute as a resource to help the Chester community. (89)
86. Commenter “thank[ed] the Department of Environmental Protection for their assistance that you have provided to us here in Chester, your partnership with the Chester Environmental Partnership, which I’m a member. And we are very grateful for the things that you have done and the things that you will continue to do to make sure that we have a safe environment.” (90)
87. Commenter “want[ed] to set the record straight. There are a lot of people here in Chester. We do not want to move. We love it here.[...] and we choose to stand and fight for a safe environment for ourselves and our children.” (90)
88. Commenter stated “[w]e need to highlight that fact that there are many assets to environmental justice community groups that are disproportionately affected.” (92)
89. Commenter offered the constituent services of State Rep. Brian Kirkland and encouraged those in attendance to stop in to their offices. (93)
90. Commenter suggested better signage. (94)
91. Commenter suggested “I say this to the academia in the room, I’m glad you’re here. Make sure you – the mass of the EJ movement is we speak for ourselves. So don’t speak for them.” (94)
92. Commenter testified that the “DEP has changed tremendously. And I will say you’re right on the road to South Carolina, who I think is one of the best EPAs out here. And It’s not everyone who would think that. Right? But they really are very good. And I think that you guys are right there.” (94)
93. Commenter testified that “[o]ne of the top priorities of improving environmental justice in Pennsylvania is to provide more information to the residents and citizens of Pennsylvania so that they are better prepared to participate in the process of environmental

- regulations.” (95)
94. Commenter suggested “[a]nother option is for DEP to establish citizen review panels in order for the public to participate in technically based decisions. This gives access to technical information and opportunity for debate of evidence in issues.” (95)
 95. Commenter stated they were “glad” that the DEP was hosting this listening session and thanked the DEP. (96)
 96. Commenter stated “[w]e desperately need you. Now, I’m encouraging you to work with local organizations. The EPA has been placed under a lot of strain. And the other organizations and city officials to make a difference in the city so there will be a healthy, safe place for us to live.” (98)
 97. Commenter testified that he “believe[d] that the industry and community can continue to create a brighter Chester on a regular basis.” (99)
 98. Commenter requested that “moving forward, that a lot of resources should be put into environmental justice advocacy.” (99)
 99. Commenter testified about the emission toxins that are dispersed from diesel traffic traveling the 95 corridor “is deadly”. (100)
 100. Commenter testified that “you’ve got to help communities know what they need to look out for, where they have a right, what they can say no to without being thrown in jail, sued for umpteen dollars or whatever.” (101)
 101. Commenter offered greeting as the State Representative for the 195th district and offered her office for continued constituent support. (104)
 102. Commenter suggested changing the time of meetings to later in the day and varying the location. (105)
 103. Commenter suggested that “if we do not move to renewable economy as soon as possible, we are handing down a really devastating legacy for our next generation.” (105)
 104. Commenter testified that “Until we acknowledge that and the failure of all levels of government to commit to addressing the power dynamics that make it impossible for most environmental justice communities to truly effect change in the communities, it is all window dressing.” (106)
 105. Commenter testified that “it is critically important that any DEP action that will impact an EJ area, that information is provided in a timely way, and that deadlines are significantly longer than the one’s routinely provided by DEP.” (106)
 106. Commenter testified that “DEP’s Environmental Justice Program cannot be silent. It really needs to be coordinated with the other agencies in order to have the full impact on the community.” (106)

107. Commenter testified that he's "been involved with Pennsylvania for over 20 years and believe that Pennsylvania leads the nation with regard to environmental justice." (108)
108. Commenter testified about the need of "environmental Advocates that you utilize in the regions are valuable assistance tools to communities." (108)
109. Commenter testified about the flooding that occurs in the Eastwick area of SW Philadelphia and the corresponding issue of cost of flood insurance. Commenter requested that the DEP work with the PA department of Insurance to help the residents understand their insurance responsibilities and requirements. (109)
110. Commenter testified that we are "moving past Environmental Justice to climate justice" and "we're at a place where the changes that we're seeing due to climate change are directly impacted population that environmental justice is designed to address." (111) (112)
111. Commenter testified about the "establishment and maintenance of good information...[and] in addition to just enforcing specific regulations, that there be a concerted effort to obtain a database of public comments that is available and meaningful in terms of understanding our environment." (112)
112. Commenter testified about the need to incentivize agencies such as SEPTA to move towards a fully electric fleet. (113)
113. Commenter suggested "continuing expansion of the Department's transparency initiative with data, with permitting documents, to the extent these documents can be put online in easily searchable, easily accessible formats." (114)
114. Commenter testified that the "DEP do a better job of communicating what those cumulative risks are to populations." (117)
115. Commenter suggested that the DEP should take advantage of the "enlightened citizen" movement by providing more opportunity for communities to monitor their own environmental concerns. (118)
116. Commenter also testified about the need to educate communities about "how [to] dispose of potential (domestic) hazards." (119)
117. Commenter testified "it's really important for federal agencies or any government agency to let people come and experience joy, and pain, and anger. Because what happens is when you don't give people this chance, you don't get people who show up who are angry. And that's why people get really frustrated at public meetings." (121)
118. Commenter "hope[d] that you guys keep doing stuff like this...and you make sure to reach out [to] people in every possible way." (121)
119. Commenter testified "we need a DEP office in Philadelphia. Norristown is too far for most of us that don't drive." (122)

120. Commenter suggested “that DEP consider the cumulative impacts of the permits that are issued.” (123)
121. Commenter stated that the scheduled listening sessions are too far for her and her neighbors to attend, and asked that the Department "consider hosting [one] in Scranton." (125)
122. Commenter testified the “environmental problems that I am most concerned about have to do with water and water quality and how it is adversely affected by the energy extraction industries in our area (Waynesburg).” (126)
123. Commenter testified that due to state and federal budget cuts, DEP programs are being underfunded and a risk to public safety. (127)
124. Commenter stated that "we need to preserve our environment for future generations to enjoy that means, reduce carbon footprint, eliminate fracking its the only way to save our planet". (128)
125. Commenter testified that "the gas industry is targeting rural PA with low percentages of college educated people and high rates of poverty", and it is "the job and purpose of Commonwealth government through the PA DEP to prevent such environmental degradation and destruction for human health by the gas drilling industry on a massive scale." (131)
126. Commenter requested to know “the details of how the PADEP attorneys determine what documents to remove from the Oil and Gas files prior to public review.” (133)
127. Commenter suggested that “the guidelines that the attorneys are using to remove files from the Oil and Gas files prior to review need to be provided to the public AND that a letter from the attorneys listing each document removed from the file should be written and provided to the person requesting the files.” (133)
128. Commenter stated “many communities in Pennsylvania have experienced a piling on of environmental impacts, either over generations of industrial exploitation, a multitude of projects supporting one polluting industry at present, or both. Approaching the issue of environmental justice by considering the demographic data outside of the context of environmental hardship, overlooks the fact that even those hovering above the poverty level may not have the resources to deal with the costs of replacing water, filtering air, and otherwise protecting their health and safety. Such expenses related to environmental issues should be taken into account in conjunction with data such as poverty rate when determining EJA communities.” (134)
129. Commenter testified “most pressing environmental justice concerns in our community are non-point source pollution from abandoned mine lands in the form of abandoned mine drainage (AMD), the illegal dumping of household hazardous wastes, tires, trash, and drug paraphernalia on lands and along streams within the coalfield communities.” (135)

130. Commenter suggested that DEP “[p]rovide notification to people who sign up through a website portal through the OEJ to receive additional input and notifications on public information for projects, permitting, or enforcement actions.” (135)
131. Commenter suggested that the DEP should have a “recognition of alternative food waste options to lower landfill use.” (136)
132. Commenter suggested there should be “the preservation of farmland and review of current energy policy in light of increased industrial/energy development on agriculturally-zoned land.” (136)
133. Commenter requested “increased information and opportunities for public input and comment.” (136)
134. Commenter testified “please our children and their children will be very negatively impacted by loosen environmental regulations. We plead with you to let them be.” (138)
135. Commenter suggested “[d]elay[ing] any EPA restrictions until we all know how this administration is going to land.” (139)
136. Commenter suggested “[i]t is time for us to be faithful in our commitment to protect ALL our citizens and make every effort to transition to clean and renewable energy and end this very damaging practice of burning fossil fuels and putting us all, and especially the most vulnerable, at risk.” (141)
137. Commenter testified that “rural communities should be protected for their abundant natural resources, not turned over to out of state industries for maximum exploitation.” (144)
138. Commenter testified they “believe [the] DEP is doing the best it can with the resources it has, but in the case of the Erie County communities, I sense that DEP is not engaged. It is my understanding that DEP has one dedicated staffer for the entire western region of Pennsylvania. DEP can be more engaged with marginalized communities by having more staff to execute EJ programs.” (145)
139. Commenter testified that “[p]ublic and community advocacy groups need to coordinate their efforts and speak to their legislators directly for any future action to occur in EJ.” (145)
140. Commenter suggested the need to look at the future in our decision-making processes and referenced the Iroquois perspective of Seven Generation stewardship and sustainability. (147)

