

**MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD
October 15, 2020**

Members Present Via Phone **Non-Members Present Via Phone**

Jennifer Baka

Heather Bedi

Adam Cutler

Arthur Frank

Hazem Hijazi

Gary Horton

Rafiyqa Muhammad

Allison Robinson

Jerome Shabazz

Horace Strand

Allison Acevedo, DEP

Hayley Book, DEP

Colton Brown, DEP

John Brakeall, DEP

Glenda Davidson, DEP

Justin Dula, DEP

Eleanor Kelly, DOH

David Saunders, DOH

Non-members via Phone

Amanda Gilhooly, Group Against Smog and Pollution

Mike Brennan, Waste Management

Patrick Henderson, Marcellus Shale Coalition

Taylor Bacon, Environmental Defense Fund

Rachel McDevitt, State Impact PA

State Representative Christopher Rabb's Office

Robert Routh, Clean Air Council

Drew Stilson, Environmental Defense Fund

Nick Troutman, Senator Yaw's Office

Vanessa Lynch, Mom's Clean Air

Jim Welty, Marcellus Shale Coalition, Citizens Advisory Council

Pam Witmer, UGI

Call to Order

Chairman Cutler called the virtual meeting to order at 1:00 PM with a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Cutler solicited additions or corrections to the Minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting.

Allison Robinson moved to approve the Minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting. Arthur Frank seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Review of Action Items from August 11, 2020 Meeting

Management of PPE and waste during COVID-19

There has been no new guidance related to management of PPE waste during COVID-19. DEP continues to follow the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) guidance. The Department of Health's (DOH) directions should be followed as well.

Allison Acevedo will collaborate with David Saunders and Eleanor Kelly at DOH to review Harrisburg air quality issues and any potential connection to solid waste incineration.

EJAB recommendations for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

A letter containing EJAB's recommendations was delivered to the DEP Secretary and the Governor's Policy Office. The respective offices discussed the letter and are drafting a response. DEP staff shared that the public comment period for RGGI has not yet opened.

PA House Bill 2742

Representative Struzzi introduced legislation that would create an office to assist small and medium-sized businesses with DEP's regulatory and permitting requirements. It was referred to the Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy on August 6. OEJ will track the legislation to see if there has been any movement.

DEP and OEJ Updates

In September, the Environmental Quality Board adopted the proposed CO2 Budget Trading regulation, also known as RGGI. The House of Representatives introduced House Bill 2025, which would prevent Pennsylvania from joining RGGI without General Assembly approval. In response, Governor Wolf vetoed this legislation. The RGGI regulation is proceeding through the regulatory process and is anticipated to be posted for public review and comment soon.

EJAB member Allison Robinson participated in a Transportation Climate Initiative investment and equity webinar on September 29 focusing on greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. The webinar provided a strong focus on environmental justice, public transportation, logistics for distribution companies, and alternative types of transportation in vulnerable communities. A link to the webinar was provided.

OEJ has completed EJ training with senior and management staff, with guidance from EPA Region 3, EPA central office staff, Dr. Strand, and Jerome Shabazz. The training will continue for others within DEP and potentially other state agencies.

DOH received funding from the CDC to conduct environmental justice and environmental health mapping beginning in 2021 as part of an Environmental Health capacity building grant. More details will be available as the initiative moves forward.

DEP submitted a notice of withdrawal of the revised Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on October 24. In its place, DEP will create a new policy that encompasses environmental justice issues holistically and that is not only limited to public participation. EJAB members generally agreed with the withdrawal of the EJ Policy, supporting a more comprehensive policy with an emphasis on a greater range of public participation opportunities. This topic will be placed on the November 17 meeting agenda for additional discussion.

Northwest/Southwest

Allison Acevedo reported that EJAB member Gary Horton relayed concerns about air pollution from the Accuride plant in Erie. There is a remediation plan in place, but Gary feels it has not been working. Allison noted that she was unaware if Gary made a formal complaint.

Regarding the previously discussed Merrion Oil & Gas topic, DEP is waiting on the zoning decision from East Pittsburgh Zoning Hearing Board before moving forward with any potential permit issuance.

Northcentral/Southcentral

John Brakeall reported that \$100,000 of a recent \$736,000 penalty assessed to Transco has been awarded to the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance.

