

**U.S. EPA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT CALL  
February 17, 2021**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
We are working on an EJ mapping tool and are interested to hear about other state's mapping tools. Thanks :)	Wonderful, you will hear about that later in the call!
I just wanted to say how wonderful it is to hear and see Matthew and all the other EJ advocates again. Thank you for your dedication to a better future for us all.	Thank you so much Emily!
I handle both federal and state funding in WA State. My agency is coordinating agency regulations for EJ & Title VI. Our state is moving EJ related regulations through legislation. I am not sure if any changes are being made to EO 12898 for federal loans. What is the EPA doing to help coordinate these different layers of regulations, which can be confusing to grant and loan recipients?	live answered
How will the federal government define a "Disadvantaged Community" as mentioned in several executive orders?	live answered
In the Fore River Basin of MA, we want you to be aware of the permitting of a 7700hp Enbridge compressor station in an urban area, immediately adjacent to environmental justice communities, in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. We'd appreciate your help in evaluating and stopping this project, which risks the health and safety of thousands of people in EJ communities, along with environmental impacts. How can we go about that with the new Administration? Thank you. (The Rev. Betsy J. Sowers, Weymouth, MA revbetsy1@gmail.com)	Hi Betsy, I will pass along this information to the office and we will be in touch. Thank you.
Bonita Green, President, Merrick-Moore Community. Rural areas in my city have old state roads (no sidewalks) that have not been invested in in a very long time. Dense development is rapidly being pushed through which will increase the danger on these roads for pedestrians, bicycles and cars. What can be done to put pressure on elected officials to invest in these roads?	Durham, NC
Does Biden have plans to stop the Line 3 Pipeline?	Hi Kali, thank you for your question. I will pass your question on to our team.

Question	Response
<p>Good afternoon and good morning. I worked at FAA Headquarters for several years on aviation environmental policy. Would love to hear how EPA will be collaborating with the FAA on advancing environmental justice related to policy, metrics, and definitions of "significant impacts."</p>	<p>FAA joined the Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group (EJIWG) that EPA has piloted alongside other Departments &amp; Agencies on policy issues. EPA &amp; FAA have worked together in some of our western Regional offices concerning NEPA analyses involving underserved communities. We are examining metrics and definitions of significant impacts and many other terms that are part of our regulatory programs and also those that appear in the EO 12898. We are looking forward to further collaboration with FAA on the broader transportation and equity issues as well. Thanks for you interest. Please feel free to follow-up by contacting me at johnson.sabrina@epa.gov</p>
<p>Do you know what the Justice40 Initiative will look like (under President Biden's Executive Order)? If so, can you provide any insight?</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>It would be wonderful if we could get a recap of presenters' names and positions :)</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. A meeting summary will be available later with this information on our website here in the near future:  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-public-engagement-calls">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-public-engagement-calls</a></p>
<p>Given the recent HUD Inspector General report noting HUD's continued failure to properly train its staff and oversee environmental reviews for public housing sites and federally-funded housing, how will NEJAC ensure that EPA is working proactively with other agencies, like HUD, to ensure robust, resourced, and expert environmental review is being done in the context of their programs, both when conducted or overseen by that agency?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. Please submit your comment to the NEJAC during the next public meeting. Details about registering for public comment and attending the next public meeting can be found here <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-meetings">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-meetings</a></p>
<p>Could you please update us on the overall status of EO 12898 and subsequent orders? Thank you!</p>	<p>This will occur during the call. Thank you!</p>
<p>What all does that 40% of investments capture? Does it apply to USDA and DOI agencies that manage land?</p>	<p>Thank you for your questions. I will pass along to our team.</p>
<p>A report was developed using information from our work, the WLATS report. It was used as if your work was new, using this as a foundation for critical analyses. You did not contact the folks that did it. Is this the way you will be doing projects, you have already made a negative step with stakeholders</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. This will be passed along for further consideration. UPDATE: West Louisville [KY] Air Toxics Study?</p>

