

**Office of Environmental Justice**  
**Highlights: August 28 – October 26, 2018**

**Program Developments**

**Public Comment Period for Draft EJ Public Participation Policy** – A 45-day public comment period for the Draft EJ Public Participation Policy opened on Saturday, July 14, 2018 and closed on Tuesday, August 28, 2018. A total of 206 comments were received and are being reviewed by OEJ.

**Eastern Regional Coordinator Interviews** – DEP completed interviews for the position of Eastern Regional Coordinator and is going through the internal hiring process.

**Collaboration with EJAB**

**EJ Roundtable in Johnstown** – Allison Acevedo met with Clea Hollis on September 17 to discuss planning a roundtable in Johnstown in Spring 2019.

**EJ Roundtable/Summit in Philadelphia** – Allison Acevedo is working with EJAB member Jerome Shabazz to plan a roundtable/summit in Philadelphia in Spring 2019.

**Meetings**

**DEP**

**Regional Directors Statewide Meeting** – OEJ presented its vision for the office under Director Acevedo, provided an overview and received feedback on the process for review of the EJ Public Participation Policy, and a proposed plan for engagement with DEP personnel as the office begins to develop a coordination plan for integrating EJ principles into the work of DEP program staff.

**Communications Statewide Meeting** - OEJ presented its vision for the office under Director Acevedo, plan for review of the EJ Public Participation Policy, and identified areas of collaboration with Communications.

**DEP Board Meetings**

**Agricultural Advisory Board Meeting** – OEJ will deliver presentation on the EJ Public Participation Policy at the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting on Thursday, October 25.

**Aggregate Advisory Board Meeting** – OEJ will deliver a presentation on the EJ Public Participation Policy at the Aggregate Advisory Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 7.

## **Local, State and Federal Government**

**Philadelphia Office of Sustainability** - Allison Acevedo met with Hannah Chatterjee (Food Policy Advisory Council Program Manager) and Nic Esposito (Director, Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet) from the City of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability on August 30 to learn more about the work of that office and potential areas of partnership with DEP.

**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality** – Allison Acevedo met with NC DEQ Environmental Justice Staff Sarah Rice and Renee Kramer on August 30, 2018 to discuss EJ work in these states and compare EJ mapping tools.

**EPA All-States EJ Calls** – OEJ participates in monthly EPA All-States EJ calls.

**EPA Meeting** – OEJ Director Allison Acevedo had a teleconference with Reggie Harris and Charles Lee from the EPA on September 21, 2018 regarding PA DEP's EJ Office and EPA resources to support OEJ's work.

## **External Partners**

**PA Council of Churches** – OEJ staff met with the Director of Advocacy & Ecumenical Outreach at the PA Council of Churches, Sandy Strauss, to discuss issues and initiatives related to environmental justice.

**Pittsburgh Black Environmental Collective Quarterly Meeting** – OEJ presented information on September 18 about the OEJ and DEP in general to a group of 25 environmental leaders in the Pittsburgh area. OEJ received comments on the EJ Viewer tool as well as suggestions on how to engage communities on DEP initiatives.

**PA Chamber of Business and Industry**– OEJ Director Allison Acevedo delivered a presentation at the PA Chamber of Business and Industry's quarterly DEP meeting on September 26 about her vision and the history and mission of the Office of Environmental Justice.

**Chester Environmental Partnership Meeting** – OEJ and SERO staff attended and delivered a presentation at the October 16 meeting of the Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP). DEP staff provided an overview of EJ Viewer to solicit feedback regarding the tool, presented an update on PQ Corp and delivered a brief tutorial on eFACTS.

**Resource Development** – Allison Acevedo and DEP executive staff are beginning to identify funders for EJ projects for future collaboration with OEJ.

**Capital Region Water** – OEJ attended and delivered a presentation at Capital Region Water's (CRW) monthly Community Ambassador meeting. OEJ presented EJ Viewer and solicit feedback regarding the tool.

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation** – OEJ and DEP’s Environmental Education program met with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) on October 19 to discuss a partnership on stormwater education in EJ Areas.

**Marcellus Shale Coalition** – Allison Acevedo and DEP executive staff met with the Marcellus Shale Coalition (MSC) on October 19 to discuss public engagement regarding Oil and Gas activities.

**PennFuture** – OEJ met with Ezra Thrush from PennFuture on October 22 to discuss environmental justice issues and areas for potential collaboration.

**Society of Women Environmental Professionals**- Allison Acevedo will deliver a presentation on November 1, 2018 about the Office of Environmental Justice and the EJ Policy.

### **Education and Community Engagement:**

**Penn St. Market** – OEJ and DEP staff in the southcentral regional office (SCRO) set-up a table at the Penn Street Farmer’s Market in Reading on Thursday, August 30. DEP staff from OEJ, Communications, Waste Management and Waterways and Wetlands shared resources and answered questions from the public.

**Braddock, PA** – OEJ provided information about DEP permit processes and OEJ goals to stakeholders in Braddock, PA, including Brandy Rawls of Oli’s Angels, Jonathan Reyes with the Braddock Carnegie Library, as well as local government representatives.

**PA Brownfields Conference** – OEJ Director Allison Acevedo was a panelist in an EJ panel discussion on Tuesday, October 2 at the PA Brownfields Conference in Bethlehem, PA and discussed EJ in PA and goals of OEJ.

**SCRO Open-House** – The South-central Regional Office (SCRO) hosted an open-house on Wednesday, October 17 as part of the ‘DEP Connects’ public outreach program. OEJ had a table set-up to interact with participants, answer questions and share resources.

**EJ Community Roundtable and Discussion** – Allison Acevedo will participate on an EJ community panel in Philadelphia hosted by Representative Bullock on Thursday, October 25.

### **Strategy and Planning**

**EJ Coordination Process** – OEJ is creating and ultimately implementing a process to integrate EJ policies and practices into other DEP program work. OEJ will work through the fall to develop a plan to include EJ policies and practices in other program work. This work will involve engaging EPA on planning for the process, polling the staff through meetings and surveys about how to include EJ in their procedures and reviewing other

states processes. Implementation of the staff engagement process will begin in 2019 with OEJ Coordination recommendations presented to the Secretary after staff engagement.

**Standard Operating Procedures** – OEJ is developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to improve workflow of the Environmental Justice Public Participation process that will align with EJ Coordination recommendations.

**Partnership Engagement and Environmental Education** –OEJ is surveying our community partners to assessment of their environmental education and training needs. OEJ is collaborating with the DEP Environmental Education unit to develop webinars for outreach regarding environmental education grants.

**EJ Viewer** – OEJ held meetings and received recommendations from DEP Executive Team members and DEP IT about the EJ Viewer. OEJ Also received recommendations from EJAB and OEJ staff.

### **Upcoming Events**

**North-central Tour** – On Tuesday, October 30 Carol Parenzan will provide OEJ Director Allison Acevedo a tour of the north-central region of the state to develop a greater understanding of EJ issues throughout the region.

**EJ Roundtable in Shamokin** – OEJ and the Northcentral Regional Office have planned an Environmental Justice Roundtable/DEP Connects Event in Shamokin on Monday, October 29. Secretary McDonnell will host the event that will be used to discuss environmental issues affecting the Shamokin area with local leaders.

**North Braddock Residents for Our Future Meeting** – On Tuesday, October 30, OEJ will present general information on DEP and OEJ to a group of citizens concerned with proposed natural gas development at U.S. Steel’s Edgar Thomson Works.