



TO Environmental Justice Advisory Board
FROM Office of Environmental Advocate
DATE January 10, 2014
RE: Regional and Statewide Environmental Advocate Updates

Statewide Updates

2013 Statewide Environmental Justice Permit Application Tracking: *Please note this tracking does not include ongoing interaction with existing permitted facilities in EJ areas, Brownfield projects and other initiatives the office is involved in.* Seven permit applications were applied to the Environmental Justice Policy for 2013. The NE and SC portion of the state, in particular, had EJ areas with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and required translation services for DEP's outreach and public meeting/hearings. The SW regions mine reclamation site, which involved 8 permit renewals from various programs and community concerns over detonation of explosives associated with shale gas exploration and a high hazard dam on the site. Through several outreach efforts and coordination, a pivotal public meeting was held with various DEP programs (mining, oil and gas, air quality, water management and waste management) which had a profound impact on improving communication with DEP and the EJ community and reducing some of the concerns for the area. There were also a number of informational meetings associated with this community. Two of the seven permits came in under the opt-in portion of the policy due to extensive public requests for the EJ community to receive enhanced public participation. The other five permits were trigger permits.

Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference: More than 300 participants attended the ninth annual Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference held on Dec. 9-11 at the Radisson Valley Forge Hotel, King of Prussia. The conference featured over 20 educational sessions, an exhibit hall and two mobile workshops that showcased successful redevelopment at Philadelphia Navy Yard and Conshohocken Waterfront. The event was hosted by DEP's Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program in partnership with the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania. The popular Extreme Makeover competition featured the Crossings at Ambler Station of Montgomery County, Wissahickon Charter School of Philadelphia, and the Former Haddonfield Lumber Yard of Bucks County.

Director Cairns was the session moderator for a panel at the Brownfield's conference. The session focused on environmental justice areas and two approaches to working with Brownfield's in EJ communities. One presentation focused on efforts by Chester Environmental Partnership, presented by John Waffenschmidt and Laureen Boles. They reviewed the work being done to bring industry representatives and local officials together to create a plan for

relocating community members heavily burdened by industry in the City of Chester. The other presentation, by Aissia Richardson from the African American United Fund, focused on urban gardening and initiatives to reduce blight and crime along abandoned properties and restore pride and collaboration among those residing in Brownfield EJ communities. The session was well received by conference participants.

Brownfield Success Stories: Pennsylvania has a rich industrial history. Opportunities for economic redevelopment are showcased in DEP's series of **Brownfield Success Stories**, a collection of videos featuring interviews with public and private partners who describe the vision, planning and re-use of former industrial sites and how challenges were met and overcome. All of DEP's Brownfield videos are located on the DEP YouTube link, which can be accessed from the DEP website at: www.dep.state.pa.us, select Environmental Cleanup & Brownfields; under Brownfield Success Stories, click on the You Tube link.

NEW! Brownfield Development Guide : The Brownfield Development Guide draws on DEP's 18 years of experience in cleaning up more than 4,760 sites and outlines the full spectrum of services and resources available for the often complex steps involved in redeveloping brownfield properties. It seeks to assist a broad audience of private industry, state and local agencies, economic development agencies, redevelopment authorities, local officials, communities, property owners, developers and other stakeholders. DEP fosters and helps to build public-private partnerships, which have proven critical for the timely completion of successful projects. The Brownfield Development Guide can be accessed from the DEP website at: www.dep.state.pa.us, select Environmental Cleanup & Brownfields; under New! Brownfield Development Guide, click on Brownfield Development Guide (PDF).

Draft Proposed Rulemaking – Chapter 78, Subchapter C: DEP presented the proposed Chapter 78, Subchapter C regulations to the Environmental Quality Board on Aug. 27, 2013, who adopted the proposal for public comment. The proposed rulemaking was then reviewed by the Office of General Counsel and was forwarded to the Attorney General on Sept. 26. After DEP responded to a tolling memo, the proposed rule was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for the 60-day public comment period. The public comment period opened on Dec. 14, 2013 and closes on Feb. 12, 2014. The EQB will host 7 public hearings throughout each of the regions of Pennsylvania between Jan. 9- 27, 2014. The specific dates and locations of all public hearings are available on DEP's website (click on the "Proposed Oil and Gas Regulations" button) and are included in Attachment 1. The department will consider all comments received as it proceeds with the development of the final rulemaking.