Question	Response
<p>EPA has recently awarded \$220 million to three companies under the \$1 billion Tronox settlement to clean up approximately 200 abandoned uranium mines. What is the public involvement plan for the communities most impacted by these cleanup efforts? Navajo Nation government has not been communicating with the villages and only limitedly with the Chapter Houses. There really needs to be direct communication with local impacted communities. How will they be exposed to potential toxic dust and materials during the cleanup projects? Do the communities understand the health consequences to long term exposure to uranium and other toxic metals produced during mining operations? Are their water supplies protected? This is a huge hole in this huge cleanup project which will take decades to complete. What is the commitment that EPA will make to educate and protect these environmental justice communities.</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>Will EO 14008 include climate migration within the U.S?</p>	<p>You can find more details about E.O. 14008 by following this link  <a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/01/2021-02177/tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad">https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/01/2021-02177/tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad</a></p>
<p>Good afternoon and good morning - meant to put my name. I worked at FAA Headquarters for several years on aviation environmental policy. Would love to hear how EPA will be collaborating with the FAA on advancing environmental justice related to policy, metrics, and definitions of "significant impacts."</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>From Ms.Margaret Gordon this staff has not made in specific statements of change some of us heard the same discussion over 20 years ago</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>will the slides or a recording be available afterwards?</p>	<p>Yes, all slides and the recording will be available in the near future following the call. Thank you!</p>

Question	Response
<p>How, will the EPA determine that they are speaking with the “affected” community-led leadership and not advocacy groups that proclaim they represent us or as they say represent our “issues” for they plump our communities for in that they may gain “grant” funding. For example “ajustclimate” with Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy Cecilia Martinez that list groups without there permission that sit on the CEQ advises the President then they add the owner of that website from the Center for American Progress and now on the Commissions... These advocacy groups run a farse on communities for which nothing has changed. We where in the room with the Biden Information then the community-led leaders where kicked out and the WeActs, WERA, and all those involved in the Ej Leadership Alliance Listserve... the utiized communitis. And this goes on and on... The farse is now in the “White House”. So how can we be sure this will change and communities sit at the table of there own?</p>	<p>Put forward for Matt to answer</p>
<p>Is this presentation going to be available for meeting participants?</p>	<p>Yes, it will be available on our website in the near future</p>
<p>Though the plan may not yet be defined, will EPA engage other Federal agencies in environmental justice &amp; equity? For example, I work at another Federal agency and believe that stronger cross-agency collaboration for these issues on the staff level (not just leadership) would benefit all Americans.</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>Hello! Can someone speak to the need for EPA's waste hierachy to be augmented? Specifically, how trash incineration, primarily located in communities of color, should be removed entirely?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment Dante. I will pass this along to our team.</p>
<p>in support of Ms Margaret's call to center community based wisdom in the design and governance of ej programming, I hope to hear specific strategies that not only call out community leadership but which FUND community partners to show up. We've been in to many Free Meetings where one side of the table is agency staff are being paid to be there and the community is there volunteering to actually deliver the agency's mission.</p>	<p>Thank you Matt, this is a really important comment. I will pass this along to our team to discuss.</p>

Question	Response
<p>I am the leader of a citizens organization fighting the operation of a new methane gas compressor station in the Fore River Basin of MA. One of our members had requested "overburdened community" status from the EPA over 13 years ago. We have EJ populations surrounding the Basin and polluters have continued to be placed in our communities. 13 years ago the EPA said they didn't see a problem with all of the polluters in our communities. Hearing the words "legacy pollution" really perked up my ears. This is what we are dealing with and we have dealt with an EPA and a MassDEP that truly worked to place yet another dangerous and polluting facility in our communities. Our story is likely not unique, but how can the EPA help us now that, in this case, another polluting facility has been placed in our midst after a 6 year battle to prevent it? Can you help us to stop its operation? Can you help us to prevent another polluting facility from setting up shop here?</p>	<p>Hi Alice, thank you for your comment and question. As a first step, I suggest reaching out to your EPA Region 1 EJ Coordinator: Marcus Holmes (holmes.marcus@epa.gov)</p>
<p>The last speaker mentioned EJ legal tools. I'm familiar with the EJ Screen tool but not familiar with EJ legal tools. Did I mishear? If not, can he expound please?</p>	<p>ANSWER #1: Are you referring to Mr. Charles Lee? ANSWER #2: EJ Legal Tools is a document developed under Plan EJ 2014 that provides a comprehensive suite of statutory and regulatory authorities to address EJ issues</p>
<p>like new versions of k7 for more division areas than just brownfields</p>	
<p>Is there a body or organization for the exchange of progressive / human-friendly state-level legislation (not ALEC, but ALEC-Like)? Lessons learned, etc...</p>	
<p>What is the process for joining the White House Environmental Justice Council?</p>	<p>The process has not yet been finalized. Apologies, we don't have more information at this time.</p>
<p>Good afternoon, what is the EPA doing to assist educators implementing environmental justice education content? Is the EPA sharing pedagogies that encourage students to analyze systemic injustices and then know how to work towards dismantling those environmental injustices? Are there educator voices in this conversation?</p>	<p>Hi there, please reach out to Rosemary Enobakhare at Enobakhare.Rosemary@epa.gov. She works in the EPA's Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education (OPEEE). She would love to engage on this topic!</p>
<p>Could someone explain the practical difference between an Executive Order, Executive Memorandum, and Executive Directive.</p>	<p>Hi Jeremy. Unfortunately, we won't have time to address that on this call. I did a google search and found some helpful resources.</p>

