

OFFICE OF POLICY, ECONOMICS AND INNOVATION

FY 09 EJ Action Plan

October 1, 2008

Background

The Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation (OPEI) consists of four offices:

- National Center for Environmental Economics
- National Center for Environmental Innovation
- Office of Cross Media Programs
- Office of Regulatory Policy and Management

OPEI supports rule writing, conducts research, and encourages innovation to support changing business conditions. OPEI is staffed by regulatory, policy, economic, business sector, and cross-media experts.

The OPEI EJ Team has representation from each of the four offices within OPEI. The team meets approximately every month to discuss cross-office issues and ideas to ensure that EJ issues are well represented within all OPEI activities.

Robust, Results Oriented Activities

1. Workshop on Methodological Tools for Analyzing EJ Issues - OPEI will develop and conduct a workshop to discuss tools for analyzing EJ effects in environmental policy decisions. The workshop will be conducted with contractor support and will consist of internal and external experts who will present research and discuss the strengths, weaknesses, and the application of various tools for analyzing environmental justice effects in environmental policy rules. This workshop will parallel the symposium being planned by OEJ.
2. EJ Rule Aid - OPEI will continue working with the Regulatory Steering Committee (RSC) to finalize an EJ Rule Aid. The purpose of the EJ Rule Aid is to provide guidance to rule-writers on EJ-relevant aspects of the Action Development Process (ADP). The Rule Aids comprise an appendix to the ADP Guidance. OPEI will finalize the EJ Rule Aid in FY 2009.

EJ Review

1. Rule-making – OPEI will finalize a report titled, “Methodology for Analyzing Environmental Justice in a National Air Quality Rule.” This report is a case study analysis that demonstrates a methodology that can be applied to a national-scale air quality rule.