EJ Policy

141. Commenter provided testimony that environmental justice is lacking in “Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale country” because there is “no public participation in any of the following kinds of permits: Erosion and sedimentation E & S permits for well pads, drill and operate well permits, E & S permits for pipelines, BA/GP-5 permits for compressor stations.” (2)
142. Commenter testified that the OEJ should “be able to receive complaints directly from EJ communities, auditing complaint inspection results and requiring a repeat inspection where an inspection was defective.” (2)
143. Commenter testified that the OEJ should be “an ex-officio member of all DEP technical advisory boards and must take an active role in drafting the language for technical guidance documents, including eligibility for general permits.” (2)
144. Commenter testified OEJ “become actively involved in the municipal EG Act 14 notification process, including ensuring that EJ communities understand that they get county and municipal comment on permit applications, even if general public participation is not available.” (2)
145. Commenter testified that the OEJ should consider expanding the definition of environmental justice communities to include additional “vulnerable populations, including elderly, women of childbearing age and children.” (3)
146. Commenter testified that “[p]ublic noticing needs to be posted widely in the community in the form of flyers, working with local newspapers to get --- or get articles placed, not just in legal sections or in the, you know, archaic Public Bulletin that only lawyers really enjoy reading.” (5)
147. Commenter testified that “[p]ublic meetings need to be held during hours when folks are not working [...] holding them multiple times to account for shift work that happens frequently here.” (5)
148. Commenter testified that “[i]nformal public conferences that happen for permit applications need to actually incorporate a --- back and forth with community members and not waiting to respond to comments”. (5)
149. Commenter testified that the DEP “consider holding multiple public meetings during the permitting process.” (5)
150. Commenter testified that “[t]rigger permits should be expanded to include shale gas activity and related infrastructure.” (5)
151. Commenter testified that the definition of an environmental justice community be expanded to include “home ownership rates, reduced school lunches, school district ratings, disability and elderly populations and other sensitive areas...and our population has decreased significantly. Due to the magnitude of coal operations, like the ones in

Greene County, coal fields should also be identified as --- as an environmental justice.” (5)

152. Commenter suggested that the DEP “should add oil and gas permits to the trigger list... [and] [a]ll permits should be trigger reviews to see if they contribute to cumulative impacts...[a]nd communities should have the right to have a community-based public meeting with the operator of the permits and the DEP.” (10)
153. Commenter suggested that the DEP should expand the definition of environmental justice community to include “the working poor, home ownership rates, assisted school lunch rates, disability and elderly populations, and also language barriers. The reviews should factor in cumulative impacts of more developing relative to existing industrial burdens [...] and allow communities to file a petition to be recognized as vulnerable.” (10)
154. Commenter suggested that the definition of an EJ community be expanded to include children and the elderly. (11)
155. Commenter suggested that the department increase information availability and access because often communities have no idea how to get information and/or how they may be impacted by a project. (12)
156. Commenter testified that current EJ policies are "missing the mark relative to oil and gas development." (14)
157. Commenter suggested moving beyond just indicators of poverty and race to define EJ communities. (14)
158. Commenter also suggested that pollution spreads beyond census tracts and we have to expand the area of concern. (14)
159. Commenter suggested enhancing engagement with primary and secondary schools on environmental justice and environmental protection. (15)
160. Commenter testified “[a] major obstacle to effective DEP policymaking regarding public participation is the fragmentation of public participation policy across three kinds of technical guidance documents.” (14)
161. Commenter suggested that the DEP expand the scope of EJ communities to include communities suffering from last impacts of the coal industry. (17)
162. Commenter suggested expanding the scope of what an environmental justice community is to include rural and Amish communities. (18)
163. Commenter asked the DEP to possibly hold “additional hearings” within Amish communities because they are not able to receive information about “unconventional drilling” in conventional means. (18)
164. Commenter testified that three minutes is not long enough for public testimony. (19)

165. Commenter testified that he feels the department doesn't "consider the mostly rural, mostly white non-affluent gas patched communities as marginalized" and they should. (20)
166. Commenter testified that the DEP should "identify at least one point of contact representing a prominent community group for of each designated EJ area, and make sure that that person is notified when an issue arises that could impact the community." (21)
167. Commenter suggested that the DEP should "expand its role in protecting overburdening communities from harm" beyond the permitting context. (21)
168. Commenter suggested that "all new pollution services within the EJ community trigger some form of review to consider them in the context of existing pollution burdens." (21)
169. Commenter suggested that the DEP use direct mailing "as an effective communication tool...that meetings take place on evenings and weekends and that childcare services be available to all community members that can participate...[and] the role of the DEP needs to be clearly communicated, including well-publicized clarification as to what kind of reporting is under their purview." (24)
170. Commenter suggested that the DEP "expand the definition of EJ communities, communicating with people in these regions on a regular basis and in formats that are accessible to them." (25)
171. Commenter suggested that the DEP should "leverage local expertise and informants...to develop comprehensive and community specific outreach plans for each proposed EJ trigger project." (25)
172. Commenter testified that the EJ definition be expanded to include "communities downwind from major source air polluters, communities that are close to highways and rail lines and communities that have a high percentage of senior citizens or children." (28)
173. Commenter suggested that the "DEP should do a better job of educating the public, so the public understands the --- the impacts of new and existing industries in the community." (28)
174. Commenter suggested that environmental justice communities are already environmentally challenged and suggested the DEP incorporate a "cumulative environmental impacts and evaluation of new source approvals" in those communities. (29)
175. Commenter suggested expanding the definition of EJ communities to include the elderly population. (29)
176. Commenter suggested that the DEP "take a more active role at ensuring specific guidelines and criteria are met and better facilitate the identification, notification and engagement of all the relevant community stakeholders." (29)

177. Commenter suggested that an environmental justice community should not just be defined by geographical boundaries but should also include impacts outside of the boundaries that influence those marginalized communities. (30)
178. Commenter testified that the DEP should expand the definition of an EJ community to include “point source” locations. (33)
179. Commenter testified that public meeting should be held in the “evenings or on weekends” and “centrally located in the affected community with ample access to public transportation” and announced on more than “a government website” and outreach should include “direct mailing, phone calls, text messaging, [and] having direct relationships with community leaders or community organizers.” (33)
180. Commenter suggested that the DEP take an intersectional approach to natural gas development as it relates to food security and agriculture “making waterways unusable for irrigation and cultivation.” (34)
181. Commenter suggested that the definition of an EJ community be expanded to include food desert communities and areas of linguistically isolated populations. (34)
182. Commenter testified that the department should expand the definition of EJ communities to include those rural communities that have been affected by the oil and gas industry. (35)
183. Commenter requested the DEP look at “how many facilities are impacting one community” when permitting. (37)
184. Commenter suggested that the DEP “look at the big picture because that’s where the justice is.” (42)
185. Commenter suggested the definition of EJ be expanded to include “children”, “elderly” and households that utilize the free and/or reduced school lunch programs. (44)
186. Commenter suggested that “environmental justice” not just include “the marginalized.” (46)
187. Commenter testified that “all communities are environmental justice communities.” (50)
188. Commenter suggested that “[t]here’s a lack of real, meaningful public participation, and therefore, lack of any control over what takes place on lands that belong to all of us.” (50)
189. Commenter requested the expansion of the definition of what we consider an environmental justice community to go beyond just race and income and to include other factors such as car ownership rates. (54)
190. Commenter asked that the department provide information in an easy and accessible manner for all to use. (62)

191. Commenter asked for the department to do more presentations in communities to engage them on what's occurring in their neighborhoods. (62)
192. Commenter provided testimony on the definition of EJ communities and suggested the department consider defining EJ communities by drawing "a radii of the pollution source." (69)
193. Commenter testified that EJ should extend its reach beyond just permitting "whether it's enforcement or funding, or grants, or some of those other areas." (71)
194. Commenter testified "[i]f you're really concerned about environmental justice, you will look at the whole ball of wax, not just little pieces, because that's what this is about. Environmental justice is civil rights." (72)
195. Commenter requested that "I hope Director Jones is empowered to have an opportunity to weigh in on all activities that DEP undergoes. It should not be its own entity. It should be --- it should be - it should be part of the culture of DEP. Take Environmental Justice seriously into consideration on every single permit that you do." (76)
196. Commenter requested "the DEP to do all in its power to ensure that the people of Pennsylvania have the information necessary to provide informed public comment and that sufficient participation opportunities are provided by the Department." (78)
197. Commenter asked that the DEP "play an active role in correlating with the state and federal agencies to allow for transparency and comprehensive public participation as required by state law." (78)
198. Commenter suggested that "the DEP should ensure that a comprehensive cumulative impact analysis that includes at a minimum a list of products - to be expected in these projects, and a quantification of impacts for all natural gas infrastructure projects." (78)
199. Commenter asked that the DEP promote listening, education, and action by educating communities about the environment and how to mitigate risks. (80)
200. Commenter suggested that the DEP work to build a "relationship in all the municipalities and towns with the zoning board and DEP. When zoning boards are making decisions about facilities in a zone named environmental justice communities, they have some kind of a understanding of environmental justice and what that industry's effect can have on that community." (82)
201. Commenter suggested that the DEP use the success of the Chester Environmental Partnership as a model for other communities because it is a "community that is perfect example of what can happen when people work together". (83)
202. Commenter testified that "environmental justice is not just a matter of fairness and not just a matter of race or economic status. It is a matter of health, and in some cases, life or death." (85)