Question	Response
<p>In much of the proposed rules, laws and regulations it seems that discussions concerning stakeholders omit local businesses. Many businesses serving infrastructure have long existed in neighborhoods that fall into the definition of EJ Communities. Shouldn't stakeholder involvement include these businesses in a collaborative effort to improve communities? Perhaps involvement of businesses will not only educate the business community on EJ issues but also create greater collective engagement. Many business leaders care about EJ issues and recognize its critical importance.</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>Can you speak to the differences between NEJAC and the WH EJ Advisory Council and how they might partner/work together?</p>	<p>EPA looks forward to the establishment of a White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council pursuant to EO 14008. The White House council will not only bring greater visibility to EJ issues across the federal government, but will provide EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council with an excellent partner for providing horizon-expanding EJ advice and recommendations to our government's leadership. As EPA learns more details about how we will support the formation of the White House council, we are continuing to support the consistent management of NEJAC, including with our annual membership recruitment process and convening public meetings.</p>
<p>Where's the discussion of civil rights, the problem one size fit all, many USEPA don't know practice EJ in their day to day work</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>I work on federal and state water policy issues. There is a big Tennessee pipeline project that's being jammed through Memphis without an EIS or public input. How do I best work with your office to raise EJ concerns affecting the Southeast and EJ communities/disadvantaged communities? I would enjoy working with your office to ensure consistency of Biden's EO and coordination with other federal agencies to protect public health.</p>	<p>Hi Jaime, my suggestion would be to work with your Region 4 EJ coordinator: Tami Thomas-Burton (thomas-burton.tami@epa.gov)</p>
<p>As a resident of the southeast ( Charlotte NC) I have observed many environmental infractions in the communities deemed as "Sarafice Zones." Most of these communities of marginalized or rural such as infraction involving biogas in agricultural farming. What is the administration doing to abolish these practices and language.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment and question Rosa. I would suggest reaching out to your EPA Region 4 EJ Coordinator: Tami Thomas-Burton (thomas-burton.tami@epa.gov)</p>

Question	Response
Following up to some of these earlier questions, as the EPA considered the development of a nationwide MOU or Programmatic Agreement for the implementation of EJ with consultation of federal and non-federal tribes?	live answered
My name is Brandi Crawford-Johnson. I have been working with the EJ program in Region 5 and leading the EJ movement in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I have filed a class action lawsuit against a major polluter who is currently expanding despite high respiratory disease in my front line community. I have also recently filed a civil rights complaint against my city for discrimination in zoning. I encourage other advocates to use these tools. Will the EPA be prosecuting polluters?	Glad Matt could answer your question
How will you work with federal agencies that don't traditionally work in the EJ space like USGS and USFWS incorporate EJ?	
How can EPA support civil society initiatives for transformation of the Puerto Rico electric system to promote rooftop and on-site solar + storage, energy efficiency, literacy programs and move away from central station fossil-fueled generation that disproportionately impact environmental justice communities and centralized transmission and distribution?	Hi Ruth thank you for your question. I suggest reaching out to your EPA Region 2 EJ Coordinator as a first step: Towana Joseph (joseph.towana@epa.gov)
Will there be more EJ jobs created in each region/state/office to meet the demands of EJ Implementation?	Hi there. We are always hopeful to onboard more EJ staff. It is a top priority and we are working towards it at the moment.
My fence-line community is a majority minority, low-income, rural community with a nuclear plant, coal-power plant, a paper plant, and a fiber-glass plant in SC. Who can Community leaders meet with to talk about environmental issues in our community?	Hi Robert, thank you for your comment and question. I will pass along to our team.
What role does the federal government envision playing in moving to ensure that environmental organizations and the field are representative of the communities they serve and that BIPOC are leading? Green 2.0's recent report found that across environmental non-governmental organizations and foundations the number of BIPOC in leadership positions and at the table in those organizations are still extremely low and their voices are ignored.	live answered

