

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
OFFICE OF WATER
FISCAL YEAR 2009
ACTION PLAN TO
INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



**Action Plan
Fiscal Year 2009**

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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY – OFFICE OF WATER
Draft FISCAL YEAR 2009 ACTION PLAN
TO INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Justice Action Plan for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water (OW) Fiscal Year 2009 is a prospective planning document that identifies measurable commitments to address key environmental justice priorities. The EJ Action Plan follows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's current Strategic Plan architecture to enhance the alignment of the Agency's environmental justice activities with its overall planning and budgeting processes. Where applicable the OW EJ Action Plans focuses on two of eight national environmental justice priorities, Water Safe to Drink and Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat as well as areas of focus in the OW National Water Plan

This action plan serves as a meaningful resource for OW staff and managers as they develop and implement their policies, programs, and activities for FY 2009. This action plan addresses management accountability; internal and external organizational engagements; collection, management, and, evaluation of data; professional and organizational development; environmental justice assessment process; and program evaluation.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (1974) [SDWA] and the Clean Water Act (1977) [CWA], OW works with EPA regional water divisions, states, tribes, water systems, and the public to set national drinking water standards and develop pollution control programs. OW is committed to incorporate environmental justice principles throughout these decision-making processes to ensure protection of human health for all communities and populations.

OW's reference to environmental justice principles throughout this action plan means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
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The Office of Water is organized into five program offices.

Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) protects public health by ensuring safe drinking water and protecting sources of drinking water. OGWDW, along with EPA's ten regional drinking water programs, oversees the implementation of the SDWA. OGWDW develops and provides assistance to implement national drinking water standards; oversees, assists, and helps fund state drinking water and source water protection programs; helps small drinking water systems; protects underground sources of drinking water through the Underground Injection Control Program; and provides information to the public. OGWDW also works in cooperation with regions, states, and tribes. In addition, to further protect the nation's drinking water systems from terrorist acts, OGWDW has formed the Water Security Division to help the water sector to understand and use the best scientific information and technologies for water security, support the assessment of the vulnerabilities that large, urban utilities may have to possible attack, and respond effectively in the event that an incident occurs.

Office of Science and Technology (OST) is responsible for developing sound, scientifically defensible standards, criteria, advisories, guidelines, and limitations under the CWA and SWDA. OST also is responsible for developing risk assessment methodologies and providing risk assessment support for OW. These products articulate the goals and provide the regulatory framework for restoring and maintaining the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the nation's water resources; protecting the nation's public water supplies; and achieving technology-based pollution control requirements in support of point source (end of pipe) discharge programs, nonpoint source programs, wetlands programs, drinking water programs, dredge material management programs and geographic-specific programs (such as, Great Lakes, coastal areas and estuaries).

OST consists of three divisions that include the Engineering and Analysis Division, the Health and Ecological Criteria Division, and the Standards and Health Protection Division.

Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) oversees a range of programs contributing to the well-being of the nation's waters and watersheds. Through its programs and initiatives, OWM promotes compliance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Under the CWA, OWM works in partnership with EPA regions, states, and tribes to regulate discharges into surface waters such as wetlands, lakes, rivers, estuaries, bays, and oceans. Specifically, OWM focuses on control of water that is collected in discrete conveyances (also called point sources), including pipes, ditches, and sanitary or storm sewers. OWM also is responsible for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the largest water quality funding source, focused on funding wastewater treatment systems, nonpoint source projects, and estuary protection. In addition, OWM manages the Water Pollution Control Program grants program for states and tribes.

Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW) promotes a watershed approach to manage, protect, and restore the water resources and aquatic ecosystems of our marine and fresh waters. This strategy is based on the premise that water quality and ecosystem problems are best solved at the watershed level and that local citizens play an integral role in achieving clean water goals. Through its many programs, including ocean and coastal protection, wetlands protection, nonpoint source pollution, and monitoring, OWOW provides technical and financial assistance and develops regulations and guidance to support the watershed approach. OWOW works with states, tribes, territories, local governments, the private sector, and non-profit organizations to implement aspects of its program.

American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) The American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) coordinates the Agency-wide effort to strengthen public health and environmental protection in Indian country, with a special emphasis on building capacity for tribes to administer their own environmental programs. AIEO oversees development and implementation of EPA's Indian Policy and strives to ensure that all EPA Headquarters and regional offices implement their parts of EPA's Indian program in a manner consistent with administration policy to work with tribes on a government-to-government basis and with EPA's trust responsibility to protect Tribal health and environments.

Environmental Justice Accomplishments

In FY 08 the Office of Water was actively involved in addressing the concerns of environmental justice communities. Significant progress was made towards improving water quality and protecting human health to these communities. Several key accomplishments aimed at providing clean waters and safer drinking water are highlighted in the following section.

The OGWDW released a DVD What Your School or Child Care Facility Should Know About Lead in Drinking Water on April 30, 2007. The DVD provides information on the sources and health effects of lead, as well as the importance of testing in school and child care facilities. The video is a tool to educate and foster support from staff, students, parents and the local community. To promote the DVD EPA mailed a complementary copy to the 50 largest school districts in the U.S. in October 2007. OGWDW also posted a Case Study of School Program to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water Stoughton Public Schools, Stoughton, MA on its web site. The case study highlights the school district's award winning program.

EPA and four other federal agencies have signed two important tribal infrastructure Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). Signatories to the MOUs are EPA, Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The federal departments committed to working across traditional program boundaries to improve infrastructure on tribal lands and to focus efforts on providing access to safe drinking water and basic wastewater facilities to tribes. The federal partners also agreed to promote coordination across the federal programs.

The Office of Water provides funding for infrastructure improvements to small and disadvantaged communities through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The funding of infrastructure improvements reduces public exposure to contaminants through compliance with rules and supports the reliable delivery of safe water in small and disadvantaged communities and for Tribal

and territorial public water systems. In 2007, 72% of loans made by state Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs were to small systems. Also in 2007, 26% of loans (which may include lower-interest or longer-term loans and/or principal forgiveness) made by state DWSRF were to systems serving disadvantaged communities.

The Office of Water maintains the Fish Consumption Advisory Program Website that includes the National Listing of Fish and Wildlife Consumption Advisories (NFLA). The NFLA includes current information about fish consumption advisories issued by state, tribal, local and federal agencies. The website disseminates information to health professionals and the public to make informed decisions on when and where to fish, and how to prepare fish caught for recreation and subsistence. Information on the website provides greater access to information to minority and low-income populations, with the goal of reducing their exposure to contaminants in fish.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water, Office of Science and Technology, in partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, completed six new translations of the National Mercury Advisory brochure. The brochure, "What You Need to Know about Mercury in Fish and Shellfish" is now translated into Cambodian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Chinese, Portuguese and Korean. This brochure provides guidance to women of childbearing age and children on selecting and eating fish to avoid exposure to harmful effects of mercury.

The Director of American Indian Environmental Office led efforts with Health Canada to conduct an international indigenous forum on tribal ecological knowledge from March 10-13, 2008 in Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico. The 'Convening of Indigenous Peoples for the Healing of Mother Earth' was planned by a steering committee of indigenous leaders from Mexico, US and Canada. Partners included Mexican Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Mexican Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and EPA's Office of Indian Affairs.

OFFICE OF WATER'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY

EPA's mission is to protect human health and safeguard the environment – air, water, and land – upon which the health and well being of all Americans depends, regardless of race, color, national origin, or economic circumstance. OW strives to provide clean and safe surface and drinking water that all Americans can enjoy. This is consistent with achieving the Agency's Environmental Justice priorities of Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat and Water Safe to Drink.

To achieve these benefits for all Americans, OW is committed to integrate environmental justice principles as appropriate into its policies, programs, and activities to ensure that no segment of the population is disproportionately burdened from adverse human health or environmental effects.

OW is dedicated to enhancing programmatic areas to prevent disproportionate exposure to risks of environmental health hazards. OW is aware that data collection and analysis are fundamental to identifying and prioritizing environmental health risks, as well as pollution prevention opportunities for risk reduction, in environmental justice communities. OW will ensure that its staff and Regions have access to information and analytical support necessary to explore ways to improve environmental systems. OW will gain best practices and lessons learned about environmental justice to be woven into future priorities and commitments.