203. Commenter asked the DEP expand its definition of an EJ community to include a measurement of “disproportionate burden.” (85)
204. Commenter testified “[p]ollution doesn’t stay in artificial boundaries.” (85)
205. Commenter proposed “a public-private partnership that got together, public sector and private sector, colleges and universities around the shared vision of goals and also the metrics that we can use to reach our goals (EJ).” (88)
206. Commenter stated “[w]e need to highlight that fact that there are many assets to environmental justice community groups that are disproportionately affected.” (92)
207. Commenter suggested the DEP “identify goals for – for developing goals in these communities to reach out to young people and figure out who to engage them and to make it known what you’re doing.” (92)
208. Commenter suggested better signage. (94)
209. Commenter suggested “I say this to the academia in the room, I’m glad you’re here. Make sure you – the mass of the EJ movement is we speak for ourselves. So don’t speak for them.” (94)
210. Commenter testified that “[o]ne of the top priorities of improving environmental justice in Pennsylvania is to provide more information to the residents and citizens of Pennsylvania so that they are better prepared to participate in the process of environmental regulations.” (95)
211. Commenter suggested “[a]nother option is for DEP to establish citizen review panels in order for the public to participate in technically based decisions. This gives access to technical information and opportunity for debate of evidence in issues.” (95)
212. Commenter requested that “moving forward, that a lot of resources should be put into environmental justice advocacy.” (99)
213. Commenter testified that “you’ve got to help communities know what they need to look out for, where they have a right, what they can say no to without being thrown in jail, sued for umpteen dollars or whatever.” (101)
214. Commenter suggested changing the time of meetings to later in the day and varying the location. (105)
215. Commenter testified that environmental justice must be considered holistically “other factors in the larger environment inhabited by communities including employment, health status of community members, literacy levels, culture and linguistic differences and barriers, and limited financial and time resources.” (106)
216. Commenter testified that the DEP must expand its definition of what an EJ community is because “DEP must have a definition of environmental justice that takes in all of these

- factors.” (106)
217. Commenter testified that “Until we acknowledge that and the failure of all levels of government to commit to addressing the power dynamics that make it impossible for most environmental justice communities to truly effect change in the communities, it is all window dressing.” (106)
 218. Commenter testified that “it is critically important that any DEP action that will impact an EJ area, that information is provided in a timely way, and that deadlines are significantly longer than the one's routinely provided by DEP.” (106)
 219. Commenter testified that “DEP's Environmental Justice Program cannot be silent. It really needs to be coordinated with the other agencies in order to have the full impact on the community.” (106)
 220. Commenter testified about the need of “environmental Advocates that you utilize in the regions are valuable assistance tools to communities.” (108)
 221. Commenter suggested the DEP expand its definition of what an EJ community is to include a broad scope of the factors that define a person environment. (108)
 222. Commenter testified that “Environmental Justice is a bigger mission than that. It involves the fair and meaningful involvement of people, and the outcomes in good health. And I will tell you that as I look across the Environmental Justice communities in Pennsylvania, we can easily show data that the health disparities due to illness that is directly impacted by environmental exposure, it's tremendously different.” (110)
 223. Commenter testified about the “establishment and maintenance of good information...[and] in addition to just enforcing specific regulations, that there be a concerted effort to obtain a database of public comments that is available and meaningful in terms of understanding our environment.” (112)
 224. Commenter testified that the “definition of environmental justice, potential communities, including elderly populations, female-headed households which are often single mothers with small children, and elderly people with limited mobility.” (117)
 225. Commenter testified “it's really important for federal agencies or any government agency to let people come and experience joy, and pain, and anger. Because what happens is when you don't give people this chance, you don't get people who show up who are angry. And that's why people get really frustrated at public meetings.” (121)
 226. Commenter “hope[d] that you guys keep doing stuff like this...and you make sure to reach out [to] people in every possible way.” (121)
 227. Commenter suggested “that DEP consider the cumulative impacts of the permits that are issued.” (123)
 228. Commenter suggested DEP do a better job at reaching out to marginalized communities.

(124)

229. Commenter testified that "the gas industry is targeting rural PA with low percentages of college educated people and high rates of poverty", and it is "the job and purpose of Commonwealth government through the PA DEP to prevent such environmental degradation and destruction for human health by the gas drilling industry on a massive scale." (131)
230. Commenter suggested EJ "might be able to [be] use[d] ... to help the local population which included Amish residents, Amish businesses and an Amish school that were being impacted negatively (because of a state bridge closure)". (132)
231. Commenter suggested that the Amish suffered "discrimination because of their religious beliefs." (132)
232. Commenter requested "that [the DEP] expand the [EJ Listening] tour to ensure that issues of environmental justice are well understood and addressed." (134)
233. Commenter testified "2010 data doesn't reflect current the population's racial, ethnic, and income makeup or that the population exposed is smaller than a census block." (134)
234. Commenter testified that "Executive Order 12898 makes it clear that EJ communities can, and should, be identified by working backwards from areas surrounding facilities or sites expected to have substantial environmental, human health, or economic effect on surrounding populations" and "[f]racking, and fracking-related infrastructure, fall blatantly within these criteria." (134)
235. Commenter stated "many communities in Pennsylvania have experienced a piling on of environmental impacts, either over generations of industrial exploitation, a multitude of projects supporting one polluting industry at present, or both. Approaching the issue of environmental justice by considering the demographic data outside of the context of environmental hardship, overlooks the fact that even those hovering above the poverty level may not have the resources to deal with the costs of replacing water, filtering air, and otherwise protecting their health and safety. Such expenses related to environmental issues should be taken into account in conjunction with data such as poverty rate when determining EJA communities." (134)
236. Commenter testified "most pressing environmental justice concerns in our community are non-point source pollution from abandoned mine lands in the form of abandoned mine drainage (AMD), the illegal dumping of household hazardous wastes, tires, trash, and drug paraphernalia on lands and along streams within the coalfield communities." (135)
237. Commenter testified EJ "should not define environmental justice solely by the 20% poverty rate or the 30% minority population because minority populations are not the only ones affected by environmental pollution. It should not matter what the percentage is if the pollution problem exists because the polluted lands and water don't discriminate against population segments or Census defined categories of people based on their

- minority or ethnic backgrounds.” (135)
238. Commenter testified “[w]e need to be able to provide easier access to the political process and be sure that our volunteers and members of the communities that we are serving are having their voice heard.” (135)
239. Commenter suggested that DEP “[p]rovide notification to people who sign up through a website portal through the OEJ to receive additional input and notifications on public information for projects, permitting, or enforcement actions.” (135)
240. Commenter suggested the “consideration of ‘food desert’ indicators in determining Environmental Justice (EJ) communities.” (136)
241. Commenter requested “increased information and opportunities for public input and comment.” (136)
242. Commenter testified that “we think it is a great ‘injustice’ that Northeastern Pennsylvania was not included in the Environmental ‘Justice’.” (137)
243. Commenter testified she “believe[s] access to clean water is an environmental justice issue” and that she is “worried about the degradation of water quality in Pennsylvania, both the surface water and the groundwater.” (143)
244. Commenter testified that “rural communities should be protected for their abundant natural resources, not turned over to out of state industries for maximum exploitation.” (144)
245. Commenter testified “I must acknowledge the use of ‘minority’ as an appropriate word choice because it incorporates differences in color, race, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, etc.” (146)
246. Commenter suggested that “The current definition is narrowly focused, and to an extent exclusive.” (146)
247. Commenter suggested that “The DEP should consider adopting the EPA’s broader understanding of an EJ community which incorporates anyone and everyone, not just a proportion of people.” (146)
248. Commenter testified that “It may be helpful to ask how the OEJ will deal with communities that have slightly lower percentages of minorities and low income people, with respect to the definition. These smaller groups also deserve representation and justice.” (146)
249. Commenter suggested “considering a [EJ] community through a holistic rather than numerical perspective may be beneficial.” (146)
250. Commenter suggested that “We would highly recommend the Department consider

reviewing its public participation policy to ensure the citizens of the Commonwealth be given an appropriate amount of time to provide comment in the future [because]... as a professional it can be difficult to provide written comment within a 30-day time period, when you take into account the additional time it takes to conduct a file review.” (146)