Question	Response
<p>Díganos qué está haciendo para involucrar y empoderar a los grupos comunitarios en torno a la justicia ambiental. Me refiero específicamente a las oportunidades de financiación, sabiendo que muchas comunidades de color están comenzando desde un nivel diferente de conciencia. Por tanto, se necesitan más dólares para crear conciencia. [ENGLISH: Tell us what you are doing to engage and empower community groups around environmental justice. I am referring specifically to funding opportunities, knowing that many communities of color are starting from a different level of awareness. So more dollars are needed to raise awareness.]</p>	<p>Hola Abel,  Gracias por tu pregunta. Tenemos una beca/fondos con el Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) que es dirigida a comunidades pequeña. Una solicitud va a salir en los próximos meses. Puede conseguir mas información:  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources</a>  Voy a anotar su otra pregunta, y la pasare al equipo apropiado.  Gracias</p>
<p>It sounds like there are 3 councils/leadership boards being created or reinvigorated through CEQ and EPA. How will all of these work together? Who should we be in touch with to bring our regional (Gulf Coast) issues to?</p>	<p>These 3 groups are still working out their relationships. For your Gulf Coast question, I suggest reaching out to the EPA Region 4 and 6 EJ Coordinators: Tami Thomas-Burton (<a href="mailto:thomas-burton.tami@epa.gov">thomas-burton.tami@epa.gov</a>) and Gloria Vaughn (<a href="mailto:vaughn.gloria@epa.gov">vaughn.gloria@epa.gov</a>)</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to engage with EPA on environmental justice, I am the Tribal Attorney for Bay Mills Indian Community. Indigenous communities historically and presently are disproportionately affected by climate change and the ongoing pipeline battles littered across the United States. Bay Mills is a signatory to the 1836 Treaty of Washington, which ceded 14 million acres of land to the United States in exchange for off-reservation treaty rights. As an acting body of the federal government, EPA must ensure the protection of tribal and individual Indian lands, assets, resources, and treaty and similarly recognized rights as part of its trust responsibility to Tribal Nations. The EPA is an active party to a Consent Decree with Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership, due to the Kalamazoo oil spill where 1 million gallons of oil were sent into the Kalamazoo River. However, that Consent Decree includes the entire Enbridge Energy Lakehead System – including Line 5 and Line 3.</p>	<p>Hi Whitney, thank you for your comment. I will pass this along to our team.</p>
<p>To date, EPA has not consulted or included Tribal Nations in the Consent Decree negotiations with Enbridge. Does EPA plan to include Tribal Nations moving forward? Consult with Tribal Nations and their concerns regarding Line 5 in the Great Lakes? Or at the bare minimum promise to protect Tribal Nation treaty rights at stake throughout the Enbridge Energy Lakehead System?</p>	



Question	Response
<p>Heired property has become a prominent EJ issue in rural communities confronted by pipeline projects. Legacy landowners are faced with misuse of eminent domain power. Could EPA provide help in this area? We are an NGO with directly-affected members dealing with this now in SC, NC and VA. Louis Zeller, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment and question. I will pass along to our team.</p>
<p>I lived in the community 40 years, then moved, a few miles. My family is still there. I visit on a regular basis, my church is there, my friends are there. Are you saying I can't speak for the community I grew up with, especially since I work in this arena. I was more exposed to pollution than many of those who want to now represent.</p>	<p>Hi Arnita, I am sorry for your frustration we always want to listen and engage with all stakeholders May I inquire what we said or did to make you think otherwise?</p>
<p>Community don't need Public Engagement the need is to specific engagement for local problems of EJ, PH and Equaity</p>	
<p>What is being done with the radioactive mud and wastewater from hydraulic fracturing? Are people living nearby being warned in their own language of potential harmful leakage.</p>	
<p>How many of you work in your communities. As EPA reps, are you saying you can't speak on behalf of these communities. I know your concerns but you take away assistance, concerns, and participation from the entire community who wants to and knows how and has the capabilities to make a difference.</p>	<p>Hi Arnita. We have our EPA EJ Regional Coordinators who live and work in the areas being affected. If you let me know where you live, I can provide you with the contact info for your EJ Regional Coordinator.</p>
<p>could you talk a little about how EPA will address the cumulative impacts related to EJ communities. Specific environmental issues are often exacerbated by the numerous other social justice issues that impact communities of concern.</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>'@Christina, yes I've read EO14008, but there is no mention of internal climate displacement/migration. This is a topic that must be addressed but haven't seen a mention in the other EOs or elsewhere in the Biden Admin priorities</p>	<p>Unfortunately we don't have any more information about the EO then what is in the text itself as of right now.</p>
	<p>Thank you for your question. I will pass along to our team for consideration</p>
<p>Re my suggestion for discussion of "T6 as tool for EJ", appreciate Matt's noting that discussions are underway among various offices, but missing a core aspect of my suggestion, which is that those discussions also include advocates, people like those of us on this call. Would like to hear initial thoughts soon so we (outside the agency) can start fo have some affect on those discussions. Thank you.</p>	<p>Forwarded to EPA External Civil Rights Compliance Office</p>

