

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

New Revitalization Demonstration Projects (15)

March 2003

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project

Chelsea Creek Restoration Project

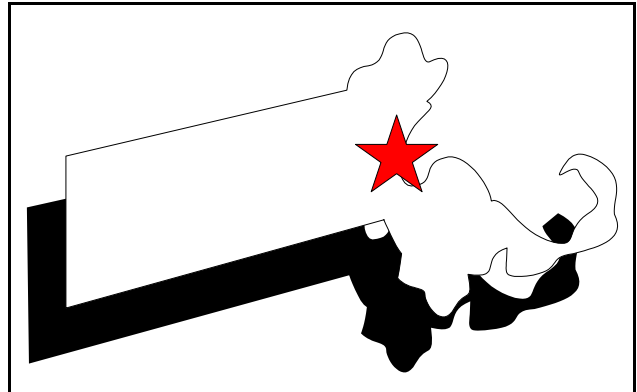
Chelsea Creek Action Group

Chelsea and East Boston, Massachusetts

Vision and Purpose:

Along the banks of the Chelsea River (Creek) lie oil tank farms, asphalt storage tanks, a tannery, dilapidated piers, hazardous wastes sites, a fish-processing facility, airport freight businesses, and an enormous salt pile. In 1997, a coalition named the Chelsea Creek Action Group (CCAG) was formed around a dream that the Chelsea Creek was something more than the polluted industrial waterway that it has been for at least a century. By

building community capacity to effect change and seeking environmental justice, the Chelsea Creek Restoration Project (CCRP) intends to transform the neglected, polluted Chelsea Creek into an environmental, recreational, and economic resource for Chelsea's communities as well as the region. Specific efforts include community involvement in the Municipal Harbor Planning Process, sustainable redevelopment of the Hess Oil Terminal site, and development of open spaces in Chelsea. CCRP will provide a regional model for community-based, multi-stakeholder programs to research, restore and protect urban natural resources.



Background:

Over a century of neglect has made the Chelsea Creek the most polluted tributary to the Boston Harbor, and according to the EPA, is the second most polluted body of water in Massachusetts. Rather than providing open space and lush waterfront banks, this Creek provides storage for all of the jet fuel used at Logan Airport, 80 percent of the region's heating fuel, and road salt for more than 250 communities throughout New England. In June 2000, *Unequal Exposure to Ecological Hazards: A Preliminary Report on Environmental Injustices in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts* names Chelsea and East Boston as the third and fifth, respectively, "most environmentally overburdened cities/towns in Massachusetts." Many businesses continue to use the Chelsea Creek area as a dumping ground. For example, in the two communities combined, there are 398 state designated hazardous waste sites. As a result, Chelsea Creek is the most polluted tributary to Boston Harbor. The target communities of CCRP are Chelsea, MA and East Boston, MA. In Chelsea, 24% of the community live beneath the poverty level and 50% of the residents is Latino. In East Boston, 20% of the community live beneath the poverty level and 39% of the residents is Latino.

Project Description:

Along with the Urban Ecology Institute, the CCAG is spearheading the CCRP. The CCRP's encompassing goal is to reclaim Chelsea Creek as an environmentally sound natural resource, a safe public health resource, a vital economic resource with good, safe public access, and an educational resource for youth and adults from both sides of the river. The partners involved in the CCRP recognize that their restoration projects will take several years to complete. Included

in their plan are numerous projects with the purpose of ensuring that the environment they are working so hard to clean up remains accessible to the people who are leading the process, not only to wealthier new residents, whose arrival could threaten access by the existing communities populations. They will also work to improve the dialogue among businesses on environmental and public health conditions, and discuss the changes needed for the river. There will be an effort to ensure compliance with the zoning regulations and the establishment of the river as a regional source. CCRP partners see the importance of community leadership, and will therefore work to build leaders in the Chelsea and Easton Boston communities. In addition, the CCRP is working with community groups to create job opportunities for members of the community.

The CCRP is essentially a systematic collection of efforts conceived and implemented by Chelsea residents to address problems which they have identified. The project seeks to develop the technical and social leadership skills necessary to be meaningfully involved in significant multi-million dollar projects that directly affect their daily lives. All told, some 6,000 residents have participated in these activities. These activities build upon the Chelsea Creek Community Visioning Process, which incorporated all site-specific work into a comprehensive plan for all parcels along the river, with an emphasis on resident involvement and participation. Already, the project has established a community voice in land-use decisions. By merging strong community leadership development on individual site-specific projects with a well conceived strategic plan based upon a holistic community vision, the CCRP will serve as a model for how community interests can be incorporated meaningfully into the large-scale redevelopment of an urban ecosystem.

Partners:

Federal:

Environmental Protection Agency-New England (EPA)

US Forest Service-USDA

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-National Marine Fisheries Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service-USDA

Local/Regional/State:

Chelsea Creek Action Group, Boston Parks Department, Trust For Public Land,

Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Boston College Urban Ecology Institute, BSC Group

Contacts:

Roseann Bongiovanni, Chelsea Human Services Collaborative, 617-889-6080,

roseann@chelseacollab.org

Stacey Chacker, Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, 617-569-0059 x13,

stacey.chacker@noahcdc.orgAaron Toffler, Urban Ecology Institute, 617-552-1247, Toffler@bc.edu

Kristi Rea, US Environmental Protection Agency-New England, 617-918-1595,

rea.kristi@epa.gov

Marc MacQueen, Natural Resources Conservation Service-USDA, 505-295-5151 (ext. 113),

Marc.MacQueen@mawestware.fsc.usda.gov

Revitalization of the Magic Marker Brownfields Site

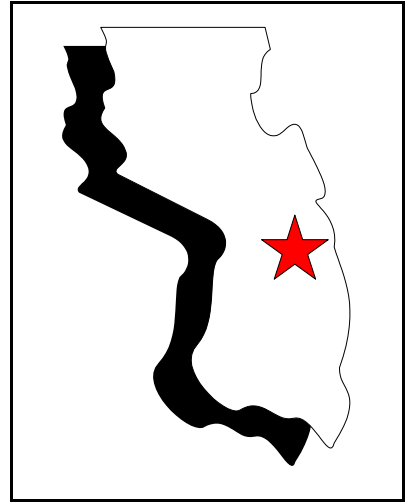
City of Trenton, New Jersey

Trenton, New Jersey

Vision and Purpose:

The Magic Marker Brownfields Revitalization Project in Trenton, New Jersey exemplifies best practices for up-front, on-going and informed community involvement in the brownfields redevelopment process. The Monument/Magic Marker Brownfields Development Area, where the Magic Marker site is located, has for years been working to overcome severe social, economic, and environmental obstacles.

Since 1995, when the City of Trenton responded to community concerns and targeted this site as one of its initial EPA Brownfield Assessment Pilot projects, there has been a steadfast commitment by all parties, especially the Northwest Community Improvement Association (NCIA) and the City of Trenton, to building the capacity within the predominantly African American neighborhood to organize and sustain citizen participation in the environmental cleanup and redevelopment process. Trenton was since selected as a national Brownfields Showcase Community. The City of Trenton and the members of the NCIA community group have articulated a vision to revitalize the community by eliminating environmentally contaminated vacant parcels and replacing them with housing, employment, recreational, and educational uses.



Background:

The location of a lead acid battery manufacturer for fifty years, this seven acre site briefly housed the Magic Marker company in the 1980s. Later, the property was abandoned and taken over by the City of Trenton. The site is an example of a long-standing environmental justice issue. In the 1950s and earlier, very few neighborhoods welcomed the minority working class. The neighborhood surrounding the battery factory was one of the only neighborhoods in which African Americans were permitted to purchase property. Working class African Americans had few options but to live in homes surrounding the battery factory, which regularly spewed smoke so thick that residents could not sit on their porches. The now unproductive site is in the center of a community that today is 93.5% African American and 27.4% under the poverty level.

Project Description:

To reclaim the former Magic Marker site and revitalize the neighborhood, the City of Trenton, Isles—a local Community Development Corporation, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology have been engaging residents in capacity building workshops and facilitating the informed involvement of residents in the clean-up and redevelopment planning process. In 1999, responding to community concern, Trenton demolished the four acre building that stood on the Magic Marker site. Over the next few years, the City plans to clean the site, build medium

density housing and develop a linear park on the site. This redevelopment will be complemented by a proposed elementary school adjacent to the site and a proposed retail complex targeted for the site directly across the street from the Magic Marker site. The long range neighborhood plans include additional housing which will replace repair shops, service stations and vacant lots. The City is hoping that the development of high quality housing will provide housing options for existing residents and attract new residents to the area. This project is part of a larger, regional plan which also addresses the neighborhood's need for commercial space, new schools and open space.

The Magic Marker redevelopment effort is a model for other brownfields projects because the experience offers lessons on building community capacity and implementing a participatory brownfields redevelopment process. Lessons will be drawn from citizens working cooperatively with local, federal, and state governments, while engaging the private sector to overcome serious environmental, economic, and social obstacles. Through these partnerships the Magic Marker site will become a thriving example of smart growth and neighborhood revitalization.