Interagency

251. Commenter suggested the DEP “track the medical problems” of people surrounded by unconventional drilling. (8)
252. Commenter suggested enhancing engagement with primary and secondary schools on environmental justice and environmental protection. (15)
253. Commenter asked that the DEP create a plan “helping communities mitigate environmental burdens that are not necessarily the result of permitting issues...lead paint exposure from our older housing stock.” (21)
254. Commenter suggested that the DEP and DOH create “targeted intensive education and remediation programs.” (21)
255. Commenter testified they are concerned about the PWSA lead service line issue in the Pittsburgh area and how marginalized communities and resident don’t have the funds to help replace those lines and that the DEP should take an active role in helping those communities correct the issues with their lines. (26) (27)
256. Commenter testified that the DEP should consider green infrastructure projects in EJ communities which could assist with storm water management, air quality, and provide recreational and green space for marginalized communities. (32)
257. Commenter suggested that the DEP take an intersectional approach to natural gas development as it relates to food security and agriculture “making waterways unusable for irrigation and cultivation.” (34)
258. Commenter suggested that “improving particulate matter levels from these sources (‘industrial sources’) would improve overall public health.” (35)
259. Commenter suggested better lead data collection. (36)
260. Commenter testified about not knowing which agency to go to for answers on certain types of questions and the lack of a resource where a citizen can go and be pointed in the right direction. (43)
261. Commenter encouraged the “State Attorney General” to weigh in on the “Clean Power Plan”. (44)

262. Commenter provided testimony concerning “low lying and flood prone areas” and the need for “flood plain restoration” in areas where industry has diminished forestry and created more impervious surfaces. (45)
263. Commenter testified that as pervious surfaces are diminished larger amounts of water get into the streams and expand flood plain areas which may also impact residents due to high priced flood insurance. (47)
264. Commenter asked the department to work with other agencies to through the grant process to provide funding to these communities and/or to develop a pilot program to make “a couple significant projects in rural disenfranchised areas.” (48) (53)
265. Commenter testified that she wishes there was a better way to navigate state government to know what agency to turn to because “we don’t always know where to go.” (50)
266. Commenter suggested that municipalities create an advocate for community engagement in city halls across the commonwealth to serve as point people for state agencies such as the DEP. (54)
267. Commenter testified that "the environmental justice concern that’s most pressing to [her] in this community is the issue of lead poisoning in children " due to the "housing stock issue". (55) (57)
268. Commenter recognized that this lead exposure is not due to drinking water, but requested that we all do a better job of not just identifying who these children are, but also "begin tracking them for possible disabilities in the future or for a lack of development or developmental issues". (55) (57)
269. Commenter testified about a proposed transportation route around a disenfranchised community and how the relocation of walking routes to "a narrow walkway [is] immediately adjacent to heavy traffic, including diesel vehicles, all kinds of large trucks, many kinds of vehicles, noise" and would expose an area with high particulate pollution to an even greater amount. (56)
270. The local citizen’s advisory committee on transit authority had hardly any citizens on it, and "the City needs to have a better way to get [involved in the] process". (56)
271. Commenter asked that the DEP to consider enforcement action for a permit violation that precluded “low-income [communities] and the handicapped" from access to 600 out of 900 feet of Erie waterfront. (58)
272. Commenters testified about Erie Coke’s history of air violations and a continuing behavior that does not change, as well as, health concerns in the areas that directly surround the facility. (57) (58) (59)
273. Commenter spoke about the lack of resources for the elderly who may have lead in their home and need assistance in the remediation process. (63)

274. Commenter also asked for any information on a project being conducted under the MacBride viaduct. (63)
275. Commenter gave testimony “that the lead, mercury, and other heavy metals emitted by coal waste power plants have real health effects like autism that have real monetary price tags.” (69)
276. Commenter gave testimony that coal waster power plants drive “extreme weather that results in exorbitant electric bills as well as the costs recovering from floods.” (69)
277. Commenter provided testimony on how the Delaware and Lehigh canal trails go through traditionally disadvantaged communities and how they are hoping to attract more members from those communities to use the trail as a resource. (70)
278. Commenter spoke on behalf of the indigenous Americans who have died in the area and stated that the areas that defined their heritage in Glasgow and Oleander townships have pipelines proposed to go through them. (73)
279. Commenter testified that she is “concerned about the cost of living” and affordability to live in Lancaster. (74)
280. Commenter testified about the lack of bike lanes and bus routes to reach the city. (74)
281. Commenter testified that municipal water advisories are not sufficient in notice and clarity. (74)
282. Commenter testified that Lancaster has some of the “most pristine farmland in the nation” and these communities “are the backbone of the economy of this area” and that pipelines are/are being proposed to go through them and “you have no right to damage or corporations have no right to take that from us.” (74)
283. Commenter testified that we should “teach[] young people about global warming and environmental issues.” (77)
284. Commenter requested DEP “conduct epidemiological studies to gather data and help quantify impacts”. (80)
285. Commenter suggested that the DEP work to build a “relationship in all the municipalities and towns with the zoning board and DEP. When zoning boards are making decisions about facilities in a zone named environmental justice communities, they have some kind of a understanding of environmental justice and what that industry's effect can have on that community.” (82)
286. Commenter suggested that the DEP and DOT work together to ensure environmental justice areas are considered in the “Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2019”. (84)
287. Commenter suggested the DEP “identify goals for – for developing goals in these

- communities to reach out to young people and figure out who to engage them and to make it known what you're doing." (92)
288. Commenter suggested that the DEP enhance its air monitoring in the area due to the high amount of asthma and "respiratory problems". (97)
289. Commenter testified about the emission toxins that are dispersed from diesel traffic traveling the 95 corridor "is deadly". (100)
290. Commenter testified that she was concerned about a "a high rate of asthma" and a "high rate of glaucoma here in the city." (102)
291. Commenter testified that she is the Director of Health Services for the City of Chester and requested that the DEP, if able, assist the City of Chester get back the funding it received in the past for their asthma and lead programs which she partially attributes to "the internal structures of our aging buildings." (103)
292. Commenter testified about oil trains and "every single day there are there are highly explosive trains running on crumbling infrastructure, literally right over there. They're running by schools. They're running by parks. They're running by houses. I mean a lot of those houses and communities are low-income communities and color." (105)
293. Commenter testified that "Until we acknowledge that and the failure of all levels of government to commit to addressing the power dynamics that make it impossible for most environmental justice communities to truly effect change in the communities, it is all window dressing." (106)
294. Commenter testified that "DEP's Environmental Justice Program cannot be silent. It really needs to be coordinated with the other agencies in order to have the full impact on the community." (106)
295. Commenter testified about the flooding that occurs in the Eastwick area of SW Philadelphia and the corresponding issue of cost of flood insurance. Commenter requested that the DEP work with the PA department of Insurance to help the residents understand their insurance responsibilities and requirements. (109)
296. Commenter testified that "Environmental Justice is a bigger mission than that. It involves the fair and meaningful involvement of people, and the outcomes in good health. And I will tell you that as I look across the Environmental Justice communities in Pennsylvania, we can easily show data that the health disparities due to illness that is directly impacted by environmental exposure, it's tremendously different." (110)
297. Commenter testified about the need to incentivize agencies such as SEPTA to move towards a fully electric fleet. (113)
298. Commenter testified "the issue of DEP partnering with sister agencies in the Commonwealth, specifically the Department of Health and the Department of Transportation on environmental justice issues, on environmental health issues." (114)

299. Commenter testified that the potential placement of a SEPTA gas plant in Nicetown and further stated it does not make sense because the technology will be obsolete. (116) (118)
300. Commenter suggested that the DEP should take advantage of the “enlightened citizen” movement by providing more opportunity for communities to monitor their own environmental concerns. (118)
301. Commenter testified that “[w]e need to reemphasis the PA Wilds and put our region back on a path to environmentally sustainable economic development”. (130)
302. Commenter stated that “[t]here should be a moratorium on gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing in the Commonwealth while its impacts on human health are studied until they are fully understood”. (131)
303. Commenter suggested EJ “might be able to [be] use[d] ... to help the local population which included Amish residents, Amish businesses and an Amish school that were being impacted negatively (because of a state bridge closure)”. (132)
304. Commenter stated “many communities in Pennsylvania have experienced a piling on of environmental impacts, either over generations of industrial exploitation, a multitude of projects supporting one polluting industry at present, or both. Approaching the issue of environmental justice by considering the demographic data outside of the context of environmental hardship, overlooks the fact that even those hovering above the poverty level may not have the resources to deal with the costs of replacing water, filtering air, and otherwise protecting their health and safety. Such expenses related to environmental issues should be taken into account in conjunction with data such as poverty rate when determining EJA communities.” (134)
305. Commenter suggested there should be “the preservation of farmland and review of current energy policy in light of increased industrial/energy development on agriculturally-zoned land.” (136)
306. Commenter spoke about “the challenge brought by unenforced scrap metal yards that are allowed to cause a series of environmental hazards without recourse” and how his organization has “done our best to guide residents through the maze of different governmental enforcement agencies, of which PA DEP is one for air quality and contamination issues.” (142)
307. Commenter suggested that the DEP “[r]equire industries fouling water to be responsible for cleaning it to drinkable quality – they know what they put in it – they know best how to get it out[;] [d]o[es] not permit any extractive industry within 100 meters of a wet land – still or flowing[;] [o]utlaw use of fracking waste as road de-icer, eliminating regular salt would be good too – saltmarshes belong near the ocean - not in Penn’s Woods; monitor trucks transporting used fracking fluid so drivers cannot dump their tanks along the side of a rural road as I understand is not uncommon[;] decrease in impervious surfaces – for example, requiring all ground level parking lots to be made of permeable surfaces on

building of a certain size to have green rooves; [f]or riparian buffers to be required along streams, particularly in agricultural areas and along roadways; [o]utlaw use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers near bodies of water[;] [e]liminate flushing of waste drugs into our water[; and] [e]liminate construction in the 100 year flood plain. (143)