OW commits to engaging stakeholders early in the environmental decision making process through public participation, cross media team involvement, outreach and partnerships. OW fosters improving stakeholders' capacity to address problems and engage diverse stakeholders in solving problems. OW believes pooling all available knowledge and leveraging resources are pertinent tools to effectively address environmental justice concerns. Furthermore, OW is dedicated to strengthening collaborative relationships with external water programs to assure OW policies in environmental justice are being implemented accordingly.

OW also commits to working with the states, tribal partners, and other stakeholders to develop and implement broad based and integrated monitoring and assessment programs that strengthen their water quality standards and improve decision-making.

OW management will strongly communicate environmental justice principles throughout its program offices to ensure that these principles are fairly considered during the entire decision-making process. OW promotes and encourages environmental justice training for all staff to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to successfully integrate environmental justice principles as appropriate into all policies, programs, and activities.

Section 1: Organizational Infrastructure

How will your organizational structure promote the integration of environmental justice within all program areas?

OW considers concerns and principles related to environmental justice in the development of its policies, guidance, and regulations. To ensure that OW's approach to addressing environmental justice issues is consistent and synchronized, OW has designated a lead Environmental Justice Coordinator. In addition, OW has designated environmental justice contacts within each of the five program offices to communicate environmental justice information to managers and staff and to further promote the integration of environmental justice within the five program areas.

The Environmental Justice Coordinator serves as the lead for OW's Environmental Justice Integration Committee (EJIC), and chairs monthly meetings. The EJIC is comprised of the environmental justice contacts from each of the five program offices. In FY 2009, OW EJIC will open the meetings to the lead Regional Water EJ contact. The purpose of the EJIC is to ensure that environmental justice principles and concerns continue to be integrated among all program offices in OW. The EJIC also works with OW Program Offices to ensure that environmental justice principles and concerns are consistent with the FY 2009 National Water Program Guidance that implements the EPA 2006-2011 Strategic Plan. The guidance describes the National Water Program priorities and strategies for the coming fiscal year to EPA, states and tribal governments. The FY 2009 National Water Program places emphasis on achieving results in areas with potential environmental justice concerns through two national EJ priorities: Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat and Water Safe to Drink, covered by two sub-objectives and other EJ water related elements.

The responsibilities of the members of the EJIC include, but are not limited to the following:

- Promote the integration of environmental justice principles more fully into the day-to-day activities of OW staff and OW programs, policies and activities:
- Provide assistance to promote the development and implementation of OW's Environmental Justice Action Plan and Performance Measures into OW's planning and budgeting processes.
- Distribute information OW-wide on issues related to environmental justice
- Provide communities with early and meaningful involvement in the decision-making process
- Continue to gather, analyze, interpret data, and provide an environmental justice perspective on relevant information associated with activities conducted by OW's program offices

The OW EJ Coordinator meets monthly with the OW DAA to discuss and develop strategies for integrating environmental justice into the day-to-day operations of the Agency and OW. They also develop strategies to support and implement Agency-wide projects identified by the EJ Executive Steering Committee. The OW Environmental Justice Coordinator meets monthly with the Office of Environmental Justice, the Agency Environmental Justice Coordinators and the OW EJIC to discuss and develop strategies that address emerging and outstanding environmental justice issues associated

with the integration of Environmental Justice. The OW EJ Coordinator represents OW on various Agency-wide workgroups.

OW realizes the importance of Headquarters and Regional collaboration on EJ issues. In all of its endeavors OW is willing to support and work with the Regions as they develop and design their EJ programs. For example, the OW EJ Coordinator works with the Regional EJ Coordinators to discuss the utility of EJ Seats and the EJ Tool Kit as they develop their programs.

OW's program offices in addition work towards integrating environmental justice principles into their infrastructure through a variety of activities and projects. For example, OW has established national programs that provide technical assistance to state and local governments for warnings to the public about consumption of contaminated fish and swimming waters with high level of pathogens. These programs emphasize promotion of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring, as well as effective risk communications to minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens.

The public health advisory programs are managed by the Standards and Health Protection Division (SHPD) in the Office of Science and Technology (OST), where they are integrated into EPA's Water Quality Standards Program. Integration of public health advisory activities into the Water Quality Standards Program promotes environmental justice by ensuring that advisories and minority population health risks are considered in making water quality standards attainment decisions, developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for impaired waters, and developing permits to control sources of pollution.

SHPD, in coordination with the Regions, reviews and approves or disapproves water quality standards adopted by states and authorized Indian tribes. SHPD develops guidance and regulations that govern the program. Its mechanisms and processes ensure that issues affecting Tribes are fully integrated into day-to-day aspects of the water quality standards program.

The Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) does not implement any programs specifically to address environmental justice concerns; it does provide technical and financial assistance to many rural and disadvantaged communities where environmental justice populations reside. The National Small Communities and Rural Communities Assistance Programs seek to assist communities with limited economic resources in making informed water quality and public health decisions and investments. Two additional OWM programs – The U.S. Mexico Border and Alaska Native Village programs – target disadvantaged and underserved communities. These assistance programs are designed to increase the number of citizens provided with safe drinking water and access to basic sanitation services

Section 2: Management Support

How will your Regional/Headquarters office management communicate expectations about the Environmental Justice Program, review tangible/intangible outcomes, and evaluate performance?

OW's management will ensure that appropriate staff are available to manage projects aimed at preventing, addressing and/or alleviating environmental justice issues raised by the NEJAC; state, tribal, and local governments; environmental justice communities; and other stakeholders. In addition, the OW's Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) and National Program Manager (NPM) Mike Shapiro is an active participant on the Agency's Executive Steering Committee on Environmental Justice.

OW's management is committed to incorporating environmental justice principles throughout decision-making processes to ensure protection of human health for all communities and populations. For example, to communicate expectations for integrating environmental justice into OW's day-to-day activities, the OW NPM instructed OW and the Regions to incorporate language about Environmental Justice into FY 09 National Water Program Guidance to implement the EPA Strategic Plan. This is the first year that the National Water Program Guidance has placed emphasis on achieving results in areas

with potential environmental justice concerns through Water Safe To Drink (Sub-objective 2.2.1) and Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat (Sub-objective 2.1.2), two of the eight national EJ priorities. In addition, the National Water Programs places emphasis on other EJ Water Related Elements: 1) Sustain and Restore the U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Health (Sub-objective 4.2.4); 2) Sustain and Restore Pacific Island Territories (Sub objective 4.2.5); and Alaska Native Villages Program. OW will continue to develop and implement prospective EJ Action Plans which are linked to our Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goals. OW will issue periodic progress reports which correspond to the goals established in the Agency's strategic plan.

OW is also committed to aligning the EJ Action Plans with the development of priorities and strategies of the FY 09 National Program Manager Guidance.

The OW DAA will issue a Memorandum to all staff that clearly defines and reaffirms OW's commitment to EPA's environmental justice program as well as establishes goals and objectives for each program office to work towards. For example, OW staff will be encouraged to take the OEJ on-line Introduction to Environmental Justice Training. In addition, OW will add the on-line Introduction to EJ training to the OW Water Careers Programs. OW also plans to add a hyperlink for the training to the Drinking Water Academy, Watershed Academy, Water Quality Standards Academy, and Working Effectively with Tribal Governments training. OW staff will also be encouraged to participate in Agency workgroups addressing cross-media issues such as OECA's Environmental Justice Reviews Workgroup. In FY 09 OW will initiate the development of EJ Training specifically for OW staff in its five Program Offices. Once developed, OW will share the EJ Training with the Regions.

OW will continue to offer Environmental Justice Brown Bag discussions on water related issues. This will provide OW staff with an opportunity to learn first hand how EPA's policies, programs and activities affect the lives of EJ stakeholders. The EJ Brown Bags will also provide OW staff with an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with EJ stakeholders.

OW continues to include environmental justice among issues to be considered in planning all of our work. This is reflected in our planning documents including the National Program Manager's (NPM) Guidance and EJ Action Plans.

Section 3: Organizational Resources and Program Support

Identify the aggregate full-time equivalents (FTE) in your Regional/Headquarters office that will specifically focus on environmental justice issues. If responsibilities and duties are parceled out as collateral duties to one or more employees, please compute what the FTE equivalent would be.