Question	Response
As a follow-up to the Safer Choice question, it's important to note that many people who use cleaners, including people who clean houses and buildings come from EJ communities.	Thank you for your comment
Given the recent HUD Inspector General report noting HUD's continued failure to properly train its staff and oversee environmental reviews for public housing sites and federally-funded housing, how will EPA work proactively with other agencies, like HUD, to ensure robust, resourced, and expert environmental review is being done in the context of their programs, both when conducted or overseen by that agency?	live answered
What was that EPA EJ email address to cc when contacting Matthew?	environmental-justice@epa.gov
Flagging three critical issues: (1) improving substantially the meaningful consultation with tribal nations and efforts to honor the US treaty obligations, including protecting the Great Lakes and the rights of Bay Mills Indian Community and other tribal nations from the risks of Enbridge's Line 5 pipelines, (2) increasing enforcement of violations of environmental laws in overburdened communities such as Centreville, IL, where Black community members are suffering from failing sewage and stormwater infrastructure and no government entity has acted yet, and (3) improve coordination with HUD at Superfund sites--preventing more situations like East Chicago where residents were moved into public housing without knowing that the housing was on top of a listed Superfund site where extreme levels of lead and arsenic were found (even though government agencies did know about the contamination).	
How can title vi assist in the protection of valuable African American Cultural property / bioarchaeology ? my name is Tammy Hilburn with RAD/OE. As a cultural property crime specialist previously at Interpol Washington with a background in archaeology and egyptology. As a cultural property crime analyst, my interest in title vi is specific to the intersection of CRM and ERM and how environmental racism impacts bioarchaeological representation. I'm interested in how 106 processes can be strengthened under NEPA in order to protect valuable bioarchaeological resources that are predated upon through the mechanisms of environmental racism. I'm currently working on problems related to two african/african american cemeteries in maryland and west virginia that also include components of environmental racism.	Forwarded to EPA External Civil Rights Compliance Office

Question	Response
<p>In defining "disadvantaged", the EPA EJ team needs to include indigeneous communities that are not federally recognized. These communities are important, disproportionatley impacted people that deserve care and attention and resources.</p>	
<p>Most, if not all, EPA Regions have an environmental justice coordinator on staff to coordinate directly with communities. How do you anticipate the Biden Executive Orders will impact the great work they have been doing? Specifically, will they be given more resources? Will the ranks be expanded? Put another way, how will HQ capitalize on the work already being done on the ground as it thinks about delivering on the directives of the executive orders?</p>	live answered
<p>How can advocates get additional oversight from EPA regional offices when permits are issued by states that present particular risks to communities impacted by environmental justice issues? Certain states seem oblivious to environmental justice as an issue and we are excited to learn more about whether EPA can be an ally in providing oversight of problematic permits.</p>	
<p>I'm Jennifer King with Rural Agricultural Defenders &amp; Operation Equity. RAD is based in WV &amp; we filed a Title VI complaint against several WV state &amp; local agencies on behalf of the African/African American Boyd Carter Memorial Cemetery. A result &amp; discovery of our Title VI complaint was that the WV Dept. of Environmental protection didn't have any non-discriminations &amp; has been accepting millions of federal monies for decades without these policies in place. Our allegations of discrimination were not investigated &amp; the WVDEP entered into an IRA to establish the much needed policies, However, we feel that the WVDEP got a "get out of jail free card". EPA federal recipients not having non-discrimination policies is a huge historical problem, especially in WV. Are there plans to correct these issues?</p>	Forwarded to EPA External Civil Rights Compliance Office
<p>Followup to coal ash inquiry: How much attention is being given to the potential impact of radiological contaminants in coal ash especially since the half lives of some of radionuclides and their progeny could present threats to public heath for decades?</p>	
<p>The issue of "Sarafice Zone" is not a regional term it is a national framing industry uses when contaminations are injected into communites. This has to be address on a federal level..not state. This is happening in VA , NC and many other states. Uranium mining,,, Agriculture farm biogas..etc. I work for the Sierra Club and I track these infractions.</p>	live answered