Partners:

Federal:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Local/Regional/State:

City of Trenton, Northwest Community Improvement Association, Isles, Inc., New Jersey Office of State Planning, New Jersey Economic Development Authority, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Exide

Contacts:

Terry Weseley, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, (212) 637-5027, weseley.terry@epa.gov

Leah Yasenchak, Brownfields Coordinator (on loan to Trenton)

US Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, (609) 989-4238, yasenchak.leah@epa.gov

J.R. Capasso, City of Trenton, (609) 989-3509, jcapasso@trentonnj.org

James Rolling, Northwest Community Improvement Association, (609) 392-5490

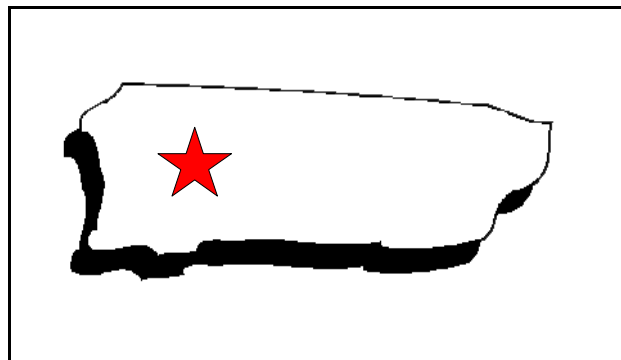
Elyse Pivnick, Isles, Inc., (609) 393-5656 x13, empivnick@yahoo.com

Judy Shaw, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, (609) 984-3122, judy.shaw@dep.state.nj.us

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
Empowering Communities to Secure Drinking Water in Rural Puerto Rico
Center for Education, Conservation & Research (UIPR) Puerto Rico

Vision and Purpose:

Educated communities are critical to securing and protecting the precious drinking water resources of rural Puerto Rico. In 1993 approximately 20 institutions and government agencies, under the initial guidance of US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Partnership for Pure Water (PPW), and the Center for Education, Conservation & Research (CECIA-UIPR), formed an alliance



to aid 250 of the low income communities in rural areas of Puerto Rico that obtain their potable water from private water supplies constructed and operated by users. Often, these systems have not been able to comply with potable water regulations because the users in the associations that form the systems do not understand their responsibilities under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) nor do they have the financial, technical or managerial capacity to comply with federal regulations. These systems are known as non-PRASA systems and more than a hundred are under Administrative Orders of the EPA for failure to comply with the SDWA. This project will provide training and support for communities to comply with applicable regulations and to develop water infrastructure throughout Puerto Rico, focusing initially in the three municipalities of Patillas, Caguas and San Germán.

Background:

Remote, rural communities in Puerto Rico often organize to establish and administer water systems for household use. Generally, they create informal boards, which are in charge of all aspects of potable water production and distribution in their communities. These boards are composed of neighbors and users of the water systems, and, in general, have no formal training in the operation, administration or management of this systems. For example, they need instruction regarding environmental threats to their water supply and quality of life. At least five percent (5%) of Puerto Rico's population obtains their water from some 250 small potable water systems, serving about 180,000 people. For this portion of the population, the average level of education is around eight years, with a median annual income that is well below Puerto Rico as a whole.

Project Description:

Communities have been eager to participate in the activities of the Non-PRASA Committee since it is their most reliable source of information and technical assistance in their efforts to comply with regulations, serve safe water and avoid enforcement actions. Divided into sub-committees directed towards education, financial and technical resources, research and compliance tasks, the work is performed by agreement and with the active participation of community members. Private and public funds are funneled through the members of the

Committee and are applied to meet the needs of the communities. For example, CECIA-UIPR, the Gabriella and Paul Rosenbaum Foundation, and PURE have devoted close to \$1,000,000 to aid these communities. The communities complement the technical, managerial, and other assistance with their involvement and participation in this strategy to bring their systems into compliance. It was earlier recognized that effective empowerment for these communities required the transfer of administrative and managerial skills. Commonwealth and local government officials, including The Honorable Sila Maria Calderon, Governor of Puerto Rico, have long supported the involvement of private sector organizations such as CECIA in this strategy. Municipal governments and state agencies in areas such as Patillas, Caguas and San Germán, where these systems exist in large numbers, are partners of the alliance and participants in the project.

This project will complement the different technical assistance and educational activities already underway and provide resources to answer the community requests to prepare community members with much needed managerial, administrative and operational skills. This effort can serve as a model for other rural communities in the area of creating awareness and understanding of the actual and potential threats to water quality and community health. It can also be a model for empowering community residents of small potable water communities in how to network with the private sector, federal, local and commonwealth government to initiate projects to assure proper planning for development and community revitalization.

Partners:**Federal:**

Department of Agriculture-Rural Development
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Caribbean Field Office
Drinking Water Academy

Local/Regional/Commonwealth:

CECIA of UIPR, Partnership for Pure Water (PPW)/Pharmaceutical Industry Association of Puerto Rico (PIA), Department of Education of Puerto Rico (Caguas Region), Municipal governments of San German and Caguas,, UIPR Campuses (Barranquitas, San German, Metro and Bayamon), Rural Housing Improvement (RHI/The Northeast RCAP)

Contacts:

Graciela Ramirez-Toro, CECIA-UIPR, 787-264-1912, cecia@prtc.net
Ramón Meléndez, USDA-RD, 787-766-5095, ramon.melendez@pr.usda.gov
Jorge Martínez, EPA Caribbean Field Office, 787-977-5827, martinez.jorge@epa.gov
James Bourne, EPA Drinking Water Academy, 202-564-4095, bourne.james@epa.gov
Terry Wesley, EPA Region 2, 212-637-5027, wesley.terry@epa.gov
Isidro Negron, San German, PR, 787-892-3790, prensa@municipiodesangerman.com
Angel Luis Matos, Caguas, PR, 787-746-5400 (ext. 3222/24), angelm@caguas.gov.pr
Ricardo Rivera, Patillas, PR, 787-739-3153

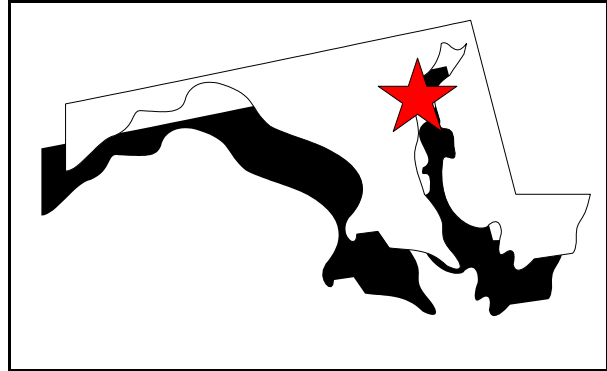
Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
***Utilizing Compliance Assistance to Achieve Community Revitalization
in Park Heights***

Maryland Department of the Environment

Baltimore, Maryland

Vision and Purpose:

An innovative approach to compliance assistance for the low-income inner-city Park Heights neighborhood of Baltimore, Maryland has created the partnerships and the vision for community revitalization efforts. A partnership, led by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Park Reist Corridor Coalition (PRCC), has been working to provide auto body and repair shops in Park Heights with compliance assistance to ensure compliance with environmental laws and to encourage environmentally sound practices. The present focus on auto body and repair shops will serve as a catalyst for much needed economic development, environmental protection, and sustainable development activities.



Background:

Park Heights is a community of 34,000 people located in the northwest section of the Baltimore, Maryland. It has been identified as the largest urban renewal area in the country, consisting of 1,734 acres. With a large share of working class and lower working class residents, Park Heights has a rich history and a strong sense of identity. Its current population is 96% African American, whose median income is significantly lower than that of Baltimore City. One quarter of Park Heights households receive some form of public assistance. Poverty is a notable presence, as well as a high percentage of elderly and youth. Issues related to the environment, health, crime, drugs, and economic viability resonate strongly among community members. Specific concerns include asthma, lead poisoning, cancer, poor prenatal care, illegal dumping, abandoned housing, and poor sanitation practices. A major priority for community members is addressing pollution from numerous small auto body and repairs shops in the community, many of which may not comply with applicable MDE regulations and are located next to daycare centers, eateries, and residential housing.

Project Description:

In the year 2000, the Park Reist Corridor Coalition drafted a Park Heights Revitalization Plan, a twenty-year plan that took into account the various economic, education, health, and environmental issues of concern to the community. Shortly thereafter, a partnership between MDE, EPA, PRCC and other organizations was formed to address community concerns, particularly pollution from the auto body and repair shops. MDE secured \$200,000 to implement an Environmental Results Program (ERP) in Park Heights. The compliance assistance project underway has three phases: (1) The project identified and geocoded over 50 facilities of concern, after which random inspections were conducted. Statistical analysis of the

information obtained from this process will generate a baseline assessment of the facilities' compliance with environmental regulations. (2) The compliance assistance phase consists of training for facility operators and community leaders, utilizing a newly created workbook on environmentally safe practices. (3) The project will reinspect the auto body and repair shops to ascertain how the intervention affected practices at the shops. The project will augment this third phase with a "Complete Quality of Life" survey. In this way, the project will apply the partnerships and methodology developed to assist the Park Heights community to better focus and measure its efforts to implement its revitalization plans.