What are the functions and day-to-day responsibilities of your environmental justice coordinator(s) and/or team?

Will your Regional/Headquarters' office have any ongoing mechanisms for focusing on environmental justice issues, such as teams and workgroups? If yes, please list and describe. Also, state how these mechanisms will be tied to other programs and activities in your Regional/Headquarters office.

OW's Environmental Justice Coordinator represents one (1) FTE that is dedicated to addressing environmental justice issues. In addition, each program office has appointed an Environmental Justice Contact to ensure that environmental justice is being considered in all of the work that OW does, and to maximize the use of OW's statutory authority under the CWA and SWDA to address environmental justice issues. Each of OW's program offices also is committed to assigning staff to work on environmental justice issues when the need arises. Given the broad range of OW's involvement in the environmental justice arena, it is not possible to identify the number of FTEs devoted solely to environmental justice issues. For example, work on environmental justice issues and risk management for subpopulations is integrated into all of the activities of the Fish Advisory Program and the Beach Programs.

OW's Environmental Justice Coordinator, who serves on the Water Policy Staff of the Assistant Administrator, is the focal point to coordinate and disseminate information about environmental justice. Responsibilities of OW's Environmental Justice Coordinator include:

- Coordinates a multi-disciplinary approach to OW's environmental justice program that includes providing policy, analytical, and administrative direction to staff who address environmental justice issues; manages the flow of information within OW; and helps to coordinate inter-disciplinary teams to address concerns related to environmental justice
- Serves as a conduit to ensure effective communication between internal and external stakeholders
- Develops and recommends to the senior management a budget to meet resource needs of OW's Environmental Justice Program
- Works with other EJ Coordinators in EPA program offices to promote efforts to achieve the Agency's goals and objectives on Environmental Justice
- Represents OW Headquarters and regional offices to inform stakeholders about OW's Environmental Justice activities as well as participates on national workgroups that address concerns related to environmental justice
- Facilitates building relationships and partnerships with external stakeholders who are affected by OW's policies, guidance, and regulations

OW is committed to becoming more active on workgroups and other projects related to environmental justice that are sponsored or chaired by programs outside of the OW. Through its participation in the Agency's Environmental Justice Executive Steering Committee, OW will continue to look for opportunities to lend its expertise to address environmental justice. For example, OW staff participated on an Agency-wide Environmental Justice Review Workgroup and two of the EJ Review Function Specific Workgroups. The EJ Review Workgroup was convened in response to the 2006 EPA Office of Inspector General report, "EPA Needs to Conduct Environmental Justice Reviews of Its Programs, Policies, and Activities: Evaluation Report" (Report No. 2006-P-00034), available at <http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2006/20060918-2006-P-00034.pdf>. The EJ Review Workgroup was charged with developing and testing Protocols to provide guidance for conducting Agency wide EJ Reviews.

In addition, the OW staff is involved in a number of projects designed to ensure that the goals of environmental justice are achieved and fully integrated in OW's policies, programs, and guidance. Examples include:

AIEO is working with other EPA offices to issue an update to the 1992 Guidelines for Exposure Assessment. AIEO is developing a new section that will provide information specifically for tribes.

OW is developing better tools to conduct environmental justice analyses and develop tribal water programs and will share these tools with the Regions as they become available.

Additionally, many staff from OW's program offices serve on workgroups or teams that address issues related to environmental justice. For example:

EPA's water quality standards regulation (40 CFR Part 131) requires that states and authorized tribes review their water quality standards at least once every three years and revise them, as necessary. During the next round of triennial reviews, OST will work with the regions to provide guidance to states and authorized tribes to ensure that notifications of public hearings are targeted toward low-income and minority populations. This includes targeted mailings and notifications in newspapers serving minority communities in the locally affected areas, including non-English speaking publications.

OWM provides water and wastewater services to tribal and community leaders through its Small Communities Team. The team partners with organizations to manage programs of technical

assistance, financial assistance, and education and training to small communities and tribes. Many of the Small Communities' publications are offered in Spanish and English.

AIEO serves as an active member of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice's Native American Task Force. The Task Force coordinates Federal efforts to address the range of environmental and public health concerns facing federally-recognized tribes, state-recognized tribes, non-recognized tribes, and tribal members.

OWOW established the Five Star Restoration Program to work with EPA's partners for community-based wetlands restoration projects in watersheds across the U.S. The National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Wildlife Habitat Council have joined with EPA for this effort. Funding for the program is provided by OWOW and two corporate sponsors.

OGWDW supports the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Council has members representing small systems, public health professionals, and minority populations.

In OST's Standards and Health Protection Division, the Tribal Coordinator plays a lead role in reviewing tribal TAS applications and developing and leading a broad range of activities designed to assist Indian tribes. This includes developing outreach, technical assistance, specialized training courses, videos, case study materials that focus on tribal water quality standards programs, hands-on, experiential workshops to assist tribes to fully develop their own environmental programs and consultation plans. These activities are carried out in concert with Regional Offices. The Tribal Coordinator is a member of EPA's National Indian Work Group.

The Fish Advisory Program has a Headquarters team and one coordinator in each region. The coordinators meet with state fish advisory program representatives at a biannual forum on contaminants in fish. Tribal representatives also attend the forum. Environmental justice issues such as the development of fish consumption advisories to protect targeted communities are discussed at these meetings. Targeted communities may include those with subsistence fishers, cultural traditions that involve consuming organs of fish that can contain high concentrations of contaminants, limited proficiency in English, limited or no literacy, low income, or large numbers of immigrants or refugees. The Fish Advisory Program meetings also provide opportunities to hold discussions on important issues with representative from other EPA and Federal Agency programs.

The BEACH Program has a Headquarters team and one beach program coordinator in each coastal or Great Lakes EPA Region. The BEACH Program is focused on environmental justice issues such as highlighting that frequently used urban beaches, or other waters used by minority populations for recreation, are monitored for state or local government monitoring and that swimmers receive information about unacceptably high levels of pathogen indicators. The team holds monthly conference calls with regional program coordinators and where resources permit, holds a biannual meeting with state and local government health departments and environmental agencies.

Are there any specific programs/initiatives for which environmental justice will be listed as a funding priority?

Activities to promote environmental justice are integrated into the Fish Advisory Program and the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Program. These programs have emphasized promotion of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring and effective risk communications to minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters, or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens.

The BEACH program provides grants to coastal and Great Lakes tribal governments for beach monitoring and public notification. Tribal governments that have jurisdiction over coastal or Great Lake waters and have EPA approved water quality standards for these waters are eligible for these grants.

OWOW's Western Estuaries Initiative covers the California Coast in Region 9 and Puget Sound in Region 10. Region 9 will be awarding grants designed to conserve, restore and protect the water quality, habitat and environment of California coastal waters, estuaries, bays and near shore waters through comprehensive approaches to water quality management. Region 10 will be awarding grants designed to support the protection and restoration of high valued Puget Sound aquatic resources in areas threatened by growth pressures through holistic watershed and management approaches at the local level.

Section 4: Government Performance and Results Act Alignment

How will your Regional/Headquarters office's environmental justice program be linked to your Regional/Headquarters office's main GPRA priorities?

How will your Regional/Headquarters office's environmental justice strategies and activities be integrated into specific programmatic areas/functions? (e.g., permitting, community outreach, etc.)

Will your Regional/Headquarters office utilize Performance Partnership Agreements (PPA) and Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) to specifically address environmental justice issues?

OW will continue to develop specific performance measures for activities identified in its EJ Action Plan. These performance measures will assist managers to better integrate environmental justice principles into policies, programs and activities.

The Office of Water has established national programs that provide technical assistance to state and local governments for warnings to the public about consumption of contaminated fish and waters with high levels of pathogens. These programs have emphasized promotion of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring, as well as risk communication to minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens. The public health advisory programs are managed in the Standards and Health Protection Division in the Office of Water where they are integrated into EPA's Water Quality Standards Program. Integration of public health advisory activities into the Water Quality Standards Program promotes environmental justice by ensuring that advisories and minority population health risks are considered in making water quality standards attainment decisions, developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for impaired waters, and developing permits to control sources of pollution.