Question	Response
Will there be more SEJCA grants?	All information for EJ Grants are available here: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance</a> . Upcoming grants will also be announced via our listserv, which you can join by sending a blank email to: <a href="mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov">join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov</a>
What was the general email to cc along with the email to Matthew?	<a href="mailto:environmental-justice@epa.gov">environmental-justice@epa.gov</a>
In line with Frank Holloman's comment, could EPA revisit the RCRA rulemaking on coal ash waste? Because of its sheer volume, coal combustion residuals (CCR) disposition would be better managed as its own category, not Subtitle D.	
If anyone needs any info on my research or legal and doctor contacts, please email me. If you need help in filing civil rights complaints I could also assist with that. We are all a family with the same goal! Please email me <a href="mailto:bcrawfordkc@gmail.com">bcrawfordkc@gmail.com</a> . I would be happy to help any advocates or government officials to achieve EJ in any way!	Thank you Brandi!
Jacob, are state grants eligible for match?	State governments are not eligible for the upcoming EJ grants opportunities. However, state governments are encouraged to partner with a non-profit or tribal government. A partner can still receive some of our EJ grant funding through contracts and/or subawards from the lead non-profit on the project. No match or cost share is required on our EJ grants. However, applicants are free to propose a voluntary match.
Are universities eligibel for the EJ grants as 'non profits'?	No, colleges and universities are not eligible to apply to the upcoming EJ grant opportunities. However, colleges and universities are encouraged to partner with a non-profit or tribal government. A partner can still receive some of our EJ grant funding through contracts and/or subawards from the lead non-profit on the project. So, please partner with an eligible non-profit or tribal government.
Where can I find more information on the next NEJAC meeting?	Learn more about NEJAC public meetings: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-meetings">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-meetings</a>
Will EJ communities as established under previous definitions and criteria, and as mapped via the available EJ tools be reevaluated based on new definitions and criteria? This may be helpful to see shifts or changes in the location and size of these communities.	

Question	Response
Where can I find information on NEJAC Membership?	<p>Learn more about NEJAC public meetings:  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-meetings">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-meetings</a>.            Apologies, please go here: Learn more about nominations to NEJAC:  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/nominations-nejac">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/nominations-nejac</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Nomination applications are due March 24, 2021</li> <li>o 7 vacancies               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Community-based organizations (2 vacancies)</li> <li>§ State and Local (2 vacancies)</li> <li>§ Tribal governments/ Indigenous organizations (1 vacancy)</li> <li>§ NGOs (1 vacancy)</li> <li>§ Academia (1 vacancy)</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Focusing on Regions 1, 2,7,8,9 and 10, but accepting applications from across the country</li> </ul>
<p>Please add extreme heat/urban heat island and tree canopy to EJ screen in future updates.</p> <p>LOVE EJ Screen, such a great tool. Thanks!!</p>	Thanks for the comment!
Will there be opportunities for community/stakeholder training for EJ SCREEN?	<p>We do not currently have any EJSCREEN public training sessions scheduled. However, there are a wealth of EJSCREEN training resources on the EPA website at: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen">https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen</a>. We would also be happy to work with your community to provide training on the tool. Please reach out to Tai Lung at <a href="mailto:lung.tai@epa.gov">lung.tai@epa.gov</a> to schedule some time to talk about the tool and training.</p>
Thank you for linking climate justice and environmental justice.	
Are EPA Grants given in arrears, do EJ groups need to pay upfront and then get reimbursed...this will not help EJ groups already strapped under strained circumstances.	<p>Once our EJ grants are awarded, each grantee has access to ALL funding for that grant. Grantees are encouraged to drawdown from their total grant funding on a reimbursable basis. However, given the dire circumstances organizations and communities are under due to the pandemic, we provide a lot of flexibility to our grant recipients based on their needs.</p>
The IWG Flyer is so busy, I'm sorry I can't see the information. Can this be sent to me.	<p>All slides and information will be available on our website shortly after the call. If you would like it asap, please email <a href="mailto:environmental-justice@epa.gov">environmental-justice@epa.gov</a></p>
How do I sign up for EJ Listserv?	<p>For up-to-date information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to:  <a href="mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov">join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov</a></p>