From this project, many lessons will be gained about development of indicators of success. A particularly significant and innovative aspect is use of a statistical methodology to collect information and develop indicators of success, which can be used to measure progress as well as identify effective methods for improving compliance. In the same way, this approach will be used to develop a set of measurable quality of life indicators. In addition, many lessons will be gained regarding the contributions of strong partnerships and high levels of communication to ensure that such indicators are developed in a real life context.

Partners:

Federal:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Center for Disease Control (CDC)

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Local/Regional/State:

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Maryland Department of Transportation (DOT), Maryland Department of Health and Community Development (DHCD), Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Public Works

Park Reist Corridor Coalition (PRCC), Park Heights Community Health Alliance (PHCHA), Baltimore City Community Law Center, Morgan State University, Baltimore Urban League, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

Contacts:

Andrew Sawyers: Maryland Department of the Environment, 410-537-3411,

asawyers@mde.state.md.us

Henri Thompson, Park Reist Corridor Coalition, 410-542-2934, henri651@aol.com

Reggie Harris, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, 215-814-2988,

harris.reggie@epa.gov

Betty Barnes, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, 215-814-2988, 3447,

barnes.betty@epa.gov

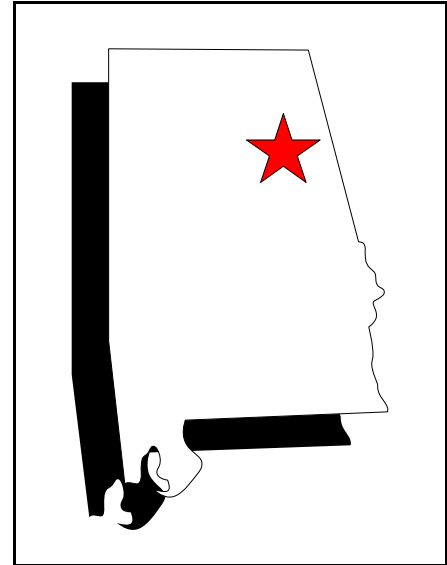
Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
***Vision 2020: For the Children of Anniston—Children’s Health
Environmental Justice Project***

City of Anniston, Alabama

Anniston, Alabama

Vision and Purpose:

In a city historically plagued by industrial contamination and military waste and its associated controversies, a healing vision of health for children has arisen. A collaboration of 25 community groups, local businesses, medical experts, and government agencies (local, regional, state, and federal) have made a commitment to guarantee that every child in Anniston, Alabama has the maximum opportunity to develop to his or her full potential. *Vision 2020* seeks to address the health and developmental problems of children growing up in the midst of decades of environmental contamination, most notably lead and PCBs. The initiative seeks to provide Anniston with a world class education, screening, early detection, and treatment program to identify and treat health and developmental disorders at the earliest stage possible. As Mayor Chip Howell asserts, this coalition “brings the community together for the benefit of all and to help this next generation create a new future.”



Background:

The City of Anniston is no stranger to disproportionate environmental contamination, poverty, and poor health. Its population of 24,276 is evenly divided between African American and white residents. In West Anniston, the home for the Anniston PCB Superfund site and the Anniston Lead Superfund site, 80% of the population is African American, with a large percentage of low-income residents. In addition, a large scale chemical weapons incinerator is scheduled to begin operations in Anniston, which is adding more environmental concern to the community. PCB and lead contaminants have been detected in local residential soil and other environmental media. However undocumented, area educators, health professionals and human service providers are seeing an ever increasing number of children with developmental, behavioral and social problems. Anniston also ranks high in the national data ranking for teenage pregnancy and low birth weight rates.

Project Description:

In order to carry out the “*Vision 2020: For the Future of Anniston’s Children*” project, the stakeholders and community residents are progressing in creating a program of early detection and intervention addressing developmental, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral abnormalities experienced by area children. The goal of the initiative is to address all the factors, including the role that environmental pollutants may contribute to these adverse health effects. To implement this, the project will be carried out in two phases. The first phase includes the documentation of the children’s needs, the classification of existing services in the community, the capacity evaluation of the existing service providers, the organization and coordination of these services, and the identification of gaps. Among other things, the project will conduct a cohort study of all births for an 18 year period, culminating when the first children to reach their eighteenth

birthday in the year 2020. The second phase includes the enhancement of the currently fragmented early detection/early prevention program, the development of a database system for documenting and tracking health data, the development of a management and administrative structure, and the creation and implementation of a funding stream to provide on-going and long-term financial resources.

Support from EPA and ATSDR for a Southeast Pediatric Environmental Specialty Unit (PEHSU) at Emory University has furthered the possibility of world class medical intervention for environmentally impacted and medically underserved communities like Anniston. The establishment of PEHSU (a resource team comprised of medical experts) was spurred on by local environmental justice groups that focused attention on children's environmental health issues. Combined with strong local leadership and a determined community, *Vision 2020* has the capacity to be a model holding much promise. So far, this has been displayed in the work of the Anniston Mayor's Steering Committee on Children's Health, which has articulated a shared vision, ensured diverse dialogue through regular meetings and community forums, created a short and long-term work plan, conducted a health resource assessment, and held a successful Children's Health Fair over the past year. Significant resources are being sought to fund a full-time management structure to be based in Anniston.

Partners:**Federal:**

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Local/Regional/State:

City of Anniston, Anniston City Council, Huron Valley Steel, Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Calhoun County Health Department, Ayers Technical College, Community Against Pollution, Community Against Pollution, Calhoun County Community Foundation, Calhoun County Board of Health, Calhoun County Medical Society, Jacksonville State University-Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing, JET (Jobs, Education, and Training), Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) at Emory University, Northeast Regional Medical Center-Pediatrics, Northeast Alabama Safe Kids, Mothers and Daughters Protecting Children's Health, The ARC of Calhoun and Calburne Counties, Calhoun County Sheriff's Office, Concern for Children, Inc., Alabama Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Project, Brownfield Institute, Inc., Bridges Corporation, Anniston City Schools

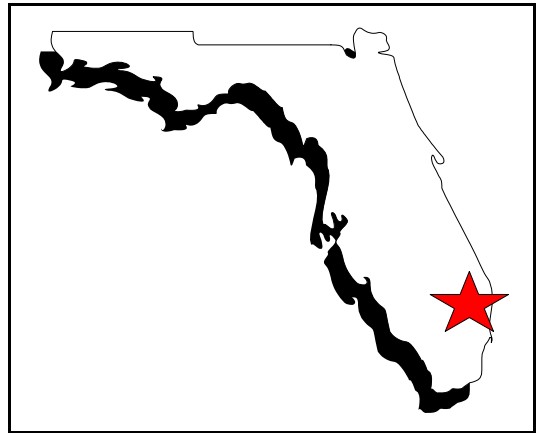
Contacts:

Delores Rodgers-Smith, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, 404-562-8688, rodgers-smith@epa.gov
Sherri Berger-Frank, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, (404) 498-0522, sberger@cdc.gov
Mayor Chip Howell, Anniston, Alabama, 256-231-7691, chowell@ci.anniston.al.us
David Zinn, Calhoun County Board of Health, 256-237-5302, davidzinnmd@cableone.net
Shirley Williams-Baker, Mothers and Daughters Protecting Children's Health, 256-236-5229, sisterbaker@aol.com

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
Glades Area Environmental Justice Training Collaborative
ACTION, Inc. **Belle Glade, Florida**

Vision and Purpose:

Federal public health and environmental agencies are assisting a partnership, led by Active Citizens Together Improving Our Neighborhoods, Inc. (ACTION) and Florida Atlantic University-Center for Urban Redevelopment and Empowerment (FAU-CURE), to provide environmental justice training and capacity building for residents of the Glades Area in the Florida Everglades. The project seeks to create an informed citizenry, armed with the information and skills necessary to be a meaningful part of the decision-making process. The initial focus of this project will be drinking water quality issues and community health concerns.



Background:

The Glades Area consists of three municipalities (the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay) and local unincorporated communities. In the Glades area, 80% of the community is minority. The per capita income for the City of Belle Glade is \$11,159, compared to \$41,007 for Palm Beach County. The per capacity income for the unincorporated Glades communities is \$4,995. All thirteen schools in the Glades Area have more than 80% of the students receiving free lunch. Historically, the Glades Area has been a farming community, formerly known as the “winter vegetable capital of the world.” Today, the area continues its reliance on farming, with sugar cane being the primary crop. Approximately 50% of the nation’s sugar cane is harvested in the Glades Area. The Glades Area communities rely on Lake Okeechobee, listed as an impaired body of water, as its only source of drinking water. One major concern in recent years was the discovery of high levels of trihalomethanes in the municipal drinking water supply.

Project Description:

The project will be implemented through the Community Scholars Program (CSP), a partnership between ACTION and FAU-CURE to provide a community-based environmental justice training for Glades Area residents. Residents will be provided a community-based environmental justice training curriculum and Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The project consists of three major elements: (1) ACTION will provide the EPA’s Basic Environmental Justice Training Module to community residents, with the assistance of EPA and other partners. (2) Three curriculum writing teams will develop, review and modify the available materials relating to water, other environmental issues, and community health disparities into workshop formats for adult learning styles. An example of such material is the Toxicology Curriculum for Communities that the Institute of Public Health at Florida A&M University (FAMU) developed for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. (3) A “Community Technology Center” will be established to provide a facility for the community to access environmental and

health information, particularly through the Internet, and to facilitate community-based information collection and research.