308. Commenter testified that “[p]ublic and community advocacy groups need to coordinate their efforts and speak to their legislators directly for any future action to occur in EJ.” (147)

Oil & Gas

309. Commenter provided testimony that environmental justice is lacking in “Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale country” because there is “no public participation in any of the following kinds of permits: Erosion and sedimentation E & S permits for well pads, drill and operate well permits, E & S permits for pipelines, BA/GP-5 permits for compressor stations.” (2)
310. Commenter testified that the “most significant environmental justice concern in this region at this time” is “[a]ir and water emissions from these wells [unconventional], related infrastructure such as pipelines, condensate tanks, compressor stations and processing facilities and the hundreds of thousands of diesel truck trips required to build this industry impact low-income residents in isolated communities by taxing already limited health resources and introducing new public health concerns.” (3)(116)
311. Commenter testified about how a once “beautiful area [has become] an industrial zone” because “currently [we are] surrounded by, to date, 33 well pads, three compressor stations, pigging stations. We have a training facility, a day facility for workers. And since July, we've had four pipelines from Mariner East One. And the newest pipeline began in January.” (4)
312. Commenter provided testimony that the unconventional oil and gas industry should be more regulated. (9)
313. Commenter testified that because “Pennsylvania is the second largest natural gas producer in the state...it's a major contributor of natural gas air pollution that's impacting our communities.” (10)
314. Commenter suggested that the DEP “should add oil and gas permits to the trigger list... [and] [a]ll permits should be trigger reviews to see if they contribute to cumulative impacts...[a]nd communities should have the right to have a community-based public meeting with the operator of the permits and the DEP.” (10)
315. Commenter suggested that the DEP should expand the definition of environmental justice community to include “the working poor, home ownership rates, assisted school lunch rates, disability and elderly populations, and also language barriers. The reviews should factor in cumulative impacts of more developing relative to existing industrial burdens [...]

- and allow communities to file a petition to be recognized as vulnerable.” (10)
316. Commenter suggested that there should be “triggers” for “oil and gas” permitting. (11)
317. Commenter suggested that the department increase information availability and access because often communities have no idea how to get information and/or how they may be impacted by a project. (12)
318. Commenter also testified about the desire to receive better information about “gas rights” associated with property ownership. (12)
319. Commenter suggested there should be “good regulations to control the gas and oil drilling.” (13)
320. Commenter testified that “we are concerned, me and my family, my neighbors, of the methane with the toxic chemicals that are emitted when they frack, the leaks in the system.” (13)
321. Commenter testified that current EJ policies are "missing the mark relative to oil and gas development." (14)
322. Commenter testified the most pressing issue in Washington County is “the shale gas industry, whose activities pollute the air and water, stress people out and make the most -- the mostly rural residents, who live in proximity to the industry's infrastructure, sick.” (20)
323. Commenter testified they did not feel the current EJ policy addressed the needs of the “Marcellus Shale gas patch, where most of the residents exposed to the physical and psychological harms that accompany this heavy industry are white. They live in rural communities.” (20)
324. Commenter testified there should be a “moratorium on drilling.” (23)
325. Commenter testified that “we must ban fracking.” (31)
326. Commenter asked that the DEP pay attention to the area around the proposed Cracker Plant so that the area does not become “another place like Norco.” (38)
327. Commenter testified that she does not want the Shell Cracker Plant to be allowed to operate. (39)
328. Commenter testified that she believed that “gas drilling” is the “biggest, I believe, environmental justice concern” and that is not “limited to just marginalized communities.” (42)
329. Commenter suggested “we need DEP to monitor all surfaces and come up with true aggregations and a basic system that keeps us from becoming an energy sacrifice, which would be an environmental injustice for all.” (45)

330. Commenter stated that the DEP should evaluate how the expansion of flood plains due to “the natural gas industry” affects marginalized communities. (47)
331. Commenter testified that the major environmental justice issue is the “unjust imposition of the natural gas industry on the Commonwealth”. (50)
332. Commenter testified that the gas industry “directly threatens and negatively affects” the natural beauty and historical assets of Pennsylvania “in particular on our public lands and rural communities.” (50)
333. Commenter testified that “DEP also has a responsibility to limit deforestation for all types of development and require effective revegetation for all development.” (51)
334. Commenter also asked why “does DEP su[e] those communities for trying to protect their own environment?” (60)
335. Commenter proposed a stop on fracking and oil and gas infrastructure and stated the taking of land via “eminent domain” is not environmental justice. (67).
336. Commenter testified about wanting to know a “general idea of what the safety is [for resident living around gas wells] and what, you know, you guys are doing with it.” (68)
337. Commenter spoke on behalf of Lancaster Against Pipelines and testified there is “a movement in this country that's growing that no one can ignore where people are saying no to a build out of gas and oil infrastructure.” (72)
338. Commenter asked for better information and more information transparency because “I know the piecemeal permitting structure that allows combined impacts of different industries, shale, gas and coal mining, to go unaccounted for.” (76)
339. Commenter suggested that “the DEP should ensure that a comprehensive cumulative impact analysis that includes at a minimum a list of products - to be expected in these projects, and a quantification of impacts for all natural gas infrastructure projects.” (78)
340. Commenter’s testified his “deepest concern for the State of Pennsylvania is the impact of gas powered fracking in the state...and the policing of the aquifers, because many of us have no idea what’s occurring from the dumping of the noxious water that goes into running these facilities. ” (91)
341. Commenter testified that “[f]racking came in and in no time, they contaminated the drinking water which people rely, and nobody stepped in and said don’t do this. The DEP did not. They were there but somebody should’ve stood up and said this is not right.” (101)
342. Commenter testified that “[f]racking is killing our totally defenseless.” (120)
343. Commenter testified the “environmental problems that I am most concerned about have to do with water and water quality and how it is adversely affected by the energy

- extraction industries in our area (Waynesburg)." (126)
344. Commenter stated that he "regularly get notices that my drinking water has failed tests" due to "Total Dissolved Solids levels which can be directly related to the gas extraction industries." Commenter expressed concern that "[t]hese notices come to me after they have mediated the problem." Commenter requests "more rigorous monitoring of my public water supply". (126)
345. Commenter stated that "we need to preserve our environment for future generations to enjoy that means, reduce carbon footprint, eliminate fracking its the only way to save our planet". (128)
346. Commenter testified that "[w]e need to reemphasis the PA Wilds and put our region back on a path to environmentally sustainable economic development". (130)
347. Commenter testified that "the gas industry is targeting rural PA with low percentages of college educated people and high rates of poverty", and it is "the job and purpose of Commonwealth government through the PA DEP to prevent such environmental degradation and destruction for human health by the gas drilling industry on a massive scale." (131)
348. Commenter stated that "[t]here should be a moratorium on gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing in the Commonwealth while its impacts on human health are studied until they are fully understood". (131)
349. Commenter requested to know "the details of how the PADEP attorneys determine what documents to remove from the Oil and Gas files prior to public review." (133)
350. Commenter suggested that "the guidelines that the attorneys are using to remove files from the Oil and Gas files prior to review need to be provided to the public AND that a letter from the attorneys listing each document removed from the file should be written and provided to the person requesting the files." (133)
351. Commenter testified "related to the Class II waste water disposal wells" and stated there "should be a hydrogeological investigation conducted that determines the influence area of the private wells and the activities that occur within that area of influence should be allowed to be controlled through the authority of that township." (133)
352. Commenter testified that "Executive Order 12898 makes it clear that EJ communities can, and should, be identified by working backwards from areas surrounding facilities or sites expected to have substantial environmental, human health, or economic effect on surrounding populations" and "[f]racking, and fracking-related infrastructure, fall blatantly within these criteria." (134)
353. Commenter suggested there should be "the preservation of farmland and review of current energy policy in light of increased industrial/energy development on agriculturally-zoned land." (136)