In addition to the scheduled 7 hearings, DEP has added two more which will be held in Warren and Troy, PA. The webinars are available on the DEP website at: www.dep.state.pa.us, select Public Participation Center, Be Informed, Webinars, Oil and Gas, Proposed Regulations for Oil and Gas Surface Activities Webinar.

Climate Change Action Plan Update: Act 70 of 2008 requires the department to submit an update to the Climate Change Action Plan (originally issued Dec. 2009) to the Governor every three years. The Plan must address the following; (1) greenhouse gas emissions and sequestration trends and baselines; (2) cost-effective strategies for reducing or offsetting GHG

emissions from various sectors;(3) costs, benefits and co-benefits of GHG reduction strategies including the impact on future energy demand; (4) areas of agreement and disagreement among Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) members concerning the Plan; and (5) recommendations to the General Assembly regarding legislative changes necessary to implement the Plan.

The CCAC met on Dec.5, 2013, to consider the remaining draft work plans. At the meeting, the CCAC endorsed 7 work plans and recommended that four of the work plans be considered for further action in the next reporting cycle. During the Dec. 5th meeting, the department advised the CCAC of the schedule to finalize the Climate Change Action Plan. A conference call was held on Dec. 18 and a meeting was held on Dec. 20 to receive comments on the Action Plan.

On Dec.31, 2013, the department submitted the “Pennsylvania Climate Change Action Plan Update” (Plan) to Governor Corbett as required under the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act (Act 70 of 2008). The Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) advised the department during the development of the updated Plan, which addresses the following: (1) actions in the commonwealth that have reduced greenhouse gas emissions (GHG); (2) the GHG emissions inventory; (3) recent changes in the electric generation and natural gas sectors; (4) a summary of the work plans for various sectors; (5) a macro-economic analysis of the work plans; and (6) recommendations for action by the General Assembly. The Plan also describes cost-effective strategies that will result in gross GHG emissions in Pennsylvania being further reduced by 2020. These reductions will occur primarily in the agriculture, commercial, residential, transportation and waste sectors.

The updated Plan has also been distributed to the General Assembly and posted on the DEP website at: www.dep.state.pa.us, select Public Participation Center, Advisory Committees, Climate Change Advisory Committee, Draft Climate Change Action Plan. The next update on the Plan will be due in Dec. 2015.

Radon Action Month: January was Radon Action Month. Elevated levels of radon affect nearly half of all Pennsylvania homes. The colorless, odorless, radioactive gas occurs naturally through the breakdown of Uranium in soil and rocks. PA has these geological conditions that make it prone to elevated radon levels. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in PA. To test for radon in the home, a certified radon testing company can be hired or a radon kit can be purchased at home improvement stores or from a certified PA radon laboratory. EPA’s action level for radon is 4 picocuries per liter. When levels are elevated in a home, a radon mitigation system is recommended to vent the gas to reduce the pathway into homes or buildings. Secretary Abruzzo has made a Public Service Announcement to help increase awareness that is running on the radio and television. More information, including a video series about radon, is available on the DEP website at: www.dep.state.pa.us, select Radiation Protection, The Division of Radon.

Governor’s Budget Office Publishes Commonwealth Performance Report: The 2012-2013 report on state performance was made available late December 2013. DEP’s performance objectives are: (1) reducing risks to communities posed by dams; (2) improving environmental health and safety through permitting, inspections and enforcement; (3) improving quality of life by protecting the health and safety of PA residents, increasing the development of and leveraging

private investment for alternative energy sources in PA, reducing impacts of pollution to PA land, air and water resources; and (4) restoring PA lands impacted by legacy environmental issues. The report can be found at:

http://www.budget.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/performance_reports/4677 .