Capacity building is a critical need for communities seeking to address environmental justice issues. Isolated low income communities often lack access to expertise with which they can better understand environmental and health issues. Such lack of access represents a major barrier to such communities being able to meaningfully participate in the decision-making process. In addition, often there is no setting or mechanism for ensuring a systematic approach to training in isolated low income communities. This project will serve as model for how to create partnerships between community, academic and governmental organizations to ensure training and capacity building for low income and/or minority communities confronting environmental and public health problems.

Partners:

Federal:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Local/Regional/State:

ACTION, Inc., Florida Atlantic University-Center for Urban Redevelopment and Empowerment (CURE), Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU)-Institute of Public Health, FAMU-Center for Environmental Equity & Justice (CEEJ), South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Palm Beach County Health Department, Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF), Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay

Contacts:

Reuben Warren, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 404-498-0111, rcw4@cdc.gov

Cynthia Peurifoy, US Environmental Protection Agency, 404-562-9649, peurifoy.cynthia@epa.gov

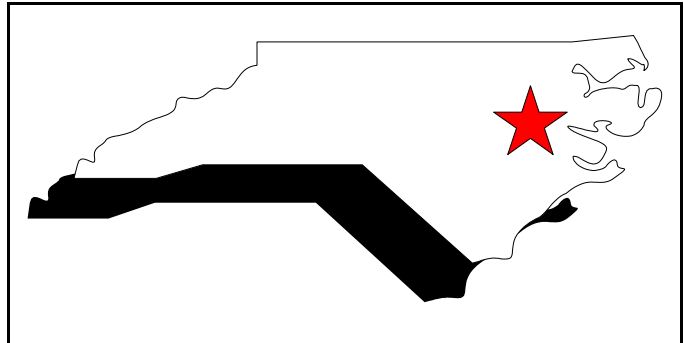
Cynthia Laramore, ACTION, Inc., 561-993-9100, LaramoreCC@aol.com

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
The Sustainable Redevelopment and Revitalization of Princeville
City of Princeville Princeville, North Carolina

Vision and Purpose:

In the wake of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the residents of the historic town of Princeville, North Carolina made a pivotal decision. Rather than abandon the first city of the United States founded by former slaves, they decided to stay and rebuild. What emerged was a bold new plan not only to rebuild the town but to make it better

than before. This project seeks to ensure coordinated federal support to assist Princeville, North Carolina to achieve its vision of sustainable recovery, redevelopment, and revitalization.



Background:

As the first city in the United States founded by former slaves, Princeville, North Carolina holds a special and highly significant place in our Nation's history. In its early days, Princeville was called Freedom Hill by fleeing African Americans who settled along the banks of Tar River under the protection of Union troops at the close of the Civil War. In more recent times, repeated flooding from the Tar River has caused damage in Princeville. Most of the town's 800 houses, 125 mobile homes and 4 federal housing developments were destroyed by the floods in 1999, which forced all of the town's 2,156 residents to flee.

Princeville was always mainly a residential town. Businesses located in Princeville before the 1999 flood were exclusively small enterprises, a number of which operated out of residents' homes. While there were 31 businesses before the flood, they were scattered and often difficult to reach. Princeville had big plans a month before the flood. Given enough time and funding, the town was planning a heritage trail that celebrates the town settled by ex-slaves. There could be bed-and-breakfast inns, a riverboat restaurant, nature walk and observation deck, a baseball field and picnic tables, and a visitor center. All of these are still possible.

Project Description:

The overall objective of the project is to implement a bold new plan to rebuild the town and make it better than before. The city expects to function as a thriving town that can educate its youth, be a place of employment, and foster a healthy and growing population. The upgrade and extension of infrastructure, services and quality of life activities is necessary in order to aggressively pursue opportunities to substantially raise the town's economic opportunities.

The Redevelopment Workplan can be divided into three distinct categories. In the residential category, the stakeholders will build new homes and repair damaged homes, restore multi-family apartments, create the new Riverside Heritage Park, build a new community center, and conduct long-term maintenance on the cemetery. In the area of infrastructure support, activities include: current and long-range planning; a Wastewater System Evaluation Survey; stormwater drainage

systems improvement; new Town Hall, Police Station, Post Office, and Social Security facilities; and technical and supervisory capacity-building. Finally, in the economic development category, a brochure will be developed to attract industry and incentives will be created for small businesses.

Restoration of Princeville's town, infrastructure, and service will require prompt and effective execution of many programs already in place in other cities and towns. The town plans to develop and utilize strategies or plans for directing the full range of activities including maintenance, utility repairs, facility design and construction, and future water, wastewater and transportation enhancements. There must be ongoing efforts to upgrade and improve the existing town services to correct long-standing deficiencies and meet modern standards. Pursuit of these additional programs will demand more time and attention for grant application and administration. This additional effort will require professional services to coordinate and oversee the future of the town. The town should learn to adjust to meet the needs of the program options that the town chooses to pursue.

While historic, Princeville is not unique. It faces challenges similar to many other small towns in the Nation. Implementation of programs to achieve Princeville's goals will require extensive state and federal coordination, including increased levels of oversight and accountability. Lessons learned through this project are intended to enable the federal government to better respond to the needs of the Nation's small towns.

Partners:**Federal:**

- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Park Service

Local/Regional/State:

- North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments, North Carolina Rural Development Center, Mustard Seed Faith Company, North Carolina General Baptist State Convention, North Carolina Central University, Habitat for Humanity, National Conference of Black Mayors, Lowe's Corporation, Mennonite Disaster Services, North Carolina Community Development Initiative

Contacts:

- Geraldine Herring, US Department of Agriculture, 202-720-1637, geraldine.herring@usda.gov
- Melinda Downing, US Department of Energy, 202-586-7703, Melinda.Downing@em.doe.gov
- Priscilla Everette-Oates, Mayor, City of Princeville, North Carolina, 252-824-7605, mayorofprinceville@earthlink.net
- Bobby Hopkins, City of Princeville, North Carolina, 252-641-6816, townmanager@earthlink.net
- John Rosenthal, US Conference of Black Mayors, 703-922-7653, jrosenthal@msn.com

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project

The Arcade-Westside Area Revitalization Project:

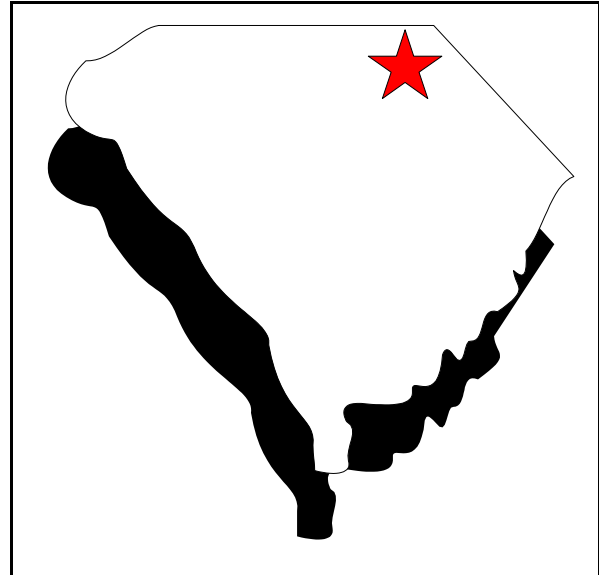
A Community-Based Collaboration

Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods

Rock Hill, South Carolina

Vision and Purpose:

The Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods, which represents 18 neighborhood associations in the City of Rock Hill, South Carolina, has resolved to engage in community revitalization to address the environmental justice concerns of the neighborhoods in the city's Arcade-Westside Area. Motivated by the desire of the area's neighborhoods to alleviate inequalities and injustices facing their area, an unprecedented partnership within the city has taken proactive steps to remediate the devastating effects of the loss of the textile industry. The city's revitalization and redevelopment plans center on the area hardest hit by this loss, where, in the words of Rock Hill Mayor Doug Echols, "once thriving mill neighborhoods are now filled with households who suffer from social, educational, and economic isolation and deprivation." Projects already underway include renovation of two abandoned textile mills into a senior citizens housing and activity center, and creation of affordable housing and business space. This partnership is now poised to aggressively seek federal assistance to fulfil the community's multi-faceted vision of a revitalized urban core.



Background:

The decline of the City of Rock Hill's textile industry in the past fifteen years has resulted in the severe and rapid deterioration of the City's urban core. As a result, the urban core no longer is the city's main source of economic stability and social vitality. Once thriving, mill communities now suffer substandard housing, high unemployment rates, low-performing schools and high crime rates. A particularly hard hit portion of the city is the Arcade-Westside Area. For example, the Arcade-Westside Area includes four abandoned textile mills and several small businesses that are either vacant or occupied by local businesses struggling to survive. Of the area's 2,547 residents, 63.5% are low-income. The community is 75.3% African American.