With regards specifically to American Indians, the water quality standards program will continue to reach out to tribal communities to publicize the benefits of water quality standards on reservation lands. This includes use of OST's tribal web site, publications, participation in conferences, training courses and by working with Regional Office staffs. Additionally, we will rely on existing mechanisms to communicate with Tribes through tribal organizations, including the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the All-Indian Pueblo Council, National Tribal Environmental Council and others.

SHPD will also consult with Tribal organizations and tribal members of EPA's National and Regional Tribal Operations Committees and other key tribal organizations periodically to enlist views and information in developing water quality standards in Indian country.

OST provides warnings to the public about consumption of contaminated fish and recreating in waters with high levels of pathogens. These programs have emphasized promotion of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring, as well as effective risk communication to minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens.

OWM clearly links our environmental justice efforts to the Agency Strategic Plan. For instance, Objective 2.1, Means and Strategies for Protecting Human Health, covers the Alaskan Native Village Program and Sub-objective 4.2.4, Sustain and Restore the U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Health, covers the Mexico Border Program.

AIEO is the National Program Manager for General Assistance Program (GAP) grants. Under the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act, EPA awards capacity building grants to federally recognized tribes and intertribal consortia to plan, develop or establish environmental programs. GAP represents the largest single source of funding for tribal environmental programs awarded by EPA. AIEO is also the lead Agency office for tribal Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs). PPGs are funded by EPA from funds allocated and otherwise available for categorical grant programs. PPGs provide tribes and states with the option to combine funds from two or more specific categorical grants into one or more PPGs. This flexibility allows tribes and states to address their highest environmental priorities and reduce administrative burdens.

Currently, there are no PPAs or PPGs that specifically address fish and wildlife contamination or BEACH Program activities. However, PPAs are negotiated with the states and tribes on a region-by-region basis for the OST. Agreements therefore, could be negotiated to encourage the monitoring of waters used by minority populations for fishing or swimming, and the issuance of fish consumption or swimming advisories for waters where such measures are needed to protect public health.

Section 5: Internal Organizational Engagement

Will your Regional/Headquarters office's environmental justice program have any ongoing mechanisms to communicate with, receive input from, and otherwise consistently engage with other programs in your Regional/Headquarters office? If yes, please list and describe.

Will your Regional/Headquarters office develop any related guidance to the staff regarding the integration of environmental justice in areas such as authorization/delegation, environmental education, grants and contracts, inspection, enforcement and compliance assistance, permitting, performance partnership, public participation, waste site cleanup/Brownfields, etc.? If yes, please list and describe.

OW's Environmental Justice Coordinator actively communicates with OEJ to ensure that OW's programs, policies, and activities are consistent with the Agency's policies and guidance for addressing environmental justice issues. The OW Environmental Justice Coordinator also meets on a regular basis with the environmental Justice Coordinators from other Headquarters program offices and regional offices.

Listed below are a number of collaborative efforts in which OW staff is involved:

The Office of Water Deputy Assistant Administrator participates on the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Executive Environmental Justice Steering Committee to support the integration of environmental justice into the core of EPA's programs, policies and activities.

Staff in OW participates on the headquarters BEACH Program team and the headquarters Fish Advisory Program Team, both of which have program coordinators in each EPA Regional Office.

The OST Tribal Coordinator plays a lead role in reviewing tribal TSA applications along with developing and leading a broad range of activities designed to assist Indian tribes. These activities are carried out in concert with Regional Offices.

The Office of Water DAA co-chairs, with EPA's lead region for tribal matters, EPA's Indian Program Policy Council (IPPC).

The Director of the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) chairs the National Indian Working Group (NIWG) composed of representatives from regional and program offices involved in EPA-Tribal activities.

OWM conducts monthly in-house training on priority and merging issues. The May 2007 session covered environmental justice and how environmental justice can be integrated into OW's daily work.

OWM participates as a member of the OW EJ Integration Committee. We have planned and will conduct a presentation and discussion on the EJ aspects and implications of delivering the ANV program.

Section 6: External Stakeholder Engagement

Will your Regional/Headquarters office have any processes in place to receive input on environmental justice issues from external stakeholders, such as workgroups, advisory bodies, or listening sessions? If yes, please describe the process and explain how the input gathered may be (or has been) used by your Regional/Headquarters office.

Will your Regional/Headquarters office have any ongoing mechanisms to share information to external groups regarding environmental justice such as web sites, faxback system, printed outreach materials, etc.? If yes, please list and describe. Also please mention the specific stakeholder group(s) which benefit from these outreach mechanisms.

How will your Regional/Headquarters office identify stakeholders who could benefit from increased awareness about environmental justice and being more engaged in the collaborative problem-solving process?

How will your Regional/Headquarters office promote collaborative problem-solving among stakeholders?

Will your Regional/Headquarters office have any special initiatives or provisions to address issues for persons with limited English proficiency? If yes, please describe or attach.

In the course of your environmental justice outreach, will your Regional/Headquarters office utilize any informational materials translated in languages other than English? If yes, please list and describe.

Are there any specific grant programs for which environmental justice will be listed as a funding priority? Please list and describe.

AIEO promotes and facilitates communication between EPA and tribes pursuant to the 1984 Indian Policy.

AIEO also coordinates meetings for EPA's Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC), comprised of EPA's Senior Leadership Team, including the Administrator, the Deputy Administrator, and the Assistant and Regional Administrators and 19 tribal leaders known as the National Tribal Caucus (NTC) to the NTOC.

Additionally, the Fish Advisory Program has developed a suite of strategies for communicating the national federal advisory for mercury to ethnic populations. Starting in FY 2008, the Fish Advisory Program will begin to implement these strategies.

EPA's BEACH program awards grants to state and local governments for monitoring recreational waters and issuing advisories when waters unsafe for swimming due to high levels of pathogens. The BEACH Program has developed required program performance criteria for grant recipients. The Program held public meetings throughout the U.S. to receive input from stakeholders on environmental justice and other issues related to the criteria EPA will continue to work with stakeholders to receive comments on any future revisions of the performance criteria that may be necessary. The BEACH and Fish Advisory Programs also hold biannual meetings. The meetings provide opportunities to hold discussions on important environmental justice issues with key stakeholder groups.

Additionally, OST's Standards and Health Protection Division receives input on environmental justice issues directly from Indian tribes, through the American Indian Environmental Office, and with meetings of EPA's Tribal Caucus and Tribal Operations Committee. Regional Offices are also a conduit for receiving information on tribal issues.

The Fish Advisory Program maintains an internet website that provides information regarding fish consumption and environmental justice. The website disseminates information to health professionals and the public in order to enable informed decisions on when and where to fish, and how to prepare fish caught for recreation and subsistence. Information on the website includes the "National Listing

of Fish Advisories”, a database of information describing all fish advisories issued by states and tribes in the U.S. The website also includes fact sheets, reports, posters, and other information such as EPA’s, “Guide to Healthy Eating of the Fish you Catch”. Published in multiple languages, this is a guide to selection and preparation of fish that are low in chemical pollutants. In addition to providing this information on an internet website, the Fish Advisory Program has worked closely with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to disseminate printed material to the public through the medical community (medical doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives).

The Fish Advisory program has identified and worked closely with stakeholders to develop national guidance on fish sampling, tissue analysis, risk assessment, and risk communication for the issuance of fish consumption advisories. EPA has provided information about the Fish Advisory Program to the Fish Consumption Workgroup of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. In addition, the Fish Advisory Program has invited stakeholder groups to national meetings for discussion of environmental justice issues. The Program has also conducted training for tribes and states on development of fish consumption advisories. Through these activities, EPA has identified stakeholder groups who will benefit from increased awareness of environmental justice issues, and will continue to involve stakeholders in a collaborative problem-solving process.

The BEACH Program has identified and worked closely with stakeholders to develop national guidance for beach monitoring and public notification. Stakeholder groups have participated in national meetings to discuss environmental justice issues. The Program will continue to engage stakeholders in a collaborative problem solving process.