Environmental Quality Board Launches New Online Public Comment Tool: DEP's Bureau of Information Technology in conjunction with the Policy Office has developed an online public comment tool to more efficiently receive all public comments associated with proposed and final rulemakings and to effectively prepare responses to those comments. Previously, public comments were accepted by way of e-mail and in hardcopy through the U.S. Postal Service. This tool enables a commenter an additional option of submitting their comments electronically so that DEP can more effectively assemble, track and respond to public comments. This tool was launched on Dec. 14, 2013, in time to accept comments received during the 60-day public comment period for the Chapter 78, Subchapter C proposed rulemaking. The Online Public Comment System will be used by EQB to accept public comments for future rulemakings advanced by the department.

Southwest and Northwest OEA Update

Pittsburgh Environment & Health Conference, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County-On Oct. 25, EA Kim Morewood attended the Pittsburgh Environment & Health Conference at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The conference featured Keynote Speakers: Nancy Alderman - Environment and Human Health, Inc.; Cecil Corbin-Mark - WE ACT for Environmental Justice; Lois Gibbs - Center for Health, Environment and Justice; Edward Humes - Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist & Author; Richard Louv - Children and Nature Network; David Orr - Environmental Studies Program, Oberlin College; Ted Schettler, MD - Science and Environmental Health Network. During the afternoon workshops were held with local experts who addressed a series of environmental and health-related topics and described the work that is taking place in area communities.

Gannon University, Erie, Erie County-On Oct. 28, EA Kim Morewood served as a guest lecturer in an Environmental Issues class at Gannon University speaking about role of the Environmental Advocate and Environmental Justice Policy at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Pittsburgh Sports and Exhibition Authority's (SEA) Lower Hill Redevelopment Infrastructure Project, Allegheny County-On Oct. 29, SWRO ARD Ron Schwartz, program staff, LGL Brian Schimmel, CRC John Poister and EA Kim Morewood held a pre-application meeting for Phase 1 of the Lower Hill Redevelopment Project. A review of what permits are required and the timeline for application was established. The first part of the project, the Centre Avenue portion, now has all the permits needed to begin work and PENNVEST approved a \$2.3 million dollar loan for that portion of the project. SEA was grateful to DEP for assisting in meeting the deadlines for the loan application. SEA expects to break ground in May/June 2014.

Erie County Planning Commission, Erie, Erie County-On Nov. 14, EA Kim Morewood attended the Erie County Planning Commission meeting to discuss the Proposed Lake Erie Coastal Zone Boundary Expansion. Staff from DEP's Coastal Zone Program gave a presentation to representatives from at least ten Erie County municipalities about the proposed expansion designation. It was agreed that there is need for more public information and education on this issue; DEP staff agreed to work with any community that needed more information and will likely be scheduling more public meetings in 2014.

Canestrале/LaBelle Coal Refuse Facility, Luzerne Township, Fayette County: On Nov. 20, SWRO Counsel Barbara Grabowski informed CRC John Poister that detonations of the seismic charges on the Canestrале property will continue in Zone 7 next week. EA Kim Morewood notified Lisa Graves Marcucci of the Environmental Integrity Project by phone of the planned activity.

EPA Office of Environmental Justice, Washington, D.C.– On Nov. 21, EA Kim Morewood participated in the EPA Environmental Justice Community Outreach Teleconference with the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice. This call focused on two areas: EPA's ongoing outreach efforts on the carbon pollution guidelines for existing power plants and events celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Executive Order 12898.

University of Pittsburgh's Center of Race & Social Problems (CRSP), Pittsburgh, Allegheny County-On Dec. 3, EA Kim Morewood attended the CRSP Speaker Series: "A Multigenerational Perspective on Neighborhoods and Racial Inequality" by Patrick T. Sharkey, Associate Professor of Sociology, New York University.