Project Description:

The Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods and the City of Rock Hill have developed a work plan that includes three different phases of revitalization and redevelopment efforts. The first phase is to redevelop the Arcade Mill Site. The neighborhood would like the site to be redeveloped for housing or a green space for recreational purposes. The second phase is to revitalize and improve the Hagins/Fewell Neighborhood, a key part of the Arcade-Westside Area. A

preliminary needs assessment has been conducted to identify the concerns, needs, and vision of this community. The final phase is to redevelop the textile corridor and improve the business infrastructure. The City of Rock Hill has plans to build low-to-moderate income multi-family housing areas that will support desired redevelopment activities, and similar projects. After completion of the project, the City of Rock Hill hopes to return the educational opportunities back to the Arcade-Westside Area, to create and rehabilitate housing opportunities, and to improve infrastructure. They also hope to attract new investment, to create new recreational and community facilities, to remove environmental hazards, to preserve the historical significance of the area, to infuse more technology in the area, and to create a transit-oriented community developed around light-rail, trolley, and pedestrian systems.

The concept of the Arcade-Westside Area Revitalization effort is based upon the environmental justice concerns expressed by the Hagins/Fewell Neighborhood Association. As a result, the Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods and the City of Rock Hill conducted needs assessments with neighborhood residents and a vision was created of how the community wanted the Arcade-Westside Area to look. This is but one example of the City of Rock Hill's commitment to developing a strong partnership with its neighborhoods. This project will provide lessons regarding the development of productive local neighborhood-municipal government partnerships, the achievement of which is a critical element of success for addressing environmental justice concerns.

Partners:**Federal:**

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Local/Regional/State:

Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods, City of Rock Hill, Rock Hill School District, York County, York Technical College, Winthrop University, Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation, York County Chamber of Commerce, Rock Hill Joint Venture for Affordable Housing Corporation, South Carolina Department of Environmental Control, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Carolina First Bank, Catawba Regional Council of Governments, Landmark Asset Services, Inc.

Contacts:

Joe Berger, Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods, 803-366-1923,
jberger@comporium.net
Holly Eskridge, City of Rock Hill, 803-327-9041, heskridge@catawbacog.org
Louis Bradley, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 803-765-5564,
Louis_E_Bradley@hud.gov
Cynthia Peurifoy, US Environmental Protection Agency, 404-562-9649,
peurifoy.cynthia@epa.gov

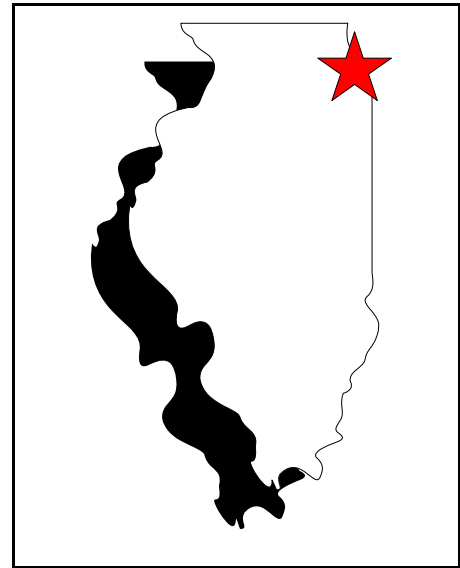
Waukegan Cleanup and Revitalization Plan

City of Waukegan

Waukegan, Illinois

Vision and Purpose:

Recent experience throughout the nation has shown that by linking environmental cleanup to community revitalization goals, environmental remediation projects can be a vital catalyst for unleashing environmental, economic and social benefits. An emerging case-in-point is Waukegan, Illinois, an industrial “rustbelt” city on the shores of Lake Michigan in northeast Illinois. The Waukegan community is planning and seeking ways to implement a city revitalization plan which will include transforming the city’s worn industrialized downtown waterfront into a vigorous and inviting waterfront with new residential condominiums, commercial establishments, recreational land uses and an adjacent community sports complex. A collaboration spearheaded by the Coalicion Latinos Unidos de Lake County, the City of Waukegan, the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group (designated CAG), and federal agencies have been working to ensure that all Waukegan communities are both meaningful participants and beneficiaries of this revitalization process.



Background:

In addition to the city hosting three Superfund sites (the Johns-Manville site, the Outboard Marine Corporation site, and the Yeoman Creek Landfill site), as well as numerous other brownfield contaminated sites, the city’s lakefront has been plagued by asbestos contamination and the harbor with PCB-contamination.. The three Waukegan Superfund sites are at various stages of cleanup. The environmental degradation of the area has led to restrictions on dredging activities, numerous beach closings due to various contaminants, degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations, and the loss of fish and wildlife habitat. These environmental impacts prompted the International Joint Commission to designate the Waukegan Harbor as an International Area of Concern in 1991. The City of Waukegan qualifies as an environmental justice area due to the high percentage of low-income and minority residents in the area. According to the 2000 Census, 19.2% of the community is African-American and 44.8% of it is Hispanic. Waukegan has seen the biggest increase in poverty rates in Lake County, rising to 13.9% in 1999 from 9.5% in 1989.

In the past, the Waukegan community has not been actively involved in projects affecting the environment in their community. Consequently, project planning did not necessarily consider community concerns at an early stage, resulting in disagreements, delays and additional costs. This is illustrated in the US Army Corps of Engineers’ nineteenth proposal to place Waukegan Harbor sediment dredging in a portion of the Johns-Manville site. While this disposal alternative may have been a cost effective remedy for the dredge material, it failed to accommodate city redevelopment planning around the Johns-Manville site. Just as unfortunate, redevelopment ideas lack the direction for success provided by a process. A developer recently appealed to

EPA for assistance to create an automobile museum at the Manville property without having first made property lease arrangements with the city. It is expected that a revitalization plan, understood by all citizens of the community, will reduce conflicts which inhibit coordinated development.

Project Description:

The Waukegan community is planning and seeking ways to implement a city revitalization. The City of Waukegan plans not only to ensure that these Superfund sites are cleaned up, but also to make them community assets. The plan focuses on reclaiming valuable lakefront property blighted by aging contaminated industrial sites. Clean up of contaminated sites is the first step of the city's revitalization vision. The city's revitalization plan is proposing to transform the Outboard Marine Corporation site into commercial and recreational uses, the Johns-Manville site into active recreational uses, and the Yeoman Creek Landfill site into passive recreational uses.

Through community involvement, education, and training best practices, the Waukegan environmental justice collaboration is seeking to ensure that the city's predominantly Latino and African American population become knowledgeable in identifying and addressing issues of environmental justice, communicate with one another more effectively, and improve the quality of the environment for the community. Best practices protocol dictates meaningful community involvement will focus on ensuring that this partnership-building and community involvement effort endeavor to go beyond that achieved in any single site, to ensure that the best results for the community can be achieved through communications and synergistic decisions among all sites. A current example is the developing plan by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to use the Yeoman Creek Landfill as a disposal site for sediments to be dredged from Waukegan Harbor. This may result in significant cost savings for the dredging project, and therefore to the community which must pay a portion of the costs. The dredging project is a major step toward improving the environmental conditions in the harbor, redeveloping the downtown, and ultimately removing the harbor from the International Joint Commission's list of Areas of Concern. The project will provide lessons about how better coordination and holistic decision-making can maximize community benefits, protect the environment, enhance community end uses of the properties, increase property values, and address environmental justice concerns.

Partners:

Federal:

Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Local/Regional/State:

City of Waukegan, Coalicion Latinos Unidos de Lake County, Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group, Illinois EPA

Contacts:

Rosa Reyes Prosen, Coalicion Latinos Unidos de Lake County, 847-546-6450,

rreyes.prosen@nicasa.org

Ray Vukovich, City of Waukegan, 847-599-2514, ray.vukovich@ci.waukegan.il.us

Mike Joyce, US Environmental Protection Agency, 312-353-5546, Joyce.Mike@epa.gov

Felicia Kirksey, US Army Corp of Engineers, 312-846-5556,

felicia.y.kirksey@usace.army.mil

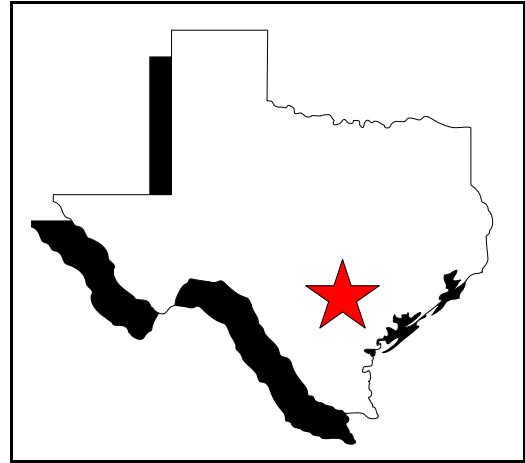
Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
***Project ReGeneration: Building Partnerships for Livability and
Sustainability in the Greater Kelly Area***

Southwest Workers Union

San Antonio, Texas

Vision and Purpose:

The communities surrounding the former Kelly Air Force Base (AFB), in San Antonio, Texas, are more than 90% low-income and Latino, with a significant percentage being Spanish speakers and recent immigrants from Mexico. In 1994, Kelly AFB was designated for closure and conversion. For nearly a decade, the Southwest Workers Union (SWU), a community-based organization, has attempted to engage federal agencies around the community's health, cleanup, and economic development concerns. Recently, collaborative efforts in other communities have led SWU and community residents in the Greater Kelly Area to believe that a proactive and comprehensive approach to the community's issues, along with multi-stakeholder collaborative problem-solving, is an approach worthy of exploration. *Project ReGeneration* seeks to identify ways by which key parties, particularly federal agencies and grassroots community organizations, can engage in constructive dialogue and develop multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure that community concerns in areas of health, cleanup, and economic development can be meaningfully addressed.