The SHPD will work with the Office of Environmental Justice, Regional Offices and umbrella groups to develop strategies and plans of action for increasing awareness (among low income and minority populations) of the water quality standards program and the role that these groups can play. In collaboration with other offices and organizations, SHPD will consider developing outreach and other tools geared toward socio-economically disadvantaged groups and minority populations.

OW continues to encourage the participation of external stakeholders in decision-making processes that affect environmental justice communities. Through various stakeholder groups such as the Tribal Operations Committee, the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, OW will continue to seek advice and comments on programs and activities that affect low income and minority communities.

OW also will continue to serve as an information resource to these external stakeholders. OW is pursuing several new initiatives over the next two years to improve OW’s communication to external stakeholders. Such initiatives include working with OEJ to set up its own environmental justice mailing list using OEJ’s current environmental justice mailing list that is populated with over 3,000 names. For those stakeholders that do not have access to the Internet, the mailings will provide them with access to the information that is available on OW’s web sites.

OW also continues to support current web sites that are translated into other languages to ensure that all stakeholders have access to information. For example, OGWDW maintains home pages that have been translated into Spanish to reach additional stakeholders with important information related to drinking water advisories to also include Vietnamese, French, Chinese and Arabic. OGWDW also provides brochures that have been translated into Spanish, such as “Water on Tap: What You Need to Know”. In addition, OWM acknowledges the need for alternative-language publications on its Web sites, especially Spanish due to the large populations in the U.S. for whom Spanish is the primary language. More than 100 of OWM’s outreach publications have been translated into Spanish, and more are planned during the next two years. OWM has also conducted a brown bag discussion on Alaskan Native Villages (October 29, 2007). OW will continue to identify other fact sheets and outreach materials that should be translated into not only Spanish but also other languages.

The BEACH Program has published information in English and Spanish about the health risks of swimming in polluted water. EPA’s brochure, “Before You go to the Beach” provides information about

beach water pollution, the health risks associated with swimming in polluted water, and who to contact if water at a beach is contaminated. The BEACH program has also provided information about beach water pollution to radio stations for Spanish language broadcasts.

OW supports the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC). NTWC is a technical and scientific body created to assist the Environmental Protection Agency, federally recognized Indian Tribes, including Alaska Native Tribes, and their associated tribal communities and tribal organizations, with research and information for decision-making regarding water issues and water-related concerns that impact Indian and Alaska Native tribal members, as well as other residents of Alaska Native Villages and Indian Country in the United States.

The following preliminary goals are based on the original vision for the National Tribal Water Council:

- Raise awareness of a wide range of water related issues pertaining to the health of tribal communities and the quality of tribal aquatic resources and watersheds.

- Promote information exchange.

- Facilitate the exposure of tribal water program managers and staff to best management practices for addressing water quality concerns.

- Encourage the enhancement of tribal water protection program development and implementation.

- Provide a platform to inform tribes on a wide variety of issues related to ground, surface, and drinking water.

- Promote community water protection education and awareness.

- Assist in the development, establishment, and sustaining of comprehensive tribal water protection programs.

OW staff provides support to the Agency wide Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program which provides competitive grants that offer an innovative way for a community to organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in its local environment. Through CARE, a community creates a partnership that implements solutions to reduce releases of toxic pollutants and minimize people's exposure to them. By providing financial and technical assistance, EPA helps CARE communities get on the path to a renewed environment. In FY 09 OW will co-sponsor the Agency CARE Program.

Section 7: Data Collection, Management, and Evaluation

List your Regional/Headquarters office's main data sets - the ways in which you collect environmental justice information. Also, describe how this information will be utilized by your

Regional/Headquarters office (e.g. environmental justice assessment, program tracking/evaluation).

Will your Regional/Headquarters office have a method of identifying and highlighting best practices and lessons learned? If yes, please describe.

OW uses 40 water-quality data systems to maintain the flow of information between OW and appropriate users of the information.

Each data system has three layers: data collection layer, a common services or functional layer, and a graphic interface or user layer. The information collected for OW can be compared with U.S. Bureau of Census data on population and community characteristics. When appropriate, OW will collect, maintain, and analyze data on populations identified by race, national origin, and/or income. Examples of OW's data systems include Ambient Water Quality (STORET); Drinking Water (SDWIS); Information Building; National Hydrology Data (NHD); BEACH Program; and Fish and Wildlife Consumption Advisories.

AIEO will continue to play a major role, working with the Office of Environmental Information (OEI), in developing the Tribal Enterprise Architecture (TPEA) for EPA. AIEO will continue to work on development of a comprehensive system that extracts from existing sources (systems and databases) and transforms data to fit EPA and tribal program needs. Currently, the TPEA is composed of 8 applications to meet this need.

The goal of AIEO's IT work is to:

- Improve tribal access to EPA and other agencies' facilities and programs in and around Indian country,
- Promote interagency and intertribal data sharing to support tribal programs, and
- Facilitate information sharing among EPA HQ, EPA Regions, and tribes.

AIEO is coordinating with other Program Offices to promote development of metrics under all goals to indicate tribal performance and environmental results that include tribes.

OWM is supporting efforts within the Agency to identify and map EJ areas. This enables OWM to connect EJ areas with water permits and monitoring data. Linking EJ mapping and monitoring data is only in the initial stages. Once information is derived from development of the database, OW will share that information with the Regions. After this is done, OWM capacity to analyze data and monitor environmental activities in EJ areas will be greatly enhanced. OWM will cooperate with OECA and other Agency offices on this effort.

The Fish Advisory Program is conducting a study to analyze the effectiveness of risk communication approaches used for fish consumption advisories. When completed, this study will provide information to effectively develop and issue advisories for populations at risk of exposure to contaminants in fish tissue. Both the Fish Advisory and BEACH Programs will invite state and local governments to present "success stories" and lessons learned at national meetings so that best practices can be transferred among program participants. The Fish and BEACH Programs also publish other documents highlighting best practices. Both programs have published national guidance for monitoring and risk communication. The Fish Program publishes technical fact sheets containing information used for risk assessment and advisory development. The BEACH program is publishing state profiles that highlight practices used by all state beach monitoring and public notification programs.

EPA's Fish Advisory Program conducts an annual survey of state and tribal advisory programs to obtain information about the methods they use for fish tissue monitoring, risk assessment, and risk communication. The Fish Advisory Program also compiles and maintains a national database of fish consumption advisories that have been issued by state and tribal governments in the U.S. This information can be used to help determine whether state and tribal programs are providing an adequate level of health protection for minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters.

EPA's BEACH Program maintains a database of information describing state and local beach monitoring and notification programs and advisories issued for specific beaches during the swimming season. This information can be used to help determine whether state, tribal, and local programs are providing an adequate level of health protection for minority populations who swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens.

The SHPD has developed case study materials detailing the benefits of water quality standards program to Indian tribes. As resources allow, it will continue this series of case study materials as a way to document environmental improvements on reservations. The case studies and lessons learned are also a mechanism for promoting tribal environmental programs to other Tribes.

OGWDW maintains the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS/FED) Violation and Inventory Data, U.S. Census Bureau Data, and Drinking Water Mapping Application Datasets. The Office currently is conducting a study to determine if there is a relationship between public water systems in noncompliance with drinking water regulations and environmental justice (or economically distressed) communities. OGWDW will share this information with Regions after HQ review.

OGWDW has developed the Tribal Grant Tracking Tool which tracks drinking water infrastructure projects on tribal lands that improve access to safe drinking water. It also tracks technical assistance provided to these communities.

The Office of Water documents best practices and lessons learned through EJ Success Stories and reports on OW EJ activities in the Agency's EJ Biennial Accomplishment Reports.

Section 8: Professional and Organization Development

Will your Regional/Headquarters office plan to provide training on environmental justice? If yes, please list and describe.

What methods will you utilize to promote shared learning, such as best practices and lessons learned among staff? If yes, please list and describe.

OW plans to integrate environmental justice principles into existing training courses and programs. These include the NPDES permits writing course and OW's three training academies - the Drinking Water Academy, Water Quality Standards Academy, and Watershed Academy. OW will also develop Introduction to Environmental Justice training specifically for OW staff.

