



Environmental Justice Quarterly

<www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice>

Summer/Fall 2005

EPA Administrator Reaffirms Support for Environmental Justice

In a memorandum issued November 4th, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Stephen L. Johnson reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to environmental justice for all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income. The Administrator emphasized that EPA will continue to take more concrete steps to protect those people that are disproportionately affected by environmental and public health risks, including minority and/or low-income communities.

The Agency has been directed to further its efforts to integrate environmental justice into all its programs, policies, and activities. The timing of these directives aligns with the development of EPA's planning and budgeting for the next five years. This provides a valuable opportunity for environmental justice to be more effectively integrated into the Agency's planning and budgeting processes.

In his statement, the Administrator identified eight national environmental priorities that have been acknowledged by environmental justice advocates as critical issues. These will be incorporated into EPA's

Strategic Plan for 2006-2011, creating an Agency-wide focus on these issues and the consequences associated with them. In addition to these areas, the Administrator encouraged the development of regional environmental priorities.

Accordingly, the Chief Financial Officer issued supplemental guidance to help the headquarters offices and regions incorporate environmental justice considerations through the use of the Strategic Plan's Goal Teams. The memorandum, coupled with the additional guidance, is expected to have far-reaching impacts on the way EPA integrates environmental justice into programs, policies, and activities.

EPA is committed to ensuring environmental justice for all people. This commitment extends beyond providing equal protection against environmental and public health issues. By integrating environmental justice considerations into the Agency's core functions and responsibilities, EPA hopes to ensure that all people are treated fairly and given an equal opportunity to participate in all the legal processes associated with environmental and health issues.

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Eight National Environmental Priorities

Air

Reduce Asthma Attacks
Reduce Exposure to Air Toxics

Water

Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat
Water Safe to Drink

Enforcement and Compliance

Ensure Compliance

Land Preservation

Revitalization of Brownfields and Contaminated Sites

Toxics

Reduced Levels of Elevated Blood Lead Levels

Cross-Cutting

Collaborative Problem-Solving

Collaborative Problem-Solving Is Working in Anahola, Hawaii

Collaborative Problem-Solving Program Update

A 20-acre lot in the community of Anahola was contaminated with pesticide residues by a now defunct sugarcane plantation. However, this lot is now being transformed into a community center by the native Hawaiian community in Anahola, Hawaii, thanks to a \$100,000 cooperative agreement under the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement Program. This is the first time the Anahola Home-steads Council (AHC) has obtained federal grant funds. Using a collaborative, problem-solving approach, AHC has initiated "Project Imua" to assess the environmental and public health concerns associated with the site, build partnerships, and prepare a redevelopment plan. As part of the project, AHC has teamed with project partners to train teams of community volunteers, students, and government representatives in collecting surface and potable

water samples and conducting aerial surveys to map solid waste sites. AHC has successfully leveraged in-kind support from various federal, state, and local government agencies; businesses; academic institutions; and other nonprofit partners. The City of Anahola alone contributed an estimated \$304,000 of in-kind support to haul solid waste from the site.

AHC is using the CPS cooperative agreement funds in ways that ensure the long-term viability of Project Imua long after the initial funds have been expended. In addition to redeveloping a brownfield site into a major community asset, AHC is also creating a partnership and problem-solving model that can be used to help other communities in Hawaii facing similar adverse environmental and public health concerns and issues.

The CPS cooperative agreement has also opened the door to additional funding from EPA's Brownfields program in the amount of \$196,334, and funding



Jimmy Torio, Executive Director of AHC, next to the marker for the 20-acre project site

from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$479,640.

For more information on the Anahola CPS project, contact Ayako Sato at (202) 564-5396 or <sato.ayako@epa.gov>.

NEJAC Charter Renewed

On August 16, 2005, EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson approved the renewal of the charter for the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), which provides the EPA Administrator with advice and recommendations with respect to integrating environmental justice into EPA's programs, policies, and day-to-day activities. NEJAC's charter was scheduled to expire in September 2005, but has been renewed until September 26, 2006.

NEJAC, a federal advisory committee, was established in September 1993 to provide a forum for addressing human health and environmental conditions in all communities, including minority populations and low-income communities. The NEJAC is composed of members representing community-based organizations; academic and educational institutions; business and industry; state and local governments; tribal governments and indigenous organizations; and non-governmental and environmental groups. The Executive

Council's diverse membership ensures that all points of view are represented when discussing issues that affect these groups.