Background:

The Kelly AFB closure and conversion process entails, among other things, the City of San Antonio receiving a portion of the land and the adjoining Lakeland AFB receiving the remainder. The Greater Kelly Development Authority, a branch of the City of San Antonio, manages what is now called "Kelly USA." As part of the redevelopment, a six lane highway is proposed to cut through the area, raising community concerns regarding displacement of residents and local businesses as well as more pollution. Community members also have raised concerns that the Union Pacific exchange station, transporting railcars containing hazardous materials, is located in close proximity to residences. There continues to be concerns among residents regarding their health, both the areas of exposure to chemical pollution and as well as lack of access to health care. In addition, there has been historical concerns regarding their meaningful participation in the decision-making process.

Project Description:

The overall goal of *Project ReGeneration* is to increase efforts to identify, mobilize, and utilize federal, state, and local resources to benefit the environmentally and economically distressed communities affected by the Kelly Air Force Base conversion activities. The project will focus on identifying ways to ensure constructive dialogue and building effective partnerships between community-based organizations, relevant federal, state, and local agencies, and other stakeholders. The project will be implemented in two phases. During Phase I, the partners plan

on holding conduct three roundtable discussions in the areas of health, cleanup, and future economic development. Each Roundtable may consist of several meetings to clearly define the issues, reach consensus between stakeholders and develop recommendations. The partners will utilize these roundtables to engage in constructive dialogue and to educate each other about their respective viewpoints, concerns, goals, and limitations. During Phase II, a mature partnership, made up of all the key stakeholders, will develop a collaborative vision and implementation plan for the Greater Kelly Area based upon the findings and recommendations of the Roundtables.

This project will seek to identify lessons in two areas: (1) how community-based organizations can more proactively participate in partnerships and engage in constructive and collaborative problem-solving; and (2) how other stakeholders, particularly governmental agencies at all levels, can better assist such collaborative endeavors. Lessons in constructive engagement, collaborative problem-solving, and partnership building will represent a significant contribution to building the capacity of many organizations throughout the Nation which seek to address environmental justice issues by bringing about solutions. Already, constructive engagement and collaborative problem-solving has resulted in Rep. Ciro Rodriguez's support for the establishment of an environmental health and wellness center to provide free health screening and diagnoses for residents of the Greater Kelly Area and Kelly AFB workers, both current and former. This is an example of how effective community collaboration can work to marshal resources to address critical needs in the community.

Partners:

Federal:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Department of Defense (DOD)

Local/Regional/State:

Southwest Workers' Union, Committee for Environmental Justice Action, Southwest Workers' Union, Committee for Environmental Justice Action, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Department of Health, Texas Department of Transportation, South San Antonio ISD, Edgewood ISD, San Antonio Metro Health Department, Greater Kelly Development Agency, Office of Representative Ciro Rodriguez, Military Toxics Project, Just Transition Alliance, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice

Contacts:Warren Arthur, USEPA, 214-665-8504, arthur.warren@epa.govGenaro Lopez, Southwest Workers Union, 210-299-2666, swu@igc.org

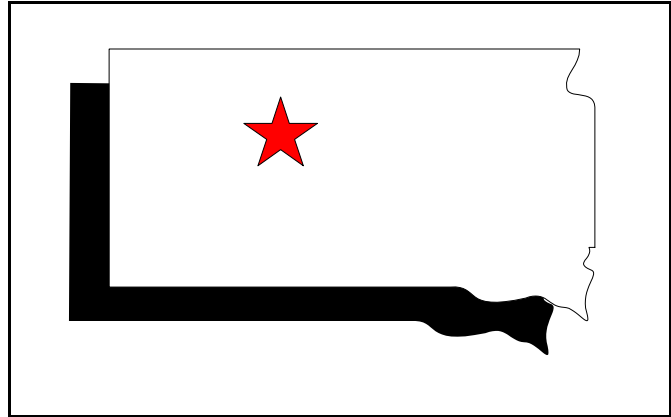
Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
***Development of a Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Park:
A Tribal Lands Conservation Partnership***

NWF/Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Eagle Butte, South Dakota

Vision and Purpose:

A partnership including the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) in South Dakota, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to create a Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Park. Completion of a planning document to guide the park's creation is the immediate goal of the effort. Ultimately, the CRST Park will increase tribal capacity in the management of tribal lands and support tribal self-determination. EPA Region 8 will also support the project by providing input on the guide as to any regulatory permitting activities that may be necessary.



Background:

American Indian Tribes find themselves at a crossroads. Chronic lack of economic opportunity combined with a declining federal budget for tribal needs increases the pressure on tribal governments to develop their natural and mineral resources. At the same time, off-reservation development proposals threaten reservation resources, including potential habitat for threatened and endangered species, many of which are culturally significant to tribes. Tribal lands feature some of the last remaining pieces of intact grasslands on the Great Plains. These lands have largely survived development and sprawl and are some of the best remaining habitat for prairie wildlife. In addition to voluntary private landowner incentives, the National Wildlife Federation believes the key to restoring America's grasslands lies in protecting the large remnants found on federal and tribal lands.

A Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Park could be the most complete example of the prairie ecosystem in existence today. Along with buffalo, the Tribe is planning to restore elk and black-footed ferrets, and have expressed interest in returning swift fox to the area of the park. Scientists will have the opportunity to study a virtually intact, large expanse of mixed-grass prairie ecosystem. The Tribe envisions the Park as a way to further their cultural and spiritual revitalization for the next generations. The Park is viewed as a re-creation of the lands of their ancestors—a wild, sacred place for all *Lakota* people and others to come, listen, and learn about a living and vibrant *Lakota* culture.

Project Description:

The goals of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Park partnership project include: (1) develop a planning strategy for the Lakota Tribal Park and enhance its establishment in 2004; (2) build capacity for American Indian Tribes by increasing their awareness of opportunities regarding rural development initiatives that also maintain and enhance tribal culture; (3) communicate the success and vision of the Cheyenne River tribe to the American public by distributing the NWF/CRST Partnership document “Restoring the Prairie, Mending the Sacred Hoop”; (4) conduct 2 meetings with Cheyenne River tribal leaders, NWF and other project partners on the Lakota Tribal Park; (5) conduct 5 meetings of the Lakota Tribal Park Working Group; and (6) facilitate the production of a written design strategy of Lakota Tribal Park.

The project builds upon the Tribal Lands Conservation Program of the National Wildlife Federation, a non-profit conservation and education organization, founded in 1936, as a nationwide network of grassroots conservationists. The Cheyenne River Game Fish and Parks Division was established in 1935 and is located in Eagle Butte, on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. Depending on the success of the project, and future funding, there are up to 23 Native American Tribes in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado that could benefit from experience of the partners. These tribes inhabit some of the poorest counties in the U.S. and are increasingly pressured to develop their natural resources.

Partners:

Federal:

National Park Service (NPS)

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (EPA)

Tribal:

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Game and Fish Department

Environmental:

National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

Contacts:

Steve Torbit, NWF Tribal Lands Program, 303-786-8001 (ext. 17), torbit@new.org

Amy Amoroso, NWF Tribal Lands Program, 303-786-8001 (ext. 22), Aamoroso@nwf.org

Dennis Rousseau, Cheyenne River Game Fish and Parks, 605-964-7812

Nat Kuykendall, National Park Service, 303-969-2208, Nat_Kuykendall@nps.gov

Jane Roybal, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 406-538-2391, Jane_Roybal@fws.gov

Deldi Reyes, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, 303-312-6055,

reyes.deldi@epa.gov

Northeast Denver Environmental Initiative

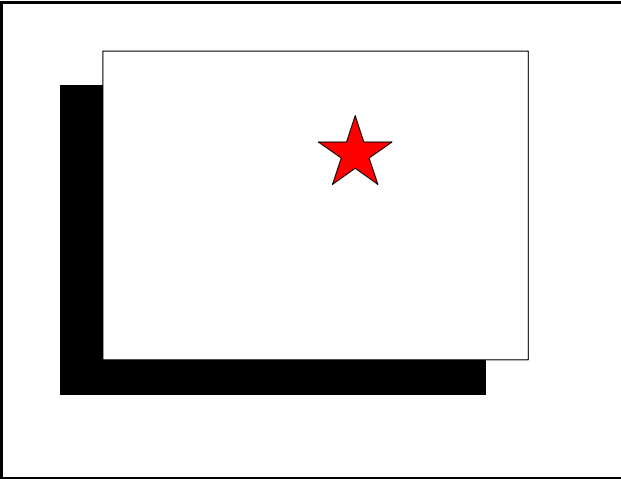
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

Denver, Colorado

Vision and Purpose:

The citizens of northeast Denver live in a highly industrialized area that is fragmented by three major transportation corridors. According to EPA's databases, nearly 500 regulated facilities reside in the northeast Denver Area, over 200 of which are permitted under the Clean Air Act. Local trucking companies house nearly 5,000 diesel trucks in the area. One active and two previous Superfund sites lie in the area. While it is clear that the communities of northeast Denver experience a disproportionate amount of environmental and public health risks, it is also clear that there is a broad range of groups that are working together to improve these

communities. Already several effective partnerships have evolved to address specific health issues. The Northeast Denver Environmental Initiative (NDEI) is poised to take the next step, the development of a comprehensive environmental plan to substantially improve the quality of life of northeast Denver citizens. To arrive at the plan, EPA will use a collaborative decision making model that puts the community in the forefront when identifying issues and setting priorities and provides a mechanism for government, industry, non-profits and community to work together to develop interventions. Northeast Denver will serve as a living laboratory for collaborative multi-stakeholder multi-media pollution reduction and prevention strategies.