Question	Response
Will/can these slides be emailed out after this meeting over? I would like to share with some folks who can't make weekday meetings. (Sorry if you already answered this). Thanks!	All the meeting materials and the recordings will be made available shortly after the meeting!
Is there a link to register for the Webinar for Indigenous Peoples? Thank you.	<p>Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Webinar Series</p> <p>For more information about the Tribal and Indigenous Peoples webinar series, please contact Daniel Gogal, EPA OEJ, Gogal.Danny@epa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The webinars are anticipated to be held monthly.</li> </ul> <p>Upcoming webinars topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ EPA Tribal Partnership Groups, highlighting the National Tribal Air Association and interest in Environmental Justice, scheduled for March 11, 2021: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (PT), 2:30 – 4:00 PM (ET)</li> <li>§ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Learn more about EPA's tribal and indigenous peoples and environmental justice programs, visit: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Where do we sign up for the speaker series?	Register for the upcoming Mapping Inequality Project session scheduled for March 4, 2021 at Noon Eastern: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-mapping-inequality-project-tickets-136940963107">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-mapping-inequality-project-tickets-136940963107</a> .
where do we sign up to the ej and systemic racism speaker series?	Register for the upcoming Mapping Inequality Project session scheduled for March 4, 2021 at Noon Eastern: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-mapping-inequality-project-tickets-136940963107">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-mapping-inequality-project-tickets-136940963107</a> . To learn about upcoming calls, please join our EJ listserv by sending a blank email to: <a href="mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov">join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov</a>
Hello, does the NEJAC make space for educators, especially since the environment and education are two major platforms under the new administration? Also, your site asks, "How can EPA effectively engage with youth on climate change and adaptation planning?" I believe educators could provide powerful insights	<p>Thank you for your question and comment. The NEJAC currently has one vacancy in academia. You can find more information about NEJAC Membership <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/nominations-nejac">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/nominations-nejac</a></p> <p>Also please consider attending the next NEJAC public meeting and submit your comment during the public comment period. Information about the next NEJAC public meeting will be posted here <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-meetings">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council-meetings</a></p>
Is the "State" EJ training available to local CAA agencies? How can local agencies get invited to the conversation?	If CAA is Clean Air Act, the answer is yes. It is available to everyone and meant for all practitioners not just agency staff.
I am in Region 4. will any of the monthly calls or meetings include reoccurring roundtable reports where each Region gives an overview of current EJ issues and initiatives specific to States in each region?	Hi, that is a great question. We are just relaunching these calls and are open to suggestion on how they should be structured. Please submit any ideas to <a href="mailto:environmental-justice@epa.gov">environmental-justice@epa.gov</a>

Question	Response
Do you have any information for how to nominate individuals who wish to serve on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council?	Unfortunately we do not have information on this at this time.
How does an EJ practitioner get alerted about the state training? This would have been helpful.	Hi there. The info on state trainings visit: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-and-local-government">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-and-local-government</a> . We also make announcements via the EJ Listserv. subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: <a href="mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov">join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov</a>
'+++++ Mrs. Gordon	
Thank you Ms. Margaret Gordon!!!!	
Yes, we need remedies!!!!!!	
is there a list of participants so we can partner and network with participants? Margaret Gordon is amazing. Margaret my email for Operation Equity is <a href="mailto:th@oe-us.org">th@oe-us.org</a> . we would love to work with you asap	
Will this Webinar be available for viewing later?	Yes, the webinar recording and materials will be available in the near future following the call here: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-public-engagement-calls">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-public-engagement-calls</a>
How can groups figure out who to talk with in the new Administration in the Regional offices about pressing, local, environmental justice issues on permits or enforcement?	
I run a public interest environmental law firm in South Carolina, the S.C. Environmental Law Project, and we are glad to connect with Robert in S.C. <a href="mailto:Amy@scelp.org">Amy@scelp.org</a> and our website is <a href="http://www.scelp.org">www.scelp.org</a> .	In response to Robert... Amy Armstrong runs a public interest environmental law firm in South Carolina, the S.C. Environmental Law Project, and would like to connect with Robert in S.C. <a href="mailto:Amy@scelp.org">Amy@scelp.org</a> and our website is <a href="http://www.scelp.org">www.scelp.org</a>
I, Daphne Wilson, am the Region 4 EJ contact for South Carolina. Robert can email me at <a href="mailto:wilson.daphne@epa.gov">wilson.daphne@epa.gov</a> . My office number is 404 562-9098	Daphne Wilson, Region 4 EJ contact for South Carolina. Robert can email me at <a href="mailto:wilson.daphne@epa.gov">wilson.daphne@epa.gov</a> . My office number is 404 562-9098