OW will also hold "brown bags" at lunchtime for staff to view videotapes and hear speakers on environmental justice and other related topics. Other program offices' efforts related to professional development include: AIEO coordinates EPA's "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments" (WETG) training. The training is available on the EPA intranet for all EPA staff at <http://intranet.epa.gov/opptsval/training/tribal/EPA/mainmenu/launchPage.htm>. AIEO also exhibits and displays the WETG training at office and Agency events such as the Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month events and Office of Environmental Information's open house. AIEO, working with federal partners, expanded WETG for use outside of EPA.

The Fish Advisory Program plans to offer training at national meetings for tribes on the development of fish consumption advisories. Training may also be held at national meetings for Headquarters staff and regional Fish and BEACH program coordinators on: 1) targeting waters for fish consumption and swimming advisories, and 2) implementing risk communication strategies for "hard-to-reach" communities such as those with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, geographic isolation, limited income, or unique cultural values and practices that may limit the effectiveness of risk communication tools that are currently applied.

OWOW participates in a number of programs to help recruit minority and lower-income candidates, including the Hispanic American Colleges and Universities (HACU) summer internship program, and the Washington Center Native American Leadership Program. The perspective these interns bring to Headquarters has been invaluable in a wide variety of projects, and EPA staff often hear of interns' later involvement in helping their communities have a greater say in environmental decision-making in their neighborhoods.

OW is developing a consolidated training approach for tribes on the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. The idea is to house in one place information allowing tribes to access all CWA and SDWA training courses offered by EPA and outside organizations.

Section 9: Environmental Justice Assessment

Will your Regional/Headquarters office have a process by which an environmental justice assessment will be conducted? If yes, please describe.

Will your Regional/Headquarters office rely on any information resources with which to conduct an environmental justice assessment, such as the Environmental Justice Mapper, Environmental Justice Toolkit, etc.? If yes, please list and describe.

OW plans to explore the use of its various databases to establish baseline information to determine the relationships between water programs and communities with environmental justice concerns. The purpose of this project is to eventually identify and implement opportunities for improving the effectiveness of water programs in communities with EJ concerns.

EPA believes it is important for states to make water quality standards easily and readily available for the public to access. OST developed tools to help states organize and display their water quality

standards on a geographic basis. This enables the user to read and view water quality standards geographically and to overlay census and demographic data (including socioeconomic status and minority populations) as an environmental justice assessment tool.

The BEACH and Fish Advisory programs will rely on the Beach Watch database and the National Listing of Fish Advisories to conduct environmental justice assessments.

OGWDW will use the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS/FED) and U.S. Census Bureau Data to identify whether significant demographic differences exist between populations served by systems in violation of health-based standards within geographic regions and systems not in violation. In addition, data from the Safe Drinking Water Information System will be imported to an OGWDW Web-based Geospatial Application for data querying and mapping of potential risks from other sources of pollution. Further assessment will be conducted through the use of the Environmental Justice Mapper.

Finally, AIEO is looking into the possibility of using the Tribal Information Management System (TIMS) to obtain data that could be useful in assessing environmental justice.

Section 10: Program Evaluation

In FY 09 OW will conduct an Environmental Justice review of the Alaska Native Village (ANV) Infrastructure Program. This program addresses the lack of basic sanitation infrastructure - specifically, running water and flush toilets in rural and Alaska Native Villages. There are approximately 300 Alaskan Native Village and rural communities eligible to participate in the ANV program representing some 36,000 homes throughout the state of Alaska over an area of 663,000 square miles (The State of Virginia is 43,000 squares miles). The average population of an Alaska Native Village or a rural Alaska community is 300 people. The Alaska Native Village Infrastructure Program in coordination with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act Indian Set-aside Programs have worked to increase the percentage of homes in Alaska with drinking water or sewer services from 60% in 1993 to 90% in 2008. The ANV program activities include the development and construction of public drinking water and wastewater systems. The program also provides training, technical assistance, and educational programs relating to the operation and maintenance of sanitation services in Alaska rural communities and Alaska Native villages.

In FY 09 OW will develop a schedule and identify appropriate performance measures for conducting an EJ Review of the Alaska Native Village Program. The EJ Review is expected to encompass the following: (1) Identify whether the agency is effectively identifying and addressing EJ concerns that arise or may arise with respect to the ANV program; (2) Identify opportunities for the agency to enhance its effectiveness in identifying and addressing EJ concerns that arise or may arise with respect to the ANV program; (3) Provide feedback on this EJ review to enhance future EJ reviews.

OW will also develop specific performance measures related to how successfully OW has integrated environmental justice into the activities mentioned in this action plan. These performance measures will assist managers on how to further integrate environmental justice principles into policies, programs, and activities.

AIEO has conducted a program evaluation of its General Assistance Program (GAP) grants. The results of the evaluation are useful to GAP stakeholders involved in awarding grants, providing technical assistance and oversight, and planning and executing tribal environmental programs. AIEO maintains a computerized tracking system that supplies program performance data and information for EPA's Strategic Plan (Objective 5.3: Improve Human Health and the Environment for Indian Country) and other EPA measuring systems.

The Fish Advisory and BEACH programs do not have specific performance measures related to environmental justice. However, these programs have emphasized promotion of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring and risk communication to minority populations who

may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters, or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens. Therefore, the GPRA objectives, sub objectives, strategic targets, and program activity measures established for these programs are directly related to environmental justice. These performance measures are described earlier in this document.

The results and accomplishments of the Office of Water Environmental Justice Action Plan are highlighted in the Agency's: (1) Environmental Justice Action Plan Progress Report and derivative Best Practices Document, and (2) Biennial Report.

The Fish Contamination program publishes biannual and the BEACH Programs publishes annual fact sheets providing public information about fish consumption and swimming advisories issued by states. These fact sheets will include information about the environmental justice accomplishments of the programs.

The Office of Water has made great strides towards integrating Environmental Justice into its programs, policies and activities. We realize that additional work must be done to ensure continued public health protection. OW will continue to develop programs which will provide clean and safe water for all communities and populations. OW will also continue to integrate environmental justice considerations effectively into OW programs, policies, and activities to achieve measurable benefits to the environment and/or public health of affected communities.

Office of Water Environmental Justice Action Plan

Section 1: Performance Measures Matrix Highlight

FY09 Robust-Results Oriented Activity

FY09 EJ Review Activity

Description: Alaska Native Villages Infrastructure Program

EPA Strategic Plan Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

Objective: Clean and safe drinking water

National and Office of Water Environmental Justice Priority: Water Safe to Drink

Many rural and Native Alaska communities lack basic sanitation infrastructure - specifically, running water and flush toilets. In many communities honey-buckets, commonly a five gallon bucket used as a toilet, are hand carried by home owners to a community dumping station or a lagoon for disposal. Residents also utilize centralized washeterias as their only source for bathing, laundry services and to hand haul water for drinking to their homes from a watering point. Raw sewage from honey-buckets, inadvertent honey-bucket spills on public walk ways and uncovered sewage dump stations often pose an immediate threat to the health and environment of village residents.

The Alaska Native Village (ANV) Infrastructure Program, in coordination with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act Indian Set-aside Program, have worked to increase the percentage of homes in Alaska with drinking water or sewer services from 60% in 1993 to 90% in 2008. In 2009, our goal is to improve access to basic sanitation to approximately 800 to 1200 new homes.