Background:

Northeast Denver covers a large area and includes six communities. According to the 2000 Census, over 58,000 people reside in the northeast Denver area. The percentage of ethnic or racial minorities in this area is 83%, as compared to 24% for Colorado. Almost 3 times as many families live in poverty in northeast Denver as compared to Colorado. In addition, variations exist among the six communities; one is predominately African American, four are predominantly Hispanic and another is in transition with a mix of African American and Hispanic residents. A common concern among citizens of all six northeast Denver communities pertains to environmental and health risks. According to the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory, residents of northeast Denver are exposed to ten times as many hazardous air pollutants as residents of the greater Denver county. Mobile sources of pollutants also disproportionately impact these neighborhoods. Per capita vehicle miles traveled through northeast Denver are 8 times higher than those found in the Denver metro area. As a result, emissions of criteria air pollutants (SO₂, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, Nox, and CO) exceed levels found in the greater Denver area. Blood lead levels in children tested in the area are than twice the national average. The Colorado Department of Health found 74 more cases of cancer in northeast Denver that would be expected throughout the state of Colorado.

Project Description:

NDEI builds upon the success and strength of existing working relationships in the area. It recognizes the need to utilize many different approaches, resources and techniques to address the complex and interrelated environmental concerns in northeast Denver. It works with established organizations and

with a community focused on problems and active in working towards solutions to those problems. NDEI will continue to build upon its ongoing outreach efforts to environmental justice communities and to facilitate better communications and coordination. These activities include:

- Superfund activities at the VB I-70 site;
- Regional Geographic Initiative grant to address diesel truck issues;
- Implementation and assessment of community based Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) from a Clean Air Act settlement between EPA and the State of Colorado;
- Blood lead screening, testing and treatment referral program;
- Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Interstate 70 corridor;
- Industry efforts to address odor issues impacting area neighborhoods, and to involve the community in it's planning efforts; and
- Energy efficiency projects for small businesses and the use of drought tolerant plants.

Overall, the expected outcomes are: (1) to ensure industry's compliance with environmental laws; (2) to build partnerships with industry to develop pollution prevention projects to help industry move beyond compliance to reduce pollution; (3) to establish a dialogue with all stakeholders; (4) to collect, store, analyze, publish environmental human health data; (5) to create educational programs that address health risks; (6) to develop effective communications and lessons learned; and (7) the development of environmental data to measure the impact of these projects.

The Northeast Denver Environmental Initiative envisions the development and demonstration of a model of government that better meets the needs of environmental justice communities. It seeks to gain lessons in ways to: (1) Improve governments ability to respond to community concerns; (2) Develop a model for soliciting community views and ideas and building capacity within communities; (3) Development of objective measures of environmental success; (4) Improve communication and coordination among different levels of government. The Northeast Denver Environmental Initiative (NDEI) seeks to improve coordination among government agencies, community organizations, and industries to reduce existing and prevent future health risks in Northeast Denver. Ultimately, the partners are working towards improving the lives and safety of citizens most impacted by environmental degradation.

Partners:

Federal:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Federal Highways Administration, Department of Transportation (FHWA)

Local/Regional/State:

Clayton Neighborhood Association, Cole Neighborhood Association, Cross-Community Coalition Family Resource Center, Governor's Office of Innovation and Technology, Northeast Denver Housing Center, Northeast Metro Pollution Prevention Alliance, Northeast Metro Industrial Council

Contacts:

Karen Kellen, US Environmental Protection Agency, 303-312-6518, kellen.karen@epa.gov

Amanda Champany, COPEEN, 303-292-1236, alchampany@yahoo.com

Dennis Creamer, Conoco, 303-286-5711, CreamCD@conoco.com

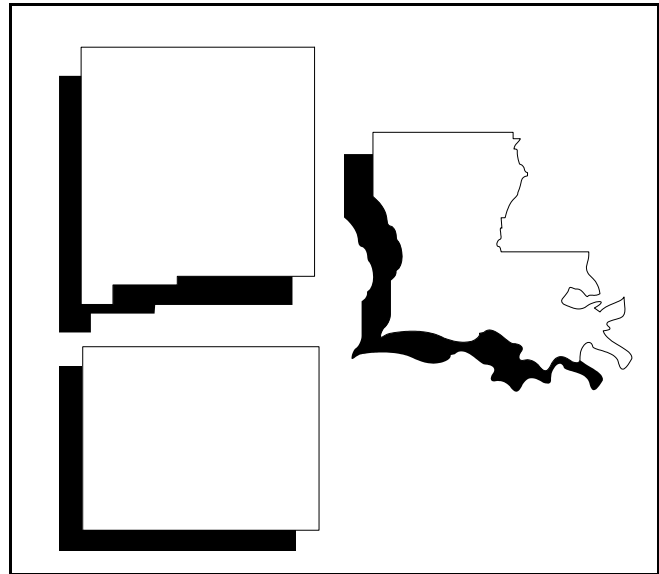
Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
Enhancing Tribal Consultation to Protect Cultural and Historic Resources
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation **Lakewood, Colorado**

Vision and Purpose:

In 1992, Congress passed amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) which required federal agencies to consult with Indian tribes regarding historic properties off tribal lands which were of significance to them.

Through an innovative program to enhance the government-to-government relationship, this project will assist federal agencies in identifying those federally recognized tribes to be consulted with regarding historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them. The project will develop a management tool for preventing impacts to tribal traditional and cultural properties.

Such a tool will utilize a dedicated interactive Web server, which when designed, built, and deployed, will include information that has been verified with the participants prior to going on line or having any public access. The tribes who will be the first to benefit from this project reside in the states of Colorado, Louisiana and New Mexico.



Background:

Over the years, many federal undertakings have damaged or destroyed historic properties of religious and cultural significance off-tribal lands, and sowed the seeds of mistrust between federal agencies and Indian tribes. As required by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the regulations governing the federal historic preservation review process, commonly referred to as the “Section 106 process,” federal agencies must consult with any Indian tribe that may ascribe such importance to places affected by federal actions. However, many federal actions are carried out without the required consultation because agencies contend that they are unable to identify the tribe(s) to consult. Therefore, Indian tribes are unaware of proposed projects until it is too late to have a voice in the decision making process and, thus, preserve their cultural, historical, and spiritual sites, as part of their community’s heritage.

Project Description:

The project will develop information from several sources which identifies Native American tribes which have requested to be consulted with, in accordance with Section 106 and Section 101 of the NHPA. This information from the tribes will be presented in a comprehensive set of GIS-based maps and/or interactive spatial data which will define areas of tribal interest in consultation on a county by county basis in each state, and will include contact information for each participating tribe. The project involves a pilot demonstration area composed of three states: Colorado, Louisiana and New Mexico, which taken together represent tribal participants

numbering around eighty-five federally recognized tribes.

This pilot demonstration project lays the groundwork, and is a necessary first step, for future planned extensions of the lessons learned, partnership potential, and application of information dissemination combined with the resulting consultation on a national level. Other objectives include: (1) encouraging tribal leaders to express their tribal sovereignty issues of historic properties off tribal lands in a positive program of discussion and dialogue with the federal agencies; (2) develop bonds of cooperation between communities affected by federal actions; and, (3) document through a user-friendly database system such geographic areas of tribal interest within state and country jurisdictions for future planning purposes.

The project will enhance information sharing among interested parties, capitalize on lessons learned, and identify future needs for participating tribal communities, federal agencies, states and local communities. This project will address the critical need for federal agencies, and those taking federal actions, to appropriately identify and consult with the tribes who may be impacted by the proposed federal action. This has been an ongoing challenge and difficulty for those seeking to implement the intent of several federal laws, especially the NHPA and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Partners:

Federal:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation
U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Southern Region
National Park Service

States:

Colorado: Colorado Historical Society, Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs, and Colorado Department of Transportation
Louisiana: Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism; and, Louisiana Department of Development and Transportation.
New Mexico: Office of Cultural Affairs; and New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Tribes:

Tribes located in three pilot states (Colorado, New Mexico, Louisiana); and tribes affiliated with intertribal organizations, such as United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) and the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma; individual tribes who express desire to participate.