NEJAC elicits comments, questions, and recommendations from the public through its meetings, which are open to the public. Since 1999, these meetings have addressed such national policy issues as facility siting and permitting, the relationship between local environmental conditions and neighboring pollution-generating facilities, fish consumption, the integration of environmental justice principles into federal agencies, pollution prevention and waste minimization, and cumulative risks and impacts.

"NEJAC has made significant contributions to our efforts to integrate environmental justice considerations into the Agency's decision-making," said Thomas V. Skinner, acting assistant administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Its recommendations are given serious consider-

ation at the highest levels of the organization."

Throughout its 12-year history, NEJAC has played an important role in helping EPA integrate environmental justice considerations into Agency programs. During that time, NEJAC has reviewed and made substantive recommendations affecting EPA's first Environmental Justice Strategy and examined countless enforcement, permitting, compliance, and economic issues affecting environmental justice communities around the country.

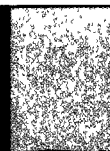
In 2006, EPA will convene a NEJAC workgroup to provide advice and recommendations about the environmental justice issues related to the cleanup and rebuilding of areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

For more information about NEJAC, contact Victoria Robinson at (202) 564-6349 or <robinson.victoria@epa.gov>.

Regional Corner

Region 2

This column explores exciting environmental initiatives under way in EPA regional offices. Each quarter, we focus on a different regional program. EPA Region 2 covers New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and seven Tribal Nations.



Region 2 Interim Environmental Justice Policy

In December 2000, Region 2 published the Interim Environmental Justice Policy, which outlines the approach and method Region 2 staff are expected to use when evaluating and assessing environmental justice concerns in the region's communities. The policy strives to ensure the identification, targeting, and responsiveness to communities that experience disproportionately high adverse health and environmental burdens and promote environmental protection and livable, sustainable communities.

The policy also defines a set of "Guiding Principles and Concepts," which shape the region's environmental justice program. These include:

- Equal protection is the objective.
- "Early and meaningful" involvement of the affected community is essential.
- A community's "perception" is its reality.
- Solutions require all stakeholders to participate at the table.
- Meetings must be convenient for the affected community.
- Look at existing environmental regulations, statutes, policies to incorporate and consider environmental justice.
- "Environmental justice is a matter of fairness" – Jeanne M. Fox, Regional Administrator.

Region 2 defines the policy as a "living document," signifying that it can and should be periodically supplemented and updated with the latest environmental and census data, based on the progress of its implementation. For more information on Region 2's Interim Environmental Justice Policy, contact Terry Wesley at (212) 637-5027 or <wesley.terry@epa.gov>.

Region 2 Partners With Mohawk Tribe to Monitor St. Lawrence River Remediation

Massena, New York

EPA Region 2 and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe have created a successful partnership to monitor the clean up the St. Lawrence River, which is tainted with PCB-contaminated soils, sludge, and sediment from several surrounding superfund sites. The Mohawk tribal lands are located directly downstream from the Reynolds Metals Company

and the General Motors Facility, both recent remediation sites. Through a Support Agency Assistance grant, representatives of the tribe's Environment Division have worked with EPA to monitor remediation performance, resulting in the removal of 170,000 tons of contaminated sediment. The tribe has also managed community relations with residents, performed sampling and analysis of suspected contaminants, and coordinated air sample collection.

Region 2 Recognizes Project for Outstanding Contributions

Puerto Rico

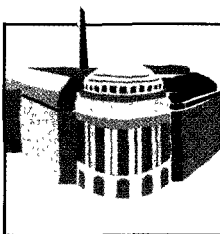
Since its founding in 1993, the *Empowering Communities to Secure Drinking Water in Puerto Rico* project has brought together 250 small drinking water systems to ensure safe drinking water for 180,000 Puerto Ricans. This successful project, which helps rural, remote, and low-income communities protect their drinking water while complying with federal safe drinking water regulations, was officially recognized for Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Justice by Region 2's Caribbean Director, Carl Soderberg, in April. The project continues to create positive results for Puerto Rico.