Peoples Natural Gas Advisory Committee, Allegheny County-On Dec. 11, EA Kim Morewood attended a meeting of the PNG Advisory Committee. Agenda items included an overview of the Peoples Natural Gas transition after acquiring Equitable Gas (given by Joseph Gregorini, PNG's Vice President of Rates & Regulatory). PNG plans to combine accounting, treasury, human resources, information technology, purchasing, legal, and rates functions for both companies during a transition process. As part of the agreement, Peoples is required to develop a Universal Service Advisory Group that will meet quarterly and be comprised of representatives from community based organizations, low-income advocates, the EPA Office of Consumer Advocate and other stakeholders. Current PNG Advisory Committee Members will serve on the Universal Service Advisory Group. Other agenda items included an update on the Peoples Holiday Market, Peoples Adopt A Family Program and United Way's 2-1-1 program. The meeting was attended by about 40 community partner representatives.

The Hill District Consensus Meeting, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County: On Dec. 13, EA Kim Morewood attended The Hill District Consensus Meeting. Redevelopment of the Lower Hill District was discussed during the meeting. There was significant discussion that the community was displeased with the public meeting held on Nov. 21st by the new developer, McCormack

Baron Salazar. Several community members feel that that meeting was held to comply with requirements of city permits and that no useful information or answers were provided. The community is not happy with the percentage of units the team plans to set aside for lower-income residents or the amount of work it has indicated that it is willing to give to minority developers. Other topics covered at this meeting included updates on the Clean Green Hill Efforts, a presentation from the Mayor's Office of servePGH and the Elected Officials report.

Southeast and Northeast OEA Update

Delta Thermo Energy, LLC Public Meeting, City of Allentown: The Environmental Advocate received a request from a Professor at Lehigh University asking what the DEP had planned with public involvement in the permitting process for the Delta Thermo Energy permit application since the proposed siting is in an "environmental justice" community. The professor asked for assistance to ensure the public's voice was heard about their concerns prior to DEP issuing any relevant permit. The EA, Director and NER program staff collaborated on materials and the public meeting for the proposed Air Quality Plan Approval. The EA Director arranged for materials to be translated into Spanish. The facility plans to utilize municipal solid waste (MSW) and sludge from the City of Allentown's Wastewater Plant as feedstock to produce a fuel to generate 4 gross megawatts (MW) of electricity for internal use and sale. The equipment is capable of processing 120 tons/day of MSW and 47 tons/day of sewage sludge as feedstock. Feedstock will be prepared onsite from MSW and sludge. Presorting of the MSW, to assist in recyclables recovery, will occur. A Resource Recovery System (RRS) will convert feedstock to fuel that will be combusted using a Stoker-type combustor to generate steam, which in turn will power a turbine to generate electricity.

The local Morning Call newspaper published several articles related to the proposed Allentown plant. A group in the area challenged the proposed operation and sued the Lehigh County Board of Elections, removing the issue from the ballot to compel the Board to place the initiative back on the November ballot and filed a mandamus action. Over 2,000 signatures were gathered to create an ordinance that would require real time monitoring of pollutants at the facility and mandate live disclosure of the emissions data on a public website. Energy Justice Network, a local activist organization, assisted the local petitioners. The public comment period for the air quality permit and waste management permit was extended by DEP. Many of the attendees were students, laborers and some residents, with a low turnout from the EJ community.

Bethlehem Apparatus, Bethlehem, PA: The Environmental Advocate received a notification from the OEA Director that this site may qualify for the EJ policy based on our eFACTS system, EJ Authorization Type and Application Type. EA contacted the NER on the site and the hazardous waste permit modification. The NER program update on Bethlehem Apparatus' plan is to expand its operations next door to its existing site near Hellertown to include "mercury retirement" (a process of breaking down mercury so it can be disposed of safely). The process involves running mercury, in its liquid form, through a breakdown process (which involves compression and some melting) to turn it into solid "mercury sulfite." The company wants to increase in size and add more machinery and ship the mercury sulfite off-site to a disposal facility in Canada. Once the permit modification review is complete (technical review could take 6 months to a year), Waste Management Program would advertise the intent to issue in the

local newspaper, including where and when a public hearing would be held. EA researched indicates that Bethlehem is not EJ. The NE regional office staff will be holding a public meeting for this permit modification.

