



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Participation Working Discussion

Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell
Citizens Advisory Council
Environmental Justice Advisory Board
Joint Meeting
December 14, 2016

Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell

Governor Tom Wolf

Public Participation

- **Definition:**

- to involve those who are affected by a decision in the decision-making process. It promotes sustainable decisions by providing participants with the information they need to be involved in a meaningful way, and it communicates to participants how their input affects the decision.
- The practice of public participation might involve public meetings, surveys, open houses, workshops, polling, citizen's advisory committees and other forms of direct involvement with the public.

- *International Association of Public Participation*

DEP Public Participation

Policies and Fact Sheet

- Policy on Public Participation in the Permit Review Process [012-0900-003](#)
- Policy for Public Participation in the Development of Regulations and Technical Guidance [012-1920-001](#)
- Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy [012-0501-002](#)
- Advisory Committee Guidelines Policy [012-1920-002](#)
- Citizens Guide to DEP Regulations (Fact Sheet)

DEP Public Participation

Policy

- What specific changes, if any, do you suggest to the policies listed above?

DEP Public Participation

Governmental Agency Goal

- What should be included in DEP's goal for public participation?

DEP Public Participation

Best Practices

- Could you offer three examples of best practices in public participation that you have personally experienced at work, or in other group settings?
- What was the practice, and how did it improve the outcome?

DEP Public Participation

Current State

- What do you believe DEP is doing right to engage the public?
- What should we improve/expand?

DEP Public Participation

Effectiveness

- Does DEP effectively communicate about how to participate in the comment process for regulations, permits, and public meetings?
- If so, how? If not, what, or who, is DEP missing?

DEP Public Participation

Engagement

- In what specific ways should DEP reach past our typical network and engage more citizens?
- What larger demographics should we engage; how should we reach them; and how should we measure the engagement to be sure it's effective?

DEP Public Participation

Online Tools

- What would help DEP's web-based tools, such as the website, eFACTS database, eMap, other reports, and social media, engage more people more effectively?

DEP Public Participation

Measures of Success

- What criteria should DEP use to measure effective and successful public participation?

DEP Public Participation

Next Steps

- During lunch, take your 3 stickers and place them next to the 3 items/areas you think are most important to address.
 - CAC=Blue Stickers, EJAB=Red Stickers

DEP Public Participation

Next Steps

- Katie and Carl will compile the comments and identify the top issues from this group.
- The report will be reviewed by both boards and then submitted to the various areas of the agency to address and as comments on the soon to open public participation polices.

DEP Public Participation

2017 and Beyond

- Bring updates on the public participation policies to CAC and EJAB and formulate additional comments on the policies where needed.
- Update CAC and EJAB on technology improvements to enhance public participation.
- Environmental Justice Listening Tour
- Start annual joint meeting between CAC and EJAB. Next Nov 14, 2017.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Questions or Comments

Katherine Hetherington Cunfer

Acting Executive Director,
Citizens Advisory Council

khethering@pa.gov

717-705-2693

Carl Jones

Director, Office of
Environmental Justice

caejone@pa.gov

484-250-5818