St. Croix Listening Session Results in Environmental Information Repository

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

In March 2003, Region 2 partnered with the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) Cooperative Extension Services to hold a community dialogue/listening session in St. Croix. The session focused on improving communication between environmental regulatory officials and the public to better serve the community, and exceeded all expectations for turnout and participation. In direct response to the program, UVI, the Virgin Islands Resource Conservation & Development Council, and the St. Croix Environmental Association have collaborated to create and develop the St. Croix Environmental Information Repository. The project's goals include better identification of environmental concerns in St. Croix and improvement of public access to environmental information. The project, funded through a Region 2 grant, promises to be an excellent source of information for St. Croix residents and officials on St. Croix-specific environmental issues.

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Headquarters Update Office of Research and Development

Each quarter, the Headquarters Update features a specific office at EPA Headquarters, highlighting recent activities, programs, and policies aimed at addressing a variety of environmental justice issues.

ORD Research Accomplishments in Support of Environmental Justice

The FY 2004/2005 ORD Environmental Justice Action Plan describes ORD's role in supporting the protection of public health and the environment by providing sound science for Agency decisions. ORD does not have a separate Environmental Justice program, since the broad range of science activities in ORD touches on many important EJ issues through our close work with our Program and Regional partners. This article gives an sampling of some of ORD's science activities that support the Agency's commitment to environmental justice.

- **The National Children's Study**—This study, led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (through the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control) and EPA will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children from 96 geographically dispersed and demographically varied locations across the United States from before birth to the age 21, with the goal of improving the health and well-being of children. The defining characteristic of the study is the ability to examine multiple exposures and link them in cause-effect relationships with multiple health outcomes. Strong partnerships between federal and non-federal scientists, community, parent, advocacy, and industrial groups throughout the planning process have focused the study on environmental health themes of major public health concern, such as pregnancy outcomes, neuro-behavioral development, asthma, obesity and altered physical development, and injury.
- **Detroit Exposure and Aerosol Research Study (DEARS)**—This three-year air monitoring study, begun in 2004, is being conducted by EPA, the Research Triangle Institute, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the University of Michigan to define how individuals are exposed to particulate matter and air toxic sources and the conditions that affect their exposures. Air pollutant concentrations and their sources measured at central or community air monitoring stations will be compared with those measured in various neighborhoods in Detroit, Michigan. Personal and residential monitoring will involve a total of 120 adult participants wearing personal monitoring vests over five days of summertime monitoring and five days of wintertime monitoring.
- **U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program**—The goal of this 10-year joint effort is to reduce threats to human and ecosystem health along the border, which frequently involves environmental justice issues (race, ethnicity, age, sex, and sociodemographics). This is a joint effort involving EPA, Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the Mexican Secretariat of Health, the 10 border states, tribal governments, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and other federal agencies. ORD co-chairs the Environmental Health Workgroup, which seeks to address environmental health concerns to reduce exposures and other factors associated with the increase in disease rates along the border. The workgroup's focus includes strengthening health surveillance capabilities, conducting research on high-priority issues that have binational and border-wide applications and implications, training and education, and communication. Currently, the Environmental Health Workgroup is facilitating projects such as the establishment of an electronic network of environmental health professionals and conducting a major research initiative to link environmental improvements with health outcomes.
- **Framework for Cumulative Risk Assessment**—This guidance document was completed in 2003 by the ORD-sponsored and coordinated Agency Risk Assessment Forum, a standing committee of senior EPA scientists established to promote Agency-wide consensus on difficult and controversial risk assessments. In 2004, EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (via its Cumulative Risks/Impacts Work Group) completed a report titled "Ensuring Risk Reduction in Communities with Multiple Stressors: Environmental Justice and Cumulative Risks/Impacts," that promoted the idea that combining the Agency's new framework with a collaborative problem-solving approach is the fastest and surest way to bring about tangible and sustainable benefits for disproportionately impacted communities and tribes. For the first time, the framework opens the scope of risk assessment to include the environmental, health, social, and cultural factors that are key to understanding community risk. Within this framework, the community can enter into a dialogue about risk that realistically incorporates the factors experienced by disadvantaged, under-served, and environmentally overburdened communities and tribes.