Vintage Tech, LLC, Waste General Permit WMGR081, Bath Street Site Northeast

Philadelphia: The EA received correspondence from Vintage Environmental Health and Safety Manager, asking for guidance on Vintage Tech's permit application and the enhanced public participation process. The EA provided Vintage with contact information for Bridesburg Civic, business, community organizations, legislators and municipal offices along with a sample informational meeting notice for local publication. The President of the Business Association and members of the Bridesburg Civic Associations agreed to host the Vintage meeting to discuss, ask questions and learn about the General Permit at the Bath Street site. The facility is located at the former Goodwill industry site. They are an e-waste recycling operation which accepts TV's, laptops, computer monitors, CPU's, hard drives, etc. The processing consists of pre-sorting equipment to segregate different categories of waste; the dismantled parts would be placed on a conveyor belt to be sorted into further categories. The hard drives will be manually destroyed or sent to the Plainfield, Illinois facility to have all data wiped. The dismantled and sorted pieces, now commodities, are ready to be shipped. These materials are loaded on pallets jacks to load outgoing shipments. The total amount of material is expected to be 8 million pounds (4 tons) per year. Approximately 30,770 pounds (15.40 tons) will be received and processed each day. The facility will operate 5 days a week, 8 hours a day Monday through Friday. The 15.40 tons received and process each day totals 8 million pounds per year.

Covanta Energy Container Demonstration, Delaware County: The EA, ARD, Air Quality and Waste Management staff attended the container demonstration at Covanta Energy. The containers will be used to move waste from New York to Wilmington and into Chester by rail and truck. The containers are designed to handle waste by barge, rail and truck.

EPA Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site Community Update, Philadelphia County:

The EA and DEP staff attended the public meeting to hear EPA's presentation on the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for Operable Unit 1 (OU1), Clearview Landfill and OU2 (Eastwick Park & neighborhood). EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator presented 7 alternative options and the recommended EPA preferred cleanup option. Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition, organizations and residents provided comment and additional written comments.

Point Breeze Avenue Business Association Growing Greener 2013 Application:

EA met with representatives from the Point Breeze Avenue Business Association, DEP Watershed Manger, Waterways and Wetlands, and Philadelphia Water Department to discuss the GG2 grant application and land revitalization efforts involving stormwater management on vacant land in the Point Breeze community.

Deshong Park and Creek Restoration, Growing Greener Application: OEA met with Andrew Brazington, Philadelphia Water Dept. and Strong Cities and Strong Communities about

a Growing Greener grant application for Chester that was submitted to DEP. The proposed project design and construction of Deshong Park stormwater management features and riparian buffer to address Chester Creek water quality concerns and advance the existing Green Master Plan.

Eastwick PAC – Eastwick Neighbors and Friends, Southwest Philadelphia: OEA attended a 1st annual meeting of the former Eastwick PAC Association by the former Director of the PAC. The meeting was a review and update on accomplishment with community activities in the Eastwick community over the years. The organization is now called Eastwick Neighbors and Friends and consists of the community, John Heinz Foundation and Sierra Club representation.

Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP) meeting: OEA, ARD and Program Staff attended the bi-monthly CEP meeting in Chester. Meetings have been hosted by DELCORA, Covanta, Widener and University of Pennsylvania. The focus is related to:

- permit activities
- community complaints
- environment
- health
- zoning and land use
- health and environmental health risk and intervention
- smart growth and economic development
- partnerships to improve the quality of life and safety of the resident

The CEP consists of a coalition of local, state and federal government officials, academia and student representation profit and non-profit organizations, and community and faith-based leadership.

DELCORA, Delaware County: The EA attended a meeting at DELCORA along with DEP staff and Community Environmental Partnership members to discuss and asked questions of the DEP ARD and Air Quality staff about DELCORA permit guidelines and past violations for tonnage exceedances and heat release.