354. Commenter testified “we are and have been vulnerable to the negative impacts of natural gas pipeline projects, yet what has the DEP done to alleviate our area from being flooded with unnecessary gas lines, our air from being polluted with increased truck traffic and especially after allowing thousands of acres of trees to be cut.” (137)
355. Commenter suggested that the “DEP could play a major role in making fracking and natural gas pipeline development a win/win or at least not an industry win/landowners and the environment lose situation by requiring that the industry work with DEP, landowners and affected local governments for developing the safest and least intrusive routes.” (137)
356. Commenter suggested that the “DEP needs to do a better job of disseminating critical and timely information to the public, and making the best efforts to include the public.” (137)
357. Commenter testified that she “grow[s] increasingly concerned that we’re not placing enough emphasis on air quality in the region” and that “[m]ethane emissions from the natural gas industry, combined with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including benzene, a carcinogen, lead to increased ozone smog that is so harmful to developing lungs. Children and senior citizens struggle most with this compromised air quality.” (140)
358. Commenter suggested “[i]t is time for us to be faithful in our commitment to protect ALL our citizens and make every effort to transition to clean and renewable energy and end this very damaging practice of burning fossil fuels and putting us all, and especially the most vulnerable, at risk.” (141)
359. Commenter suggested that the DEP “[r]equire industries fouling water to be responsible for cleaning it to drinkable quality – they know what they put in it – they know best how to get it out[;] [d]o[es] not permit any extractive industry within 100 meters of a wet land – still or flowing[;] [o]utlaw use of fracking waste as road de-icer, eliminating regular salt would be good too – saltmarshes belong near the ocean - not in Penn’s Woods; monitor trucks transporting used fracking fluid so drivers cannot dump their tanks along the side of a rural road as I understand is not uncommon[;] decrease in impervious surfaces – for example, requiring all ground level parking lots to be made of permeable surfaces on building of a certain size to have green rooves; [f]or riparian buffers to be required along streams, particularly in agricultural areas and along roadways; [o]utlaw use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers near bodies of water[;] [e]liminate flushing of waste drugs into our water[; and] [e]liminate construction in the 100 year flood plain. (143)
360. Commenter testified that she sees “fracking as a way for families to lose their land and water, with very limited resources to fight back or protect themselves from an industry that, I think it is fair to say, the DEP does not regulate adequately.” (144)

Air

361. Commenter testified that the OEJ must consider public participation in all “air quality plan approvals” in EJ communities and not just “major source as a condition for public participation.” (2)
362. Commenter testified that because “Pennsylvania is the second largest natural gas producer in the state...it's a major contributor of natural gas air pollution that's impacting our communities.” (10)
363. Commenter testified the most pressing environmental justice issue in “Allegheny County, [is] the air quality.” (20)
364. Commenter testified the most pressing issue in Washington County is “the shale gas industry, whose activities pollute the air and water, stress people out and make the most - -- the mostly rural residents, who live in proximity to the industry's infrastructure, sick.” (20)
365. Commenter testified that the DEP should provide “direct links to daily air quality and pollution reports” on the website. (20)
366. Commenter testified the “concentration of major source air polluters in our community that make us and our children sick, and inability of the Allegheny County Health Department to adequately regulate these sources” is the major environmental justice issue in the area. (28)
367. Commenter testified that the DEP should consider green infrastructure projects in EJ communities which could assist with storm water management, air quality, and provide recreational and green space for marginalized communities. (32)
368. Commenter suggested that “improving particulate matter levels from these sources (‘industrial sources’) would improve overall public health.” (35)
369. Commenter provided testimony on how air quality from “standing or idling vehicles” and “backyard burner barrel burning” disproportionality “affect vulnerable population”. (44)
370. Commenter suggested that the department determine if the current “standing vehicle idling” standards “are strict enough and if the enforcement of the regulations is sufficient.” (44)
371. Commenters testified about Erie Coke’s history of air violations and a continuing behavior that does not change, as well as, health concerns in the areas that directly surround the facility. (57) (58) (59)
372. Commenter testified that the public was not engaged in the “cracker plant that’s going in northeast of Pittsburgh” until the “very last minute”. (61)
373. Commenter gave testimony “that the lead, mercury, and other heavy metals emitted by

- coal waste power plants have real health effects like autism that have real monetary price tags.” (69)
374. Commenter gave testimony that coal waster power plants drive “extreme weather that results in exorbitant electric bills as well as the costs recovering from floods.” (69)
375. Commenter provided testimony on the distribution of funds from the Volkswagen settlement and asked that department to direct funds towards EJ communities since they tend to bear the impacts of diesel pollution if possible. (71) (100) (106)
376. Commenter testified that DEP could help “communities of color and low income communities to help them apply for the money and get the grants (Volkswagen) where it could do the most good.” (71)
377. Commenter testified that fireworks are bad for the air quality. (77)
378. Commenter suggested that the DEP enhance its air monitoring in the area due to the high amount of asthma and “respiratory problems”. (97)
379. Commenter testified that “pipelines and their related infrastructure...be treated as a threat to our air quality.” (97)
380. Commenter suggested that the DEP “should conduct frequent unannounced tests, measuring with instruments at multiple points in all commercial sites that are capable of releasing any type of toxic emissions into our air and water.” (97)
381. Commenter testified about the emission toxins that are dispersed from diesel traffic traveling the 95 corridor “is deadly”. (100)
382. Commenter testified that she was concerned about a “a high rate of asthma” and a “high rate of glaucoma here in the city.” (102)
383. Commenter testified that she is the Director of Health Services for the City of Chester and requested that the DEP, if able, assist the City of Chester get back the funding it received in the past for their asthma and lead programs which she partially attributes to “the internal structures of our aging buildings.” (103)
384. Commenter testified that he was “concerned with is the oil refinery in South Philly, Philadelphia Energy Solutions is the single largest polluter in the entire county.” (105)
385. Commenter testified that “[c]limate change is the single largest threat to all communities. Communities of color, in particular. And I think that we cannot move forward as a Commonwealth, or as a nation, or as a globe without having incredibly aggressive policies in place to deal with climate change.” (105)
386. Commenter testified the need to switch to “alternative fuels [which] will stop the air pollution, which causes 12,000-plus children in Philadelphia County to have asthma attacks.” (107)

387. Commenter testified that we are “moving past Environmental Justice to climate justice” and “we're at a place where the changes that we're seeing due to climate change are directly impacted population that environmental justice is designed to address.” (111) (112)
388. Commenter testified that Greer Island is “the only coal-powered power plant in Pennsylvania that's been allowed to continue to operate with no pollution controls.” (113)
389. Commenter testified that she “grow[s] increasingly concerned that we’re not placing enough emphasis on air quality in the region” and that “[m]ethane emissions from the natural gas industry, combined with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including benzene, a carcinogen, lead to increased ozone smog that is so harmful to developing lungs. Children and senior citizens struggle most with this compromised air quality.” (140)
390. Commenter spoke about “the challenge brought by unenforced scrap metal yards that are allowed to cause a series of environmental hazards without recourse” and how his organization has “done our best to guide residents through the maze of different governmental enforcement agencies, of which PA DEP is one for air quality and contamination issues.” (142)

Clean Water

391. Commenter testified the most pressing issue in Washington County is “the shale gas industry, whose activities pollute the air and water, stress people out and make the most - - the mostly rural residents, who live in proximity to the industry's infrastructure, sick.” (20)
392. Commenter testified that “Enforcement of Clean Water laws is an opportunity to empower these EJ communities to reconnect with water, reconnect with the utilities managing their water and to reconnect with the agencies enforcing clean water requirements.” (22)
393. Commenter suggested that the DEP “should prioritize its CSO enforcement policies to direct engineering and design resources to address overflows throughout the system, including in people's basements.” (22)
394. Commenter suggested that the DEP should “encourage urban watershed action plans, such as PWSA's Green First Plans.” (22)
395. Commenter suggested the DEP “should consider basement overflow elimination programs as an important contribution to remedial actions in CSO consent decrees.” (22)
396. Commenter suggested that the DEP should “prioritize community engagement and workforce development as components of the CSO Consent Decree Remediation Plans.”