The City of Harrisburg has been working with Harrisburg University on the Climate Action Plan.

Greenhouse work group is collaborating with the City of Harrisburg and community groups for food bank funding.

Northeast/Southeast

Justin Dula reported that the Scranton environmental justice roundtable was held on October 6, 2020, and it included diverse viewpoints from stakeholders.

The Northeast Regional Office is coordinating the Countywide Action Plans as part of the phase three watershed improvement plan of the Chesapeake Bay program for Lackawanna, Luzerne, Schuylkill, and Susquehanna Counties.

In the Southeast, meetings started on the Small Community Brownfields Technical Assistance Grant. This grant will focus on Darby Borough in Delaware County.

Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) MOU

Colton Brown, Energy Program Specialist in DEP's Energy Office, presented a summary of the Zero Emission Vehicle MOU which commits signatories to work together to foster a self-sustaining market for zero emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, calls for 30% of new truck and bus sales to be zero emission by 2030 and 100% by 2050, emphasizes the need to accelerate deployment of zero-emission trucks and buses in disadvantaged communities, and directs the development and implementation of a medium- and heavy-duty zero emission vehicle action plan. The final action plan is anticipated to be released in 2021.

Public Comment

No public comments were provided during this meeting.

RGGI Equity Principles

The RGGI Equity Principles focus on engaging the public and gathering input, mitigating adverse impacts on impacted communities, and dedicating a percentage of the auction proceeds to vulnerable populations. Discussion included whether RGGI principles could include reference to how DEP will address disproportionate impact of pollution on vulnerable communities and asked that OEJ track and report how community feedback is addressed. EJAB members requested a map of the facilities in EJ areas that would be captured under RGGI.

EJAB Committee Updates

DOH Subcommittee - EJ/EH Mapping

Allison Robinson reported that the subcommittee previously met in August. DOH submitted and received a grant that focuses in part on mapping; including environmental health and environmental justice mapping. The subcommittee is committed to working with DOH, especially the Epidemiology Division, trying to develop their system. Penn State Student and EJAB member Nebraska Hernandez

is also working on a mapping project looking at EJ in PA, but there have been no updates about this project.

Allison Acevedo noted that the DOH advisory board is starting to move forward with the mapping piece. She will advise EJAB once additional information is available.

DOH's Office of Health Equities COVID-19 Response group is researching whether there are any concerns with the persistent drought and its impact on the need of water for sanitation purposes. Most of the area impacted is rural and contains privately-owned wells, which do not fall under the oversight of DEP. Discussion surrounded literature for realtors and homeowners regarding having private wells checked prior to sale and reaching out to the Master Well Owners Network which provides guidance on the installation and management of wells.

Public Participation and Outreach

An initial meeting was held to discuss focus public participation, make basic recommendations, and identify some of the challenges. One of the solutions was a multi-function participation system.

EJ Symposium

Justin Dula thanked everyone for their collective participation in the Clarke Forum.

For the 2021 EJ Symposium, the group is encouraging local EJ community hubs to serve as the convener of local organizations interested in environmental justice, community health, and community connection. The EJ community hubs would continue work with communities after the symposium to build networks throughout Pennsylvania.

The anticipated date for the EJ Symposium is April of 2021. A subcommittee meeting will be held on October 21 at 3:00 to continue planning. Anyone wishing to join the subcommittee meeting should let Justin know, otherwise he will report back at the November meeting. It is anticipated that the entire event will need to be virtual.

Planning for November 2020 Meetings

Chairman Cutler asked EJAB members to review their calendars and to consider available dates for the 2021 meetings.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Action items from today's meeting include:

- OEJ will develop framing on new EJ policy parameters to present to EJAB at the November meeting;
- EJAB members will provide any additional input on the NESCAUM MOU, including ideas for the draft action plan;
- OEJ will consider availability of private well educational materials;
- EJAB and OEJ will participate in the upcoming EJ symposium meeting on October 21;
- OEJ will deliver the response to letter regarding RGGI recommendation prior to the next meeting;
- Allison Acevedo will check on any COVID-19 updates regarding resources and guidance to communities.

Adjourn

Chairman Adam Cutler requested a motion to adjourn the conference call.

Arthur Frank made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Rev. Strand. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.