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
<p>-Planning, design, and construction of public drinking water and wastewater systems to improve health and sanitation conditions in the Alaska Native Villages</p> <p>-Provide training and technical assistance to communities through educational programs related to the operation and maintenance of sanitation services.</p> <p>- Conduct an EJ Review</p> <p><u>Resources</u> Federal funding: Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act Indian Set-aside Program Alaska Native Villages Infrastructure Grant Program</p> <p><u>Building Partnerships:</u> State of Alaska, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Indian Health Service (IHS) USDA’s Rural Development Region 10</p>	<p>-Financial assistance</p> <p>-Training</p> <p>-Technical assistance</p> <p>-Educational programs</p> <p>-Residential water and sewer services</p> <p>-Report on the effectiveness of the ANV Program</p> <p>-Improved level of water and sewer services for existing systems</p> <p>-Increased sustainability of existing water and sewer systems</p>	<p>-Increase awareness of health-related problems due to unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation practices in disadvantaged communities</p> <p>-Increase awareness of areas without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation services which contribute to the spread of disease in disadvantaged communities</p> <p>-Increase awareness of sustainability of existing and proposed water and sewer systems</p>	<p>-Build, rehabilitate and/or refurbish infrastructure</p> <p>-Continue collaborating with Region 10 to improve water and wastewater infrastructure</p>	<p>-Provide water and sewer services to all serviceable homes in Alaskan villages</p> <p>-Improve both human and environmental health of Alaskan natives</p> <p>-By 2015, reduce by 50 percent the number of homes on tribal lands and Alaskan Native Villages lacking basic sanitation (National target for all tribal homes on all reservations nationwide)*</p> <p>-Improve health and decrease incidences of disease in rural Alaska communities</p> <p>*-A multi-agency focus group on this national goal has recently determined this goal cannot be met without the provision of additional financial resources</p>	<p>Name: Matthew Richardson Tel: (202) 564-2947 E-mail: richardson.matthew@epa.gov</p> <p>Elin Betanzo Tel: 202-564-1807 E-mail: betanzo.elin@epa.gov</p>

Section 2: Performance Measures Matrix

Office of Water FY09 Environmental Justice Action Plan Performance Measures Matrix

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

EJ Priority: Water Safe to Drink

EJ Priority: Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat

Objective: Water Safe for Swimming

Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

Objective: Healthy Communities

Goal: Cross Cutting Strategies

Objective: Collaborative problem-solving to address environmental justice issues

Objective: Internal capacity building

**Environmental Justice Action Plan
(Fy2008/2009)**

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

Objective: Clean and Safe Drinking Water

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Improve operations of tribal community water systems by conducting sanitary surveys at the required frequency to evaluate the adequacy of the facilities for producing and distributing safe drinking water.	<p>By 2009, 52 of approximately 68 Tribal community water systems required to have undergone a sanitary survey will have their sanitary survey completed within the required cycle (default cycle for community water systems is three years).</p> <p>The total number of tribal community water systems that have undergone a sanitary survey within three years of their last sanitary survey (5 years for outstanding performers).</p>	Inspectors conducting sanitary surveys must apply basic scientific information and have a working knowledge of the operation, maintenance, management, and technology of a water system to identify sanitary risks that may interrupt the multiple barriers of protection at a water system. Deficiencies will be identified and recommendations for improvement will be provided through technical assistance to the tribe as needed.	Community water system owners and operators will work to address deficiencies identified during a sanitary survey.	Sanitation deficiencies are addressed resulting in improved compliance and public health protection	<p>Elin Betanzo Tel: 202-564-1807 E-mail: Betanzo.Elin@epa.gov</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
2. Implement Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program to provide tribes with further training and certification opportunities in addition to the existing training or certification programs offered by states, various federal agencies, and private organizations.	In 2009, begin implementing a national program for certification of tribal water system operators. EPA will measure progress against the baseline established in 2008.	Conduct outreach to tribes to raise awareness of the national program and provide information on opportunities for certification.	Increased interest and enrollment for certification testing by tribal operators as measured through the program tracking system.	Water system operators possess the technical capacity to effectively and safely run their water system resulting in improved compliance and public health protection. Improved compliance as measured and reported under EPA's Strategic Target E.	Elin Betanzo, OGWDW Tel: 202-564-1807 E-mail: Betanzo.Elin@epa.gov
3. Improve Tribal access to safe drinking water. EPA's strategic plan goal is to reduce by half, by 2015, the number of tribal homes that lack access to safe drinking water. 2003 Baseline: 38,637 homes without access to safe drinking water (12% of the total number of 319,070 tribal homes as reported by IHS). Measured and reported under EPA's Strategic Target G.	In 2009, implement an interagency strategy to improve access to safe drinking water in coordination with other federal partners	Interagency/tribal workgroups identify specific barriers to successful delivery of infrastructure services.	Modify agency procedures to remove barriers to delivering infrastructure services.	Reduce the number of homes in Indian Country that lack access to safe drinking water.	Elin Betanzo, OGWDW Tel: 202-564-1807 E-mail: Betanzo.Elin@epa.gov

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
4. Encourage voluntary activity by schools and child-care centers to address lead in drinking water. EPA developed a suite of materials, the 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities, which provided all the necessary information for a facility to develop and implement a lead in drinking water reduction program.	In collaboration with the National Head start Program, EPA will conduct outreach to Head Start Centers in targeted communities. EPA will select communities based on CDC blood lead level data. Each Head Start Center will receive a packet of materials to assist them with information on testing and ways to reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water.	Schools and childcare facilities will become more aware of the potential for elevated lead levels in drinking water in their facilities. Officials of these facilities will understand the sources of lead in drinking water, health effects of lead exposure, remediation options and communication techniques; measured by number of web site hits, emails, newsletter articles published and conferences attended.	Schools and childcare providers will implement a 3Ts program in their facility. Schools and childcare providers will order/request 3Ts materials; measured by orders placed for 3Ts materials.		Lisa Christ, OGWDW Tel: 202-564-8354 E-mail: Christ.Lisa@epa.gov

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Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water
Objective: Clean and Safe drinking water

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
5. Provide funding for infrastructure improvements for small and disadvantaged communities.	<p>In 2007, 72% of loans and 39% of loan dollars made by state Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs were to small systems. The output in 2008 will depend on discretionary decisions by States.</p> <p>In 2007, 26% of loans (which may include lower-interest or longer-term loans and/or principal forgiveness) made by state DWSRF programs were to systems serving disadvantaged communities. Results in 2008 will also depend on States' decisions.</p> <p>In 2007, 1.88% of national appropriation was used to provide grants to Tribal and territorial public water systems (1.5% for tribes and 0.38% for territories). This number is statutory and will not change for 2008.</p>	<p>States continue to be aware of the SDWA requirement to provide 15% of loan dollars to small systems.</p> <p>States determine the appropriate balance between applying disadvantaged assistance and growing the fund.</p> <p>EPA will continue to follow the DWSRF allocation formula with respect to tribes and territories, as put forth in the SDWA.</p>	<p>State Project Priority Lists reflect meeting this requirement.</p> <p>States apply their developed disadvantaged assistance program where they have determined there is a need for one.</p> <p>EPA will continue to make grants based on DWSRF allocation formula with respect to tribes and territories.</p>		<p>Howard Rubin, OGWDW</p> <p>Tel: 202-564-2051</p> <p>E-mail: Rubin.Howard-E@epa.gov</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
6. Use Safe Drinking Water Information System/Operational Data System (ODS) and geospatial applications to investigate compliance to drinking water standards in different types of communities.	Refine the methodology, incorporate the most recent data for 2007 and determine the statistical significance of the previous results for 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 data. Analyze data to identify trends in non-compliance over longer periods of time (longer than one year).	Expand decision-makers understanding of compliance to drinking water standards as it relates to different sizes of water systems and to demographics, including age, minority status and income.		Increase percentage of population served by community water systems that receive drinking water that meets (are in compliance with) health-based standards.	Name/Org: Leslie Cronkhite, OGWDW Tel: 202-564-3878 E-mail: Cronkhite.Leslie@epa.gov
7. In FY 2008 EPA published Federal Register Notices to approve underground injection control (UIC) Class II (oil and gas related) primacy applications for the Fort Peck Tribes and the Navajo Nation. If approved, final rules will be published and the Tribes will become the first in the nation to receive primary enforcement authority for a UIC program.	Tribes granted UIC primacy will be treated the same as States and will receive federal funding to implement their own UIC Class II program.	Increased emphasis on the importance of Class II UIC well impacts on Underground Sources of Drinking Water USDW(s).	Improved management of tribal UIC Class II wells.	Increased Protection of USDW(s) and Tribal drinking water sources.	Jeff Jollie, OGWDW Tel: 202-564-3886 E-mail: Jollie.Jeff@epa.gov