(22)

397. Commenter testified they are concerned about the PWSA lead service line issue in the Pittsburgh area and how marginalized communities and resident don't have the funds to help replace those lines and that the DEP should take an active role in helping those communities correct the issues with their lines. (26) (27)
398. Commenter testified that the "DEP needs to quickly update Cheswick's water pollution permit, which would limit the amount of toxins that can be dumped into the Allegheny River, our main source of drinking water. The draft permit should be released for public comment immediately and finalized by the end of the year and must implement the 2015 federal rules limiting water pollution from power plants." (27)
399. Commenter testified that the DEP should consider green infrastructure projects in EJ communities which could assist with storm water management, air quality, and provide recreational and green space for marginalized communities. (32)
400. Commenter asked the DEP to look "into the benefits of mushroom and fungus mycelium for creating healthier ecosystems." (39)
401. Commenter testified that her major environmental justice concern was "clean, safe water, because that's life." (46)
402. Commenter asked that the DEP to consider enforcement action for a permit violation that precluded "low-income [communities] and the handicapped" from access to 600 out of 900 feet of Erie waterfront. (58)
403. Commenter testified that the public was not engaged in the "cracker plant that's going in northeast of Pittsburgh" until the "very last minute". (61)
404. Commenter gave testimony "that the lead, mercury, and other heavy metals emitted by coal waste power plants have real health effects like autism that have real monetary price tags." (69)
405. Commenter gave testimony that coal waster power plants drive "extreme weather that results in exorbitant electric bills as well as the costs recovering from floods." (69)
406. Commenter provided testimony concerning ACT 537 (PA Sewerage Facilities Act) and ways DEP can facilitate better permitting flexibility that allows for time for funding to come in for these projects. (70)
407. Commenter suggested the DEP "use your regulatory power to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Please gather data through additional monitoring of air, land and water. Mandate the industry to assess available practices to reduce pollution and promote emergency preparedness." (80)
408. Commenter suggested DEP "be proactive in providing strategies to cope with rising waters in this area, compliments of climate change." (80)

409. Commenter asked that the DEP look at “storm water regulations especially upstream” in areas near the Darby Creek. (84)
410. Commenter suggested that the DEP “should conduct frequent unannounced tests, measuring with instruments at multiple points in all commercial sites that are capable of releasing any type of toxic emissions into our air and water.” (97)
411. Commenter testified that she was “concerned about our Delaware River.” (102)
412. Commenter raised concerns about the proposed ELCON recycling facility and noted that the facility “should not be right next to the Delaware river.” (109) (115)
413. Commenter testified the DEP should do a “better job of enforcing” waste water and storage facilities in Philadelphia. (117)
414. Commenter testified the “environmental problems that I am most concerned about have to do with water and water quality and how it is adversely affected by the energy extraction industries in our area (Waynesburg).” (126)
415. Commenter testified that he is "concerned about the quality of our streams and lakes... [because]...[t]hese waters should be held at a higher standard of preservation because [...] Our area holds the headwaters to the Tenmile Creek which drains into the Monongahela River which provides the water supply for many people in SW PA, including some of Pittsburgh". (126)
416. Commenter testified “related to the Class II waste water disposal wells” and stated there “should be a hydrogeological investigation conducted that determines the influence area of the private wells and the activities that occur within that area of influence should be allowed to be controlled through the authority of that township.” (133)
417. Commenter testified “most pressing environmental justice concerns in our community are non-point source pollution from abandoned mine lands in the form of abandoned mine drainage (AMD), the illegal dumping of household hazardous wastes, tires, trash, and drug paraphernalia on lands and along streams within the coalfield communities.” (135)
418. Commenter testified she “believe[s] access to clean water is an environmental justice issue” and that she is “worried about the degradation of water quality in Pennsylvania, both the surface water and the groundwater.” (143)
419. Commenter suggested that the DEP “[r]equire industries fouling water to be responsible for cleaning it to drinkable quality – they know what they put in it – they know best how to get it out[;] [d]o[es] not permit any extractive industry within 100 meters of a wet land – still or flowing[;] [o]utlaw use of fracking waste as road de-icer, eliminating regular salt would be good too – saltmarshes belong near the ocean - not in Penn’s Woods; monitor trucks transporting used fracking fluid so drivers cannot dump their tanks along the side of a rural road as I understand is not uncommon[;] decrease in impervious surfaces – for example, requiring all ground level parking lots to be made of permeable surfaces on

building of a certain size to have green rooves; [f]or riparian buffers to be required along streams, particularly in agricultural areas and along roadways; [o]utlaw use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers near bodies of water[;] [e]liminate flushing of waste drugs into our water[; and] [e]liminate construction in the 100 year flood plain. (143)

Mining

420. Commenter provided testimony on the legacy contamination issues associated with abandoned mines. This included concerns about including these issues as environmental justice concerns; specifically, the amount of “waste coal piles, abandoned mine discharges and dilapidated structures” near communities across the commonwealth. (1)
421. Commenter testified that the communities “suffering physical effects” of unconventional well drillings are the same communities that must deal with “legacy pollution from other industrial operations, including coal mining, coal fired power plants and related industrial activities.” (3)
422. Commenter testified about the effects of “pollut[ion]” in the Monongahela river due to “an abandoned coal mine [] drilled into from the oil and gas industry” causing “high levels of radiation.” (4)
423. Commenter testified that the definition of an environmental justice community be expanded to include “home ownership rates, reduced school lunches, school district ratings, disability and elderly populations and other sensitive areas...and our population has decreased significantly. Due to the magnitude of coal operations, like the ones in Greene County, coal fields should also be identified as --- as an environmental justice.” (5)
424. Commenter provided testimony that the “top concern for my county is the legacy of over a century of coal mining.” (17)
425. Commenter asked the DEP to continue the abandoned mines reclamation program. (17)
426. Commenter asked for better access to the DEP because “I've been in coal mining permit meetings for years, which quite literally decided the fate of people's lives, whether their homes would be destroyed. And those meetings were held during day from 1:00 to 3:00 making it nearly impossible for people to participate in the group, especially if they have work.” (76)
427. Commenter asked for better information and more information transparency because “I know the piecemeal permitting structure that allows combined impacts of different industries, shale, gas and coal mining, to go unaccounted for.” (76)
428. Commenter testified that Greer Island is “the only coal-powered power plant in Pennsylvania that's been allowed to continue to operate with no pollution controls.”

(113)

429. Commenter testified the “environmental problems that I am most concerned about have to do with water and water quality and how it is adversely affected by the energy extraction industries in our area (Waynesburg).” (126)
430. Commenter testified that he is "concerned about the quality of our streams and lakes... [because]...[t]hese waters should be held at a higher standard of preservation because [...] Our area holds the headwaters to the Tenmile Creek which drains into the Monongahela River which provides the water supply for many people in SW PA, including some of Pittsburgh". (126)
431. Commenter provided testimony that "[i]llegal dumping and lack of reclamation of coal lands are my biggest issues". (129)
432. Commenter stated that changes made to the land by coal operators causes flooding, and the operators need to reclaim these areas, otherwise they attract illegal dumping. (129)
433. Commenter stated that she “feel[s] a significant amount of frustration over the lack of regulation enforcement”, and that she "would very much appreciate more attention on this area, and what I feel is a significant ongoing issue". (129)
434. Commenter testified “most pressing environmental justice concerns in our community are non-point source pollution from abandoned mine lands in the form of abandoned mine drainage (AMD), the illegal dumping of household hazardous wastes, tires, trash, and drug paraphernalia on lands and along streams within the coalfield communities.” (135)

Pipelines

435. Commenter testified about how a once “beautiful area [has become] an industrial zone” because “currently [we are] surrounded by, to date, 33 well pads, three compressor stations, pigging stations. We have a training facility, a day facility for workers. And since July, we've had four pipelines from Mariner East One. And the newest pipeline began in January.” (4)
436. Commenter testified that pipelines were developing across the commonwealth and asked what became of the pipeline taskforce. (61)
437. Commenter testified that pipelines are “a big secret for further involvement”. (61)
438. Commenter spoke on behalf of Lancaster Against Pipelines and testified there is “a movement in this country that's growing that no one can ignore where people are saying no to a build out of gas and oil infrastructure.” (72)

439. Commenter spoke on behalf of the indigenous Americans who have died in the area and stated that the areas that defined their heritage in Glasgow and Oleander townships have pipelines proposed to go through them. (73)
440. Commenter testified that Lancaster has some of the “most pristine farmland in the nation” and these communities “are the backbone of the economy of this area” and that pipelines are/are being proposed to go through them and “you have no right to damage or corporations have no right to take that from us.” (74)
441. Commenter asked that the DEP do more to provide citizens with the information necessary to be informed about what is occurring in their area because “the interior and EPA and other agencies and many other advocates are expressing serious concerns about this particular project (Atlantic Sunrise) and its related permitting due to lack of adequate information and public participation”. (78)
442. Commenter testified that “people did not have the time to adequately review it or to give any comment on [the Atlantic Sunrise public record].” (78)
443. Commenter testified that “pipelines and their related infrastructure...be treated as a threat to our air quality.” (97)
444. Commenter testified that with respect to pipelines “[n]obody is informing people of the risks of having a pipeline go by their hospital or school, et cetera. It is dangerous.” (101)
445. Commenter testified “we are and have been vulnerable to the negative impacts of natural gas pipeline projects, yet what has the DEP done to alleviate our area from being flooded with unnecessary gas lines, our air from being polluted with increased truck traffic and especially after allowing thousands of acres of trees to be cut.” (137)
446. Commenter suggested that the “DEP could play a major role in making fracking and natural gas pipeline development a win/win or at least not an industry win/landowners and the environment lose situation by requiring that the industry work with DEP, landowners and affected local governments for developing the safest and least intrusive routes.” (137)
447. Commenter suggested that the “DEP needs to do a better job of disseminating critical and timely information to the public, and making the best efforts to include the public.” (137)