Trainer Custom Chemicals, LLC (TCC), Trainer: The EA received a request from Fire Commissioner Johnson for an update on the EPA Stoney Creek Trainer (SCT) superfund site that was discussed at a CEP meeting. Dr. Strand requested a response from the Chester Fire Commissioner and/or the new owners, Trainer Custom Chemicals, LLC (TCC), about any environmental concerns. In July 2013, the on-site-coordinator (OSC) noticed that demolition activities were occurring at the former SCT facility, and contacted the property owner to schedule an assessment. Subsequently, the EPA OSC and DEP conducted an assessment on September 25, 2013, to ensure the current owner had not caused a release or threat of release of hazardous substances which might trigger the need for a removal action. During the assessment, EPA observed that numerous storage tanks and process equipment had been demolished, but no releases that might pose a risk of offsite migration were observed. EPA recommended that the owner ensure he is complying requirements for RCRA and asbestos NESHAP. Both RCRA and NESHAP programs are delegated to the state. DEP subsequently notified EPA and DEP's Hazardous Waste Program of potential issues at the site. EPA's Site Assessment Program and DEP are evaluating whether further investigations or cleanup actions are needed at the property.

No decisions have been made to date. Operations at the site are still subject to federal and state regulatory authority depending on the nature of the operations conducted there. The ongoing environmental issues of potential concern (not under EPA jurisdiction) are: characterization and disposal of RCRA wastes at the facility; and determination of whether asbestos is present in any materials being disturbed and disposed.

NDV Recycling, Inc., Northeast Philadelphia: The EA met with WM program staff about NDV's inability to reach community representatives to discuss their permit application. EA provided NDV with contact for ASPIRA, Hunting Park Stakeholders and local official and contacted ASPIRA and Hunting Park Stakeholders advising them that NDV would like to attend their bi-monthly meeting.

Overbrook Environmental Education Center (OEEC)/JASTECH, West Philadelphia.: EA received an invitation from OEEC to participate as an Institutional Leader in their EJ grant from the EPA to initiate the *Community-Based Campaign: Social Marketing for Healthier Neighborhoods*. During this one-year campaign, Institutional and Neighborhood Leaders will identify critical behavior targets regarding clean water and toxic substance controls and develop a campaign to address health issues related to clean water and toxic substances controls.

Southwest Philadelphia Auto Repair & Auto Export Salvage Businesses: EA received a resident complaint about illegal dumping, truck and tractor street parking and questionable businesses in the community. EA attended meetings with City Council, the community with Council's Director of Legislation, and at the local church. The Councilman has proposed a new law that will limit the auto repair shops in a specific geographic area and zoning laws changes to both that will reflect and address the concerns of the residents. Southwest Philadelphia residents are requesting environmental and compliance investigations. The Councilman agreed to investigate and correct those businesses in violation of city laws, codes and ordinances and follow up with the residents. EA forwarded information on EPA funding available for Brownfield projects. EA assisted the residents in applying as a Registered Community Organization (RCO) and provided materials on Philadelphia Code on Zoning and Planning and Best Practices for RCOs. EA met the Director of the Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs and the community to help negotiate discontinuation of the practices of the immigrant businesses. The community is awaiting a meeting with the City.

Southeast Regional Roundtable Meeting: The meeting agenda featured the PA DEP Brownfields Conference, Brownfields Program and a snap shot of the EJ area videos to be presented at the Conference. Cosmo Servidio, RD, Walter Payne, ECP Brownfields Redevelopment, Domenic Rocco, Waterways & Wetlands Program Manager, and Patrick Patterson, LGL provided an overview of DEP's regional Brownfield program and answered questions after the presentations.

PA Brownfield Simone Collins Landscape Architecture Ambler Presenter: EA assisted the Director of West Ambler Civic Association (WACA) with comments for the panel discussion about WACA history and the community's involvement with the projects associated with the Revitalization and Action Plan for the West Ambler neighborhood. Simone Collins presented on their stormwater and flood reduction design for the Ambler community.

PA Brownfields Conference Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP) Presenter: EA assisted Brownfields committee on CEP history, developing a PowerPoint presentation and provided photographs of Chester's industrial and the residential community in close proximity to industry.