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

Objective 1: Safe fish/shellfish

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
<p>1. In 2009, EPA, in cooperation with state, tribal, and federal partners, will hold a national conference on contaminants in fish.</p> <p>2. Maintain the Fish Advisory Program Web site that includes the National Listing of Fish Advisories</p> <p>3. Disseminate information in multiple languages to the medical community through the Interagency Agreement with FDA and via medical conferences.</p>	<p>Participate in biannual national conference</p> <p>Update the NLFA website to include information about advisories for contaminants in fish.</p> <p>Disseminate information to health professionals and the public to enable informed decisions on when and where to fish, and how to prepare fish caught for recreation and subsistence.</p> <p>Print materials about reducing the risk of exposure to contaminants in fish caught for recreation or subsistence will be disseminated in multiple languages to doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives.</p>	<p>Greater information exchange among state, tribal, and community representatives on issues such as development of fish consumption advisories to protect targeted communities.</p> <p>More minority, low income and non-English speaking populations will obtain information about reducing the risks of exposure to contaminants in fish.</p>	<p>Reduced exposure to contaminants in fish.</p>	<p>By 2011, reduce the percentage of women of childbearing age having mercury levels in blood above the level of concern from 5.7 percent to 4.6 percent.</p>	<p>Jeffrey Bigler, OST Bigler.jeffrey@epa.gov</p> <p>Fleisig.Erica@epa.gov Erica Fleisig, OST</p>

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water
Objective 2: Water safe for swimming

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
<p>1. Provide technical guidance and assistance to states, tribes, and local governments for beach monitoring and public notification</p> <p>2. Provide funding for grants to eligible states, tribes, and local agencies for monitoring coastal recreation waters and issuing advisories when waters are unsafe for swimming due to high levels of pathogens</p> <p>3. Conduct National Beach Program Conference.</p> <p>4. Maintain the Beach Watch internet Web site.</p>	<p>Provide technical assistance to states and tribes for monitoring bathing beach waters and notifying the public when water quality standards for pathogen indicators are exceeded.</p> <p>35 eligible state, tribal, and local agencies will use grant funds to implement coastal recreation water monitoring and public notification programs.</p> <p>Grant recipients will provide data to EPA about their monitoring and notification programs, beach advisories and closures issued, and water quality monitoring data.</p> <p>Hold the national conference biannually. Third national conference will be held in fiscal year 2009.</p> <p>Make Internet Web site available that contains information about microbial pathogens in bathing beach waters.</p>	<p>Greater information exchange among state and local agency representatives on environmental justice issues such as pathogen monitoring to identify waters where swimming advisories are needed to protect the health of targeted communities.</p> <p>This will result in improved risk communication to individuals who swim at these beaches.</p>	<p>Decreased exposure of minority populations to pathogens in recreational waters when indicators exceed water quality standards.</p>	<p>By 2011, the number of waterborne disease outbreaks attributable to swimming in or other recreational contact with coastal and Great Lakes waters will be maintained at two, measured as a 5-year average.</p> <p>By 2011, maintain the percentage of days of the beach season that coastal and Great Lakes beaches monitored by state beach safety programs are open and safe for swimming at 96 percent.</p>	<p>Richard Healy OST</p> <p>Beth Leamond OST</p>

Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

Objective: Communities

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
<p>1. Provide people in the Mexico Border area with adequate drinking water systems.</p> <p>2. Provide people in the Mexico Border area with adequate wastewater sanitation systems.</p>	<p>-Provide funding with EPA grants and USDA funding</p> <p>-Provide technical assistance with personnel to monitor community drinking and wastewater programs</p> <p>-Provide on-site training for wastewater systems operators</p>		<p>-By 2009, increase the number of homes connected to potable water supply systems. The number of drinking water connections made through FY07 -- 23,734 and the FY 08 target, 2,500 additional connections. FY 09 target 1,500 additional connections</p> <p>-By 2009, increase the number of homes connected to wastewater collection and treatment systems The number of wastewater connections made through FY07 103,670 and FY 08 target – 15,000 additional connections. FY 09 target – 105,500 additional connections.</p>	<p>-By 2012, achieve a 9 of 17 currently exceeded water quality standards in impaired trans-boundary segments of US surface waters</p>	<p>Name/Org: Katherine Sleasman Tel: (202)-250-8810 E-mail: sleasman.katherine@epa.gov</p> <p>/Org: William Webster Tel: (202)-564-0616 E-mail: webster.william@epa.gov</p>

Cross Cutting Strategies:

Objective: Collaborative problem-solving to address environmental justice issues

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Offer Tribal workshops to assist Tribes in preparing nonpoint source control management programs.	Conduct four workshops annually (or as requested by Tribes)	Attendance at workshops by Tribal representatives	An increase in the number of Tribes that develop Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Management Programs, and/or apply for section 319 grants.	Increase in number of Tribes that achieve one or more water quality goals in their management plans.	Andrea Matzke, OWOW
2. Conduct outreach to local disadvantaged communities regarding wetlands and watershed issues.	Hold several hands-on field events per year with local community groups; attendance by at least 50 children at hands-on field events.	The majority of the children in attendance gain exposure to basic watershed issues in their community.	Some of the children in attendance take positive environmental action in their community.		Rebecca Dils, OWOW
3. Partnering to protect wetlands through the Five Star Program	Provide project funding for approximately 30-40 projects per year.	Develop knowledge and skills in young people through aquatic resource restoration projects.	Increased participation in restoration projects by youth in disadvantaged communities. Project participants have experience and confidence, and are well positioned to take on similar projects in the future.		Myra Price, OWOW

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
4. Coordinate and work with federally recognized tribes and EPA Program Offices to build an environmental presence and environmental programs in Indian country.	Coordinate funding for the Senior Environmental Employee (SEE) Circuit Rider Program in the regions.	Increase the capacity of interested tribes' ability to administer their environmental programs to protect human health and the environment of tribal lands (measure: # of regions served by Senior Service America, Inc).	SEEs work on tribal programs and their advice is incorporated into tribal environmental programs (measure: The number of tribal council or program actions that are related to SEE advice).	Environmental conditions on Indian lands are improved.	Elvira Dixon 564-0378 Dixon.elvira@epa.gov
5. Convene the National Tribal Water Council	Assist in the development, establishment and sustaining of comprehensive tribal water programs	Raise awareness of a wide range of water related issues pertaining to the health of tribal communities and quality of tribal aquatic resources and watersheds	Promote information exchange	Encourage the enhancement of tribal water protection development and implementation	Karen Rudek (202) 564-0472
6. OW Agency Co-lead for Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)	Offer grants to help CARE communities get on the path to a renewed environment	Communities receive competitive grants to organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in their local environment.	Communities develop solutions to reduce releases of toxic pollutants and minimize exposure to them	The health and environment of these communities improve.	Kitty Miller Tel: 564-0474 miller.kitty@epa.gov

Cross Cutting Strategies:

Objective: Internal Capacity Building (e.g., internal program management)

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
<p>1. Use OW databases to create baseline data to determine any relationships between water programs and communities with EJ concerns (Phase 1)</p> <p>Phase 1 will also involve coordinating with OEJ after "EJ concerns" are described.</p>	<p>Establish baseline data to understand status of water programs in communities with EJ concerns.</p>	<p>OW identifies management objective to define how data will be used after baseline established.</p> <p>Aware of opportunities to set priorities in implementing particular aspects of the water program in communities with EJ concerns</p>		<p>Water programs become more effective with addressing the needs of communities with EJ concerns.</p> <p>Information gathered prepares OW and the Regions to set priorities for certain water programs in communities with EJ concerns.</p>	<p>Thomas Dabolt dabolt.thomas@epa.gov Tel: (202) 564-1450</p> <p>Name/ Alice Walker Tel: (202) 529-7534 walker.alice@epa.gov</p> <p>Wendy Drake Tel: (202) 564-2926 drake.wendy@epa.gov</p>
<p>2. Train EPA personnel to work more effectively with tribal governments and to understand the unique nature of working with tribes.</p>	<p>Administer Agency wide the Working Effectively with Tribal Governments training to facilitate better communication and understanding between EPA and the tribes.</p>	<p>Offer on-line training to an increased number of EPA staff and management. (measure: # of people satisfactorily completing the training).</p>	<p>Knowledge from the training is applied to EPA work and programs.</p>	<p>Environmental conditions on Indian lands are improved.</p>	<p>Janice DiPietro 564-7616 DiPietro.Janice@epa.gov</p>