Safe Drinking Water

448. Commenter testified that the Woodlands community needs “some waterlines from the State of Pennsylvania to their homes.” (23)

449. Commenter testified they are concerned about the PWSA lead service line issue in the Pittsburgh area and how marginalized communities and resident don't have the funds to help replace those lines and that the DEP should take an active role in helping those communities correct the issues with their lines. (26) (27)
450. Commenter testified that the "DEP needs to quickly update Cheswick's water pollution permit, which would limit the amount of toxins that can be dumped into the Allegheny River, our main source of drinking water. The draft permit should be released for public comment immediately and finalized by the end of the year and must implement the 2015 federal rules limiting water pollution from power plants." (27)
451. Commenter testified that her major environmental justice concern was "clean, safe water, because that's life." (46)
452. Commenter testified there was "lead in the water" in Duncannon but receiving information from the municipality was difficult and they suggested that the DEP work with municipalities in disseminating information. (66)
453. Commenter testified that municipal water advisories are not sufficient in notice and clarity. (74)
454. Commenter suggested the DEP "use your regulatory power to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Please gather data through additional monitoring of air, land and water. Mandate the industry to assess available practices to reduce pollution and promote emergency preparedness." (80)
455. Commenter testified that "[f]racking came in and in no time, they contaminated the drinking water which people rely, and nobody stepped in and said don't do this. The DEP did not. They were there but somebody should've stood up and said this is not right." (101)
456. Commenter raised concerns about the proposed ELCON recycling facility and noted that the facility "should not be right next to the Delaware river." (109) (115)
457. Commenter testified the "environmental problems that I am most concerned about have to do with water and water quality and how it is adversely affected by the energy extraction industries in our area (Waynesburg)." (126)
458. Commenter stated that he "regularly get notices that my drinking water has failed tests" due to "Total Dissolved Solids levels which can be directly related to the gas extraction industries." Commenter expressed concern that "[t]hese notices come to me after they have mediated the problem." Commenter requests "more rigorous monitoring of my public water supply". (126)
459. Commenter testified "related to the Class II waste water disposal wells" and stated there "should be a hydrogeological investigation conducted that determines the influence area of the private wells and the activities that occur within that area of influence should be

allowed to be controlled through the authority of that township.” (133)

460. Commenter testified she “believe[s] access to clean water is an environmental justice issue” and that she is “worried about the degradation of water quality in Pennsylvania, both the surface water and the groundwater.” (143)
461. Commenter suggested that the DEP “[r]equire industries fouling water to be responsible for cleaning it to drinkable quality – they know what they put in it – they know best how to get it out[;] [d]o[es] not permit any extractive industry within 100 meters of a wet land – still or flowing[;] [o]utlaw use of fracking waste as road de-icer, eliminating regular salt would be good too – saltmarshes belong near the ocean - not in Penn’s Woods; monitor trucks transporting used fracking fluid so drivers cannot dump their tanks along the side of a rural road as I understand is not uncommon[;] decrease in impervious surfaces – for example, requiring all ground level parking lots to be made of permeable surfaces on building of a certain size to have green rooves; [f]or riparian buffers to be required along streams, particularly in agricultural areas and along roadways; [o]utlaw use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers near bodies of water[;] [e]liminate flushing of waste drugs into our water[; and] [e]liminate construction in the 100 year flood plain. (143)
462. Commenter testified that she see’s “fracking as a way for families to lose their land and water, with very limited resources to fight back or protect themselves from an industry that, I think it is fair to say, the DEP does not regulate adequately.” (144)

Waste

463. Commenter suggested the DEP look to ways to eliminate food waste thereby lowering methane emissions. The commenter suggested one way to harness food waste is to support efforts for food repurposing which could also aid food desert communities by providing them additional food options. Commenter suggested the DEP educate communities on food waste and food waste alternatives. (32)
464. Commenter gave testimony “that the lead, mercury, and other heavy metals emitted by coal waste power plants have real health effects like autism that have real monetary price tags.” (69)
465. Commenter discussed educating communities on clothing waste and how this impacts our landfills and our climate. (77)
466. Commenter testified about how they have created a program that teaches people how to recycle clothing waste and earn money. (77)
467. Commenter suggested the DEP “use your regulatory power to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Please gather data through additional monitoring of air, land and

water. Mandate the industry to assess available practices to reduce pollution and promote emergency preparedness.” (80)

468. Commenter raised concerns about the proposed ELCON recycling facility and noted that the facility “should not be right next to the Delaware river.” (109) (115)
469. Commenter also testified about the need to educate communities about “how [to] dispose of potential (domestic) hazards.” (119)
470. Commenter testified “most pressing environmental justice concerns in our community are non-point source pollution from abandoned mine lands in the form of abandoned mine drainage (AMD), the illegal dumping of household hazardous wastes, tires, trash, and drug paraphernalia on lands and along streams within the coalfield communities.” (135)
471. Commenter suggested that the DEP should have a “recognition of alternative food waste options to lower landfill use.” (136)
472. Commenter spoke about “the challenge brought by unenforced scrap metal yards that are allowed to cause a series of environmental hazards without recourse” and how his organization has “done our best to guide residents through the maze of different governmental enforcement agencies, of which PA DEP is one for air quality and contamination issues.” (142)

Waterways & Wetlands

473. Commenter provided testimony concerning “low lying and flood prone areas” and the need for “flood plain restoration” in areas where industry has diminished forestry and created more impervious surfaces. (45)
474. Commenter stated that the DEP should evaluate how the expansion of flood plains due to “the natural gas industry” affects marginalized communities. (47)
475. Commenter testified that as pervious surfaces are diminished larger amounts of water get into the streams and expand flood plain areas which may also impact residents due to high priced flood insurance. (47)
476. Commenter testified that “DEP also has a responsibility to limit deforestation for all types of development and require effective revegetation for all development.” (51)
477. Commenter provided testimony on the permitting difficulties and complexities for trail improvements and maintenance for small projects and requested a “standardized permit” process for projects of smaller scale and scope. (70)
478. Commenter sought support from the DEP to help with sediment collection behind old

power dams and suggested returning the land to agrarian. (79)

479. Commenter suggested the DEP “use your regulatory power to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Please gather data through additional monitoring of air, land and water. Mandate the industry to assess available practices to reduce pollution and promote emergency preparedness.” (80)
480. Commenter suggested DEP “be proactive in providing strategies to cope with rising waters in this area, compliments of climate change.” (80)
481. Commenter stated that changes made to the land by coal operators causes flooding, and the operators need to reclaim these areas, otherwise they attract illegal dumping. (129)
482. Commenter suggested that the DEP “[r]equire industries fouling water to be responsible for cleaning it to drinkable quality – they know what they put in it – they know best how to get it out[;] [d]o[es] not permit any extractive industry within 100 meters of a wet land – still or flowing[;] [o]utlaw use of fracking waste as road de-icer, eliminating regular salt would be good too – saltmarshes belong near the ocean - not in Penn’s Woods; monitor trucks transporting used fracking fluid so drivers cannot dump their tanks along the side of a rural road as I understand is not uncommon[;] decrease in impervious surfaces – for example, requiring all ground level parking lots to be made of permeable surfaces on building of a certain size to have green rooves; [f]or riparian buffers to be required along streams, particularly in agricultural areas and along roadways; [o]utlaw use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers near bodies of water[;] [e]liminate flushing of waste drugs into our water[; and] [e]liminate construction in the 100 year flood plain. (143)

Environmental Cleanup & Brownfields

483. Commenter testified that there is “legacy contamination of lead, in particular, and soil in this region [...] due to demolition practices, [...] lead paint[...] and other industrial activities.” (36)
484. Commenter suggested that the “DEP prioritize with programs like Brownfields, community focused and smaller projects that often --- that align better with community goals.” (36)
485. Commenter asked the DEP to look “into the benefits of mushroom and fungus mycelium for creating healthier ecosystems.” (39)
486. Commenter requested the department provide more information concerning legacy remediation projects. (40)
487. Commenter testified that we should invest in green infrastructure and renewable energy sources “in coal communities.” (41).
488. Commenter testified that “DEP also has a responsibility to limit deforestation for all types

of development and require effective revegetation for all development.” (51)

489. Commenter is developing a garden at 630 Sixth Avenue and requests that the department check the soil in his area because they would like to develop more gardens but are concerned about legacy contamination from a closed “recycling place.” (75)
490. Commenter testified that the DEP “needs to attend to legacy pollution problems, not just new facilities, and to cumulative impacts and not just the impact of one additional request for a permit.” (85)
491. Commenter suggested there should be the “[r]emediation and mitigation of lead-contaminated soil as a neighborhood-level issue.” (136)

Radiation Protection

492. Commenter stated the main issue for him “right now is shutting down the fission nuclear plants” and “deal[ing] with the radioactive waste onsite.” (19)