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- **Asthma Initiative and Conference**—ORD, in collaboration with the Office of Children's Health Protection, sponsored a workshop in October 2004 to review the current scientific evidence with respect to factors that may contribute to the induction and therefore increased incidence of asthma. The workshop addressed two broad questions: 1) What does the science suggest that regulatory and public health agencies could do now to reduce the incidence of asthma, and 2) What research is needed to improve our understanding of the factors that contribute to induction of this disease? Preventing in utero and perinatal exposure to cigarette smoke was identified as a public health measure that could reduce the incidence of asthma, and a number of research needs were identified relative to the roles of both indoor and outdoor air pollutants in the induction of asthma. ORD's asthma research strategy and a recent asthma initiative are addressing some of these research needs, particularly the role of mold contamination in indoor environments (a common problem in low-income housing) and exposures to certain volatile organics in the induction of asthma.

- **Environmental Health Disparities Workshop**—ORD cosponsored a workshop with EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection and the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor, MI in May 2005 to explore social and environmental factors that cause environmental health disparities. Papers covered such diverse topics as the relationship between racial residential segregation and exposure to particulates; the selection of indicators for EPA's "America's Children and the Environment" report; and methodologies for examining environmental health disparities. The organizers' presented their own conceptual framework for examining how social and physical environmental factors may create health disparities, as well as how indicators may aid in the measurement and tracking of environmental health disparities. Some of the most inspiring presentations were by leaders of environmental justice community organizations from Oakland, CA, and Boston, MA, on their use of environmental health indicators to monitor conditions in their neighborhoods.

- **Science of Environmental Justice Conference**—EPA New England, in conjunction with Boston University School of Public Health hosted a two-day working conference sponsored by ORD's Regional Science Program titled "Science to Action: Community-based Participatory Research and Cumulative Risk Analysis as Tools to Advance Environmental Justice in Suburban, Urban and Rural Communities." The conference, which was held at Boston University May 24 - 26, 2004, provided an interactive, educational forum joining together scientists, technical experts, community leaders, non-profit groups, academia, and government representatives. The conference participants discussed current, national efforts in community-based participatory

research and cumulative risk analysis that are helping to assess, address, and resolve environmental and public health risks in suburban, urban, and rural environmental justice areas of potential concern. The conference featured two plenary forums on Cumulative Risk Analysis and Community-Based Participatory Research, as well as five small group presentations beginning with diverse, moderate panels presenting on: Air Toxics, Asthma, Children's Environmental Health, Land-Based Risks and Water Quality. The panels were followed by facilitated roundtable discussions on key conference questions. The conference provided suggestions to ORD and regional offices for new research as well as strategies to translate currently available and future research into action and policies that better serve the needs of environmental justice communities.

- **Research Apprenticeship Program for High School Students**—This program, begun in 1990 as a collaboration between ORD in Research Triangle Park, NC and Shaw University in Raleigh, NC, addresses the underrepresentation of minorities in the fields of science and engineering, a problem that educational researchers have determined can begin as early as elementary school. Students in grades 9 through 12 living in Wake County, NC and demonstrating superior ability in science and math may apply, with eight rising 9th graders accepted into the program annually. The objective is to encourage students to pursue advanced degrees in math, science, and engineering by enriching the scientific and mathematic concepts that they study, providing them the opportunity to interact and mentor with scientists and engineers, allowing them to develop effective scientific research and technical skills, and enhancing their motivation, self-confidence, and desire to achieve.

- **Minority Institution-Based Centers**—ORD's annual budget supports two minority institution-based centers that serve the particular research needs of minority and disadvantaged communities, addressing correlations among environmental justice, risk communication and the perception of risk to socioeconomic status and exposure to environmental contaminants.

Center for Environmental Resource Management, University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)—This Center maintains a program of education, outreach, and research to support analyses and remediation of critical Superfund-related issues. The principal research emphasis is on the detection, assessment, and evaluation of the risks to human health of hazardous substances and the detection and remediation or hazardous substances in the environment. The Center also provides opportunities for their culturally diverse population to train as environmental scientists and engineers. The Center is part of UTEP's existing Center for Environmental Resource Manage-

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ment, which addresses the problems that threaten health, safety, well-being, and economic development of the southwest border region of the United States and northern Mexico.