PA Brownfields Conference African American United Fund (AAUF) Presenter: EA recommended AAUF submit the Urban Garden Initiative for presentation at the conference. The (AAUF) has actively engaged the African American community in addressing social and economic injustices by pooling resources to enhance the quality of life of those most affected. AAUF highlighted the African Marketplace Health and Wellness program and a community garden at N. Broad Street in Philadelphia on a vacant lot where dumping, prostitution and drug dealing were rampant. The Urban Garden Initiative creates meeting space for the community, hosts film screenings, dance performances, plays, musical productions, farmers markets and an annual health fair. The site is used for a job skills training program for adjudicated minors in the Philadelphia Youth Advocate Program and the formerly convicted, in conjunction with X-Offenders for Community Empowerment, and other neighborhood re-entry facilities. The garden is also used for cooking demonstrations, health fairs, a social service agency serving senior caregivers and Uptown Entertainment and Development Corporation and an area community development corporation, community clean ups to beautify North Central Philadelphia, and connecting neighborhood-based activities.

EPA Request for Applications for the 2014 EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJ CPS) Cooperative Agreement Program webinar: EA notified Crozer Kids Asthma Management Program (KAMP) Director and attended the webinar. The EJ CPS is for eligible projects that address local environmental and/or public health issues within an affected community. KAMP manager applied, with CEP support, for the 2014 grant. Crozer KAMP and Chester Environmental Partnership were awarded the 2011 grant and DEP provided additional funding and managed the grant.

EPA Cumulative Risk Webinar Series: Implementation of Cumulative and Mixtures Risk Assessment In the Office of Water – Past and Future: EA listened in on the latest research findings in cumulative risk assessment (CRA) and impacts and Technical Panel CRA guidelines and strategies for examining combinations of chemical, physical and biological stressors while factoring in population vulnerabilities. This will provide science-based knowledge to guide decisions that will better sustain healthy communities and the environment, inform decision-makers as they make choices that meet regulatory mandates and will achieve positive human health outcomes and well-being, environmental quality, and economic resilience.

Urban Waters Small Grants 2013-2014 Information Session Webinar: EA listened to the EPA 2013/2014 Urban Waters Small Grants Requests for Proposals (RFP) and Urban Water website webinar about the small grants program. The small grant awards range \$40,000 to \$60,000 in federal funding, and EPA expects to award \$1.6 million in total funding. The funding is for projects taking place in 18 Eligible Geographic Areas (Chester, NJ, Phila, Camden, etc.) that protect and restore urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also

support community revitalization and other local priorities. The 18 Eligible Geographic Areas are listed and illustrated in maps at Urban Waters Small Grants program mapping website.

EPA Urban Waters Small Grants Competition: EA met with the Chester Environmental Partnership Committee to review grant opportunities under the EPA Urban Waters Program.

EPA Brownfields Grant Proposal Writing Workshops Webinar: EA listened to *Brownfields Grant Proposal Writing Workshops* webinar that assist local governments and nonprofit organizations in understanding the proposal criteria and selection process. The presenter provided an overview of EPA's Brownfields Program and Threshold Criteria; types of grants, eligible candidates, application process, ranking criteria, proposal writing tips and strategies. The 2014 proposals are for Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) competitive grants cycle.

EPA/National Institute of Environmental Health and Science Children's Centers webinar series: EA listened to the webinar the University of California research that featured presentations and interactive discussions on findings and new developments in children's environmental health.

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Program Webinar: EA participated in the Cumulative Risk Webinar series on the latest research findings in cumulative risk assessment (CRA) and impacts, *CalEnviroScreen 1.0: A New Tool for Evaluating California Communities*. The webinar described a science-based approach to identify highly burdened ('environmental justice') communities; how multiple stressors in a community can be integrated with vulnerability and exposure data; and how to use the CalEnviroScreen 1.0 tool.