Question	Response
<p>Origin of the Term</p> <p>The concept of sacrifice zones was first discussed during the Cold War, as a likely result of nuclear fallout, and the term coined in the Soviet Union. [dubious – discuss]</p> <p>According to Helen Huntington Smith,[6] the term was first used in the U.S. discussing the long-term effects of strip-mining coal in the American West in the 1970s. The National Academy of Sciences/National Academy of Engineering Study Committee on the Potential for Rehabilitating Lands Surface Mined for Coal in the Western United States produced a 1973 report that introduced the term, finding:</p> <p>In each zone the probability of rehabilitating an area depends upon the land use objectives, the characteristics of the site, the technology available, and the skill with which this technology is applied. At the extremes, if surface mined lands are declared national sacrifice areas, all ecological zones have a high probability of being successfully rehabilitated. If, however, complete restoration is the objective.</p>	<p>Thank you for this information</p>
<p>Further reading</p> <p>Dumping in Dixie by Robert Bullard. Routledge, 1990, 302 pp. ISBN 0813367921</p> <p>Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States by Steve Lerner. Cambridge, MA:MIT Press, 2010. 346 pp. ISBN 978-0-262-01440-3</p> <p>Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt By Chris Hedges and Joe Sacco. Illustrated. 302 pp. Nation Books, 2012. 302pp. ISBN 978-1568588247</p>	<p>Thank you for these resources</p>
<p>Is there a way to copy the complete Q&amp;A from today? Right-clicking is not working. Will the full Q&amp;A be posted online? There are too many links and info to retype and share now.</p>	<p>We will be posting all meeting materials to the website in the near future after the meeting. We intend Q&amp;A to be included. Also if there are any follow-up questions on resources, please email environmental-justice@epa.gov</p>



Question	Response
<p>Hi -I am requesting that you help find out which municipal landfill TVA has selected for the toxic coal ash waste that is leaking into the aquifer above the Memphis drinking water aquifer. Today, TVA's CEO said in a Zoom mtg. that they had made a decision and the site was 'already under construction' but he failed to give the location of this site. The Tunica municipal landfill is located in the 100-year flood plain, in one of the poorest 80% minority counties in America. We have requested information from TVA, and even the reporter cannot get a response. Georgia Power recycles their toxic coal ash. Denmark recycles 100% of their coal ash. We need to put the top minds of the country on this pressing problem before we destroy another drinking water source for our citizens. Carol Mann</p>	<p>I would suggest reaching out to your EPA Region 4 EJ Environmental Coordinator: Tami Thomas-Burton (thomas-burton.tami@epa.gov)</p>
<p>Regarding EPA Grants are you willing to give EJ groups on the ground a 25% advancement of funding to begin a project?</p>	
<p>Hi! We need a EJ POC at EPA Puerto Rico to support disaster recovery operations from hurricane and earthquakes and other local EJ issues on the island! Gracias!</p>	<p>Hi there. Your EPA Region 2 EJ Coordinator is: Towana Joseph (joseph.towana@epa.gov)</p>
<p>If EPA cannot directly assist smaller grassroots with direct grants, would it consider pass-throughs via state/local governments, mid-to-large sized nonprofits, etc., for those organizations more in-the-know of regional/local issues to provide directly to the impacted community groups? This, of course, would require some need for oversight to ensure proper percentages are actually provided to the on the ground impacted groups.</p>	
<p>Thank you to the speaker for bringing up the egregious issue of "sacrifice zones." Instead of EPA just saying they do not use, or sanction, the use of the "term," and merely "wipe out the use of the term;" first, could we ask that EPA immediately ask every component to identify these "sacrifice zones', whether explicitly named so, or treated as such on a practical level and historically, and to work with those communities immediately to begin remediation and repair and remedies to the health, social, and environmental impacts. ( Then also coordinate local govt. designations be addressed , etc.) Wouldn't such an intentional, coordinated and deep response be part of EPA's responsibilities, especially a core part of EJ?</p>	
<p>What is being done to reinforce NEPA?</p>	

Question	Response
Is anyone discussing the Flint river being so polluted still that it was able to corrode the old pipes? The pH must be a clean water act violation. Where does the buck stop? I never heard anyone get to the root of the water quality being a problem in the first place.	
What will EPA do to enhance public participation and language access and set an appropriate bar/standard for state environmental agencies to do the same?	
FYI....Reading Sacrifice Zones.... Reviewed Charels Bullard <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3114843/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3114843/</a>	Thank you!
EPA Grant Continued...Lots of federal grants give 25% advanced to local governments like a 25% base allocation to grassroots nonprofits. So why not be equitable and do this for smaller grassroots community groups.	
How can we in the audience further engage more deeply with EPA in this work? Is there a program with paid positions?	
Accountability was stressed during this session, but how are those participating in causing or causing EJ impacts held accountable, specifically financially. It seems to me that the taxpayers are ultimately made to pay, which does not really reflect accountability. Are there permitting or zoning controls that EPA can indirectly encourage (make an offer they can't refuse) States and local municipalities to put in place - such as an EJ surcharge fee (for those requests in EJ communities) or having states make permit fees larger for EJ community permit requests. These fees can fund EJ efforts in these communities.	
This was a wonderful call and I look forward to more conversations like this. Thank you again!	Thank You
Thank you on behalf of Environmental Justice Coalition for Water in California