Institute for Environmental Issues and Policy Assessment (IEIPA), Center for Energy and Environmental Studies (CEES)—This Center supports research on environmental issues and policy assessments, including environmental equity, reaching out into the community to address environmental problems that impact the quality of life in Louisiana. The main issues addressed by the Center include technology development, pollution prevention, Mississippi River environmental strategies, geographical information systems, and environmental risk management.

- **Center for Hazardous Substances in the Urban Environment**—The Hazardous Substances Research Centers Program was established by EPA to assist in the implementation of the federal Superfund statute. One of the centers in the program is the Center for Hazardous Substances in the Urban Environment led by Johns Hopkins University with the University of Maryland, Morgan State University, University of Connecticut, and New Jersey Institute of Technology. Urban residents in the Northeast, a population heavily concentrated in urban areas with a rich tradition of manufacturing and handling hazardous substances, face potential risks caused by exposure to a number of environmental stressors including toxic chemicals from Superfund sites, landfills, incinerators, and brownfields. The Center has identified "Urban Livability" as a strategic research priority for EPA Regions 1, 2, and 3, and developed a research program composed of seven projects to promote a better understanding of physical, chemical, and biological processes for detecting, assessing, and managing risks posed by contaminated soil, water, sediments, and airborne particles. The program is managed by ORD through the Science to Achieve (STAR) grants program and jointly funded by ORD and EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, with the requirement that 30 percent of the funds be used for public outreach and technology transfer. This effort highlights EPA's growing awareness of the need and resolve to provide technical assistance to environmentally troubled communities and help them become more actively involved in site cleanup decisionmaking.
- **NHEERL Extramural Minority Training Program**—This extramural minority training program, established by ORD's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) in 2001, annually awards roughly \$300,000 to promote diversity, stimulate minority students' interest in environmental science

careers, and provide training opportunities to minority students, post-docs, and faculty. The five current minority training programs are at Oregon State University, Portland State University, University of Rhode Island, NHEERL's Gulf Ecology Division, and Shaw University.

- **National EPA-Tribal Council**—ORD sponsors the Agency's Tribal Council, which was created in partnership with tribal representatives to help integrate Agency and tribal environmental science interests. The Council provides a forum for tribes and EPA to identify priority science issues and collaboratively design effective solutions. Composed of a tribal representative from each of the nine EPA Regions with federally recognized tribes, an additional tribal representative from Region 10 to represent Alaska Native communities, and an Agency representative from each Headquarters program office and region, the TSC has sponsored three workshops since 2002. Tribes have raised numerous issues to the Council that stem from the need for an appreciation of tribal traditional lifeways—the way tribes closely relate to the environment in all aspects of their life—and contributing to Agency consideration of the "health and well being" paradigm.
- **ORD Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Program**—EPA Awards Largest-Ever Grant to Study Health Effects of Air Pollution - In July 2004, EPA awarded the University of Washington \$30 million, the largest grant ever awarded by EPA for scientific research, to study the connection between air pollution and cardiovascular disease. Over a ten-year period, the study will contribute to a better understanding of the long-term health effects of breathing air contaminated by particulate matter and other pollutants, tracking 8,700 people from varied ethnic groups, aged 50 to 89, in cities across the country. The study will explore relationships between exposure levels encountered in the daily lives of the participants and the occurrence of cardiovascular disease. Premature death and other health problems are strongly related to sulfates in the air and ambient concentrations of fine particles less than 2.5 micrometers, and chronic exposure to particulates can cause decreased development of lung function among school-age children.

EPA Awards \$2.2 Million in Grants to Study Health Effects of Environmental Contaminants on Tribal Populations - In April 2004, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, EPA awarded \$2.2 million to establish research partnerships to study the health effects of contaminants on tribal populations. These tribal-academic partnerships are focusing on subsistence issues related to mercury, PCBs, pesticides, and other chemicals, leading to management strategies to reduce the risks from exposure to these and other chemicals.

EJ Online: Environmental Justice Training in One Hour

The release of the *Toolkit for Assessing Potential Allegations of Environmental Injustice* (Toolkit), by the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) in November 2004, represents an important step in EPA's continuing efforts to integrate environmental justice considerations into the Agency's decisionmaking processes. To help ensure that the Agency effectively uses the Toolkit, the Office of Environmental Justice has developed an hour-long course, "Introduction to Environmental Justice," which helps increase understanding and awareness of EPA's environmental justice program. It also provides employees and others with an understanding of the Toolkit's methodology for assessing issues of environmental justice.