Accelerating Action: The Forum for the Delaware River Watershed: EA and DEP Environmental Group Manager, EP Waterways and Wetland participated in the Academy of Natural Sciences forum series on facilitated, action-focused discussions on issues affecting conservation and restoration work in the watershed. Sessions attended: *Urban Suburban Landscapes, Upstream/Downstream Landscapes* and *Water: Tributaries, River, Bay, and Constituency Building* and *Charting a Watershed-Wide Course, Part I & 2*. Keynote speakers: William Penn Foundation, National Wildlife Federation and President/CEO of Drexel and Academy of National Sciences, and Mayor and Commissioner of Parks & Recreation.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRC) Community & Economic Development Forum (RCEDF): EA participated in a forum and panel discussion to hear DVRC reports on immigration, immigrant workers and entrepreneurs in the Philadelphia region and immigration and its role in building a strong regional economy. Highlights were the DVRPC's recent Data Snapshots on the immigration Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians.

Penn CEET Stakeholder Advisory Board meeting: EA attended the Community Outreach and Engagement Core (CEET) stakeholders meeting on their NIEHS Grant renewal and presentations on Air Quality in the Region and Air Pollution Research at CEET.

The Security and Sustainability Forum Webinar: EA listened to a discussion about what Vancouver and other cities are doing that can be emulated by municipalities across the globe. Cities are collaborating with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) to share information and experiences, and solve problems. Worldwide, over 50% of the world's people live in urban areas while more than 70% of greenhouse gas emissions are generated to support these growing metro areas. [*The Guide to Greening Cities*](#) provides examples of municipal sustainability successes.

Community Shared Solar and Urban Neighborhoods Webinar: EA learned about a solar development model that allows consumers to lease or purchase the output of a solar project, with each participant receiving a share of the benefits-usually credited to their utility bill. The panelists discussed approaches that maximize benefits of strategic solar development in support of renewable energy programs and projects.

American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics (ASLME) webinar: EA listened to the *Zoning for the Public's Health: Using Mixed-Use Zoning to Increase Walkability and Reduce Crime* webinar. The studies described focused on land use and zoning, how health is linked to the health of a neighborhood and how zoning policies might be used to characterize and address disparities. University of Pennsylvania, Professor John McDonald presented *Reducing Crime by Shaping the Built Environment with Zoning*. This presentation focused on ways that we can reduce crime without criminal law by improving the built environment through zoning strategies that encompass sensible space, mixed use development, walkable neighborhoods and narrower streets and small businesses.

NALGEP Brownfields Communities Network Webinar: The National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) a not-for-profit organization of local officials to represent local government personnel responsible for ensuring environmental compliance and developing and implementing environmental policies and programs. The webinar, "*Renewable Energy on Brownfields: Latest Developments*" covered hands-on guidance and tips for successful local environmental projects and an overview of considerations for local governments.

Security & Sustainability Forum webinar: EA listened to a dialogue on security for resources as a commodity on the global market on both shortages and abundance of natural resources.

South-central and North-central OEA Update

Community Environmental Project (CEP): The Community Environmental Project (CEP) policy was available for a 30-day public comment period beginning October 26 and closed November 25 at 5:00 pm. The CEP policy, in certain situations, allows a person or entity to propose a CEP in lieu of a penalty to DEP for projects that are environmental and health related. The policy is currently undergoing internal review. Two public comments were received, mainly in support. Commentators were Covanta Energy and the Marcellus Shale Coalition.

Ardmore Plaza: After speaking again with Chris Ball representing Ardmore Plaza, it was reported Ardmore has been in contact with Mr. Williams, the attorney Rev. Pollard referred them

to. They were hoping contact would be made again soon to proceed with discussions on testing for the three remaining homes near the site. Since this conversation, no further communication has transpired between OEA or the region.

Rolling Hills Landfill, Berks County: DEP agreed to the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority's (DCSWA) request for two CEP projects in Berks County in lieu of a penalty. One project is with the Reading High School in Reading, an EJ area. An energy audit to the school will be conducted and environmental education and projects completed. The other site is in Tipton and involves a stream bank stabilization and restoration to Toad Creek. The Berks County Conservation District is administering the projects for DCSWA. The advisory council for Rolling Hills landfill has expressed dissatisfaction toward the projects.