Contacts:

Robert D. Bush, Project Manager, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 303-969-5110, rbush@achp.gov
Cathy Glidden, Federal Highway Administration, US Department of Transportation, 202-366-2655, cathy.glidden@igate.fhwa.gov

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
Tribal Wind Power – A Viable Strategy for Community
Revitalization and Capacity

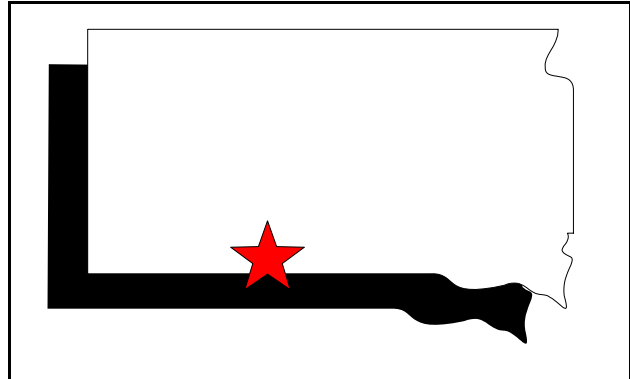
Intertribal Council on Utility Policy

Rosebud, South Dakota

Vision and Purpose:

Over the past ten years, a confederation of tribes in the Northern Great Plains has brought a visionary plan to harness wind energy for tribal economic development from a dream to reality. The Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (ICOUP), a confederation of federally recognized tribes in the Northern Great Plains, has completed the unprecedented installation of a 750 kW wind turbine to be owned and operated by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. In partnership with federal agencies, ICOUP seeks

to demonstrate that the development of wind energy can be a viable strategy to provide for future economic, cultural and community revitalization through the development of sustainable homeland tribal economies. By promoting renewable energy generation to federal and private markets within and beyond the region, the project also helps meet the Nation's need for renewable, clean and environmentally safe energy sources. As President Bush stated in Executive Order 13212, *"The increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of all American people."*



Background:

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe is a federally recognized American Indian tribe whose reservation homeland sits in the plains west of the Missouri River in South Dakota, on the northern border of Nebraska. These vast windswept grasslands were once home to countless millions of buffalo, which provided the basis for the historical Lakota economy. In the 1800's, the near extinction of the buffalo and settlement of the Great Plains by miners, ranchers and farmers forced the Plains Indian peoples on to a series of small reservations held in federal trust. In the 1900's, the settlers' economy required the harnessing of the Missouri River for irrigation, flood control and hydropower. Tribal lands, including sacred sites, traditional hunting and fishing grounds, were flooded by the huge reservoirs, while towering high voltage electric transmission lines were strung across the lands, carrying electricity and the power to the regional economies beyond the reservation boundaries.

The contemporary economic challenges facing the Northern Great Plains Tribes are enormous. For the 15,400 tribal members on the Rosebud Reservation, the per capita income is the second lowest in the United States, after that on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Unemployment ranges from 65% to 80%. An *Indian Country Today* article reported that 29% of the people on the Rosebud Reservation are homeless, and 59% live in substandard housing.

Wind power can serve as an alternative energy source and reduce the disparate impacts of hydropower development. Power from the wind is clean, reliable and inexhaustible, and compatible with tribal cultural values. Tribal ownership and operation of wind turbine clusters will assure the protection of cultural resources in the siting and construction of the facilities. Tribal ownership will assure that the economic benefits of this development accrue to the Tribe. And the benefits of clean air and energy will promote a health environment both on the reservation and to those communities residing downwind.

Since 1995, both the Rosebud Sioux and the other tribes which form Intertribal Council On Utility Policy (COUP) have been committed to the tribal development of the wind resources found on the twenty larger Indian reservations on the Northern Great Plains, which have been estimated to exceed several hundred gigawatts in wind power potential. For a perspective on the vastness of this resource, the installed electrical generation capacity of the entire United States from all sources of energy is approximately 600 gigawatts.

Project Description:

This tribal wind power demonstration project will serve as a tribally generated road map to meet the challenge of tribally owned and controlled renewable energy development. This plan is designed to revitalize tribal communities and economies across the Northern Great Plains through clean energy generation. The project will proceed in five distinct but interrelated phases. The first involves the installation of a single 750 kw utility scale wind turbine. In the second phase, the tribe will: 1) develop a commercial wind farm (approximately 50 megawatts in size) with power to be sold to at least one of the three utilities in the region, 2) collect data at the 50 meter tower level across all participating reservations, and 3) promote intertribal wind development among all the reservations of the Northern Great Plains. In addition, the project intends to prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to address tribal cultural resource and environmental protection concerns. The third phase is the distribution phase, wherein up to 80 additional megawatts of new wind power will be developed across all eight of the Intertribal COUP reservations in North and South Dakota. Development at this scale will provide the reservations with a self-sufficient source of clean energy. In phase four, each participating reservation will have the opportunity to explore the expansion of the 10 megawatt clusters to 50 megawatt installations. In the final stage, which is beyond the scope of this project, the plan is to replicate this project in other areas.

This plan was designed to revitalize tribal communities and economies across the Northern Great Plains through clean energy generation. It provides guidance and obtainable goals through the stage-by-stage realization of a five-year comprehensive plan for the transition to tribally-controlled sustainable homeland economic development. This development will be based upon the integration of renewable wind energy into the existing federal electrical grid. This project is intended to provide for future tribal economic, cultural and community revitalization.

Partners:

Federal:

Department of Energy (DOE)
Department of the Interior (DOI)
Department of Defense (DOD)
Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Tribal:

Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (ICOUP)

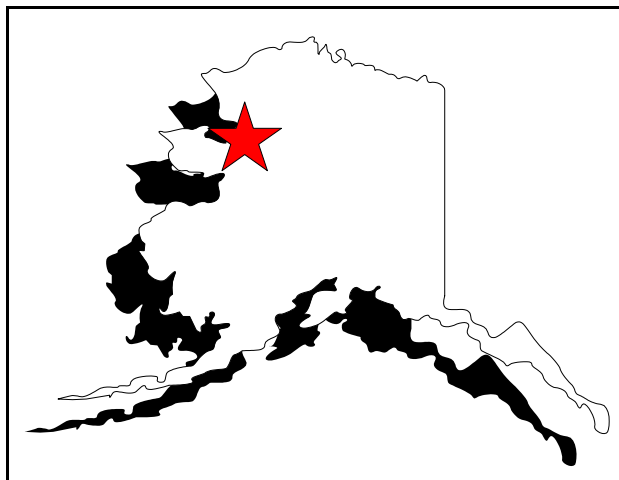
Contacts:

Patrick Spears, Intertribal Council on Utility Policy, 605-945-1908, pnspears2@aol.com
Bob Gough, Intertribal Council on Utility Policy, 303-384-7110, rpgough@aol.com
Melinda Downing, US Department of Energy, 202-586-7703, Melinda.Downing@em.doe.gov
Steve Palomo, Wind Powering America, DOE Denver Regional Office, 303-275-4838, steve.palomo@ee.doe.gov
Deldi Reyes, US Environmental Protection Agency, 303-312-6055, reyes.deldi@epa.gov

Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Revitalization Project
Effective Solid Waste Management for the Native Village of Selawik
Native Village of Selawik Selawik, Alaska

Vision and Purpose:

This project addresses the critical and ongoing solid and hazardous waste sanitation problems in the Native Village of Selawik, Alaska. Institutionally, the project is bringing stakeholders into closer partnership, and strengthening recently formed valuable cross-stakeholder relationships to reduce the human health threats. The project lays the groundwork, and is a necessary step, for future planned revitalization projects.



Background:

Selawik is an Inupiat Eskimo community located north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska. Of the 770 residents, 95% of the population are Alaska Native or part Native. Seventy-eight percent of Selawik's residents depend on subsistence hunting and fishing for at least half of their diets. Due to a marshy tundra and risk of tundra degradation, residents are confined to a system of connecting boardwalks during the summer months.

Like most village dumps, the Selawik Dump is unlined, unstaffed, and unfenced. Community residents use "honey buckets" (five gallon plastic buckets) as their means of collecting, transporting, and dumping human waste. The dump drains directly to a creek that enters the Selawik River, which supplies the town's drinking water. In addition, downstream from the open dump are several community fish camps.

Project Description:

The proposed project has two primary logistical stages: the construction of a landfill, and the cleanup and closure of the existing dump site. In addition to the two stages of the project, the partners also have several objectives of the proposal. Those that are health-related include making sure that the new landfill is approved by the Village Council and City government of Selawik, and that it meets the State of Alaska permit requirements. In addition, the project will seek to ensure that the closing of the current dump site will not harm any of the water reserves or the future economic plans of Selawik. The plan is to develop the capacity of the Selawik Environmental Department to oversee both projects while protecting public health and socio-cultural well-being. Other objectives include: 1) encouraging community-based involvement, 2) developing interagency working relations to address additional public health and socio-cultural problems, and 3) documenting the procedures used and lessons learned to enable other Native villages in Alaska to benefit from the project.

Since this project will significantly improve the town's environment, it is expected that the community's pride will be enhanced, cultural values will be strengthened, cultural traditions will increase, public health will improve, and an eco-tourism economic base will be able to be developed.

Partners:

Federal:

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Indian Health Service
Fish and Wildlife Service

Local/Tribal/State:

Alaska Department of Transportation, Alaska Department of Environment and Conservation Solid Waste Program, State of Alaska Lt. Governor's Office, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Manillaq Association
NANA Regional Corporation, Northwest Arctic School District, Northwest Arctic Borough

Contacts:

Raven Sheldon, Selawik Environment Department, 907-484-2165, rpsheeldon@maniilaq.org
Joseph Sarcone, EPA, Rural Sanitation Program, 907-271-1316, sarcone.joseph@epa.gov
Kristin Holzinger, BIA, Alaska Field Office, 907-586-7423