The Toolkit not only provides a conceptual and substantive framework for understanding the Agency's envi-

ronmental justice program, defining environmental justice as both a civil rights issue and an environmental policy issue, but it presents a systematic approach with reference tools that can be adapted to assess and respond to potential allegations of environmental injustice as they occur, or to prevent injustices from occurring in the first place.

The online training includes two core policy modules, "Policy and Indicators Framework" and "Environmental Justice Tools," which highlight the use of the Toolkit's Environmental Justice Indicators (health, environmental, economic, and social). As described in the training and Toolkit, these indicators can be used as part of an analytic process to evaluate potential environmental justice situations.

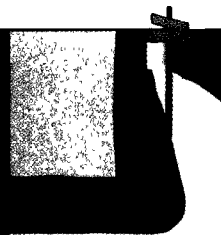
The Toolkit and online training are the two latest environmental justice integration efforts developed by OEJ. Together with the existing online mapping capabilities, offered through OEJ's Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool, and new products under development, the Agency is enhancing its ability to make environmental justice considerations part of its day-to-day work.

The Toolkit is available online in PDF format at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/ej/ej-toolkit.pdf>.

The "Introduction to Environmental Justice" Web-based training course is available through EPA's National Enforcement Training Institute at www.netonline.com.

Regional Corner Region 2

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Community Environmental Project Cleans Up Rochester

Rochester, New York

The Rochester Community Environmental Project, conducted in Rochester, New York, is a citywide initiative by Region 2 to reduce health and environmental risks of residents, especially children in Rochester. The city was chosen because it is a highly industrialized area with relatively high emissions reported through EPA's Toxic Release Inventory, and health data show high blood lead levels in some children. Since spring 2004, the Region has been using a variety of environmental grants, compliance assistance tools, inspections, and enforcement actions to reduce the emission of pollutants through better overall compliance with environmental regulations, and to improve the local environment and health of residents, especially children.

EPA has coordinated its efforts with officials from the city's Department of Environmental Services and the Monroe County Department of Public Health. EPA has also held meetings with business associations, Community Sector Leaders, and the Center for Environmental Information.

As part of the initiative, EPA inspected 166 commercial, industrial, educational, and hospital facilities to assess compliance with regulations governing air pollution, solid and hazardous waste, asbestos, pesticides, toxic waste disposal, and chemical inventories. EPA also provided information and guidance to assist facilities in complying with federal regulations; provided \$70,000 to the Rochester City School District to remove more than 700 gallons of chemicals from science labs and other areas; and awarded \$1 million to Rochester to establish a revolving loan fund that would enable the city to clean up and redevelop old industrial sites.

OECA Launches EJSEAT Tool

The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) has released the Environmental Justice Smart Enforcement Assessment Tool (EJSEAT) after two years of careful development. EJSEAT helps OECA implement Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations), which directs federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental risks that affect minority and/or low income communities.

This new analytical tool is designed to help OECA focus its compliance assurance efforts and activities on communities with significant environmental and public health issues. EJSEAT relies on a set of Environ-

mental Justice Indicators, which are described in EPA's Toolkit for Assessing Potential Allegations of Environmental Injustice, that track health, environmental, and compliance factors, as well as social demographic indicators. Using these Environmental Justice Indicators, EJSEAT identifies potential disproportionately high and adversely affected geographic areas—areas with potential environmental justice concerns—to assist in making fair and efficient resource deployment decisions.

Using EJSEAT, OECA and EPA's ten Regional Offices will identify environmental justice communities and identify facilities located in areas with environmental and public health concerns. OECA and the Regions will subsequently make

the appropriate enforcement and compliance decisions and deploy resources as necessary. Following these actions, OECA and regional staff will use demographic information, such as race and income, to analyze how those decisions and the actions taken will affect minority and/or low-income populations within the identified area.

EJSEAT is available online at <www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/ej/ej-seat-112905.pdf>. Inquiries regarding EJSEAT should be directed Nicholas Targ at 202-564-2515 or targ.nicholas@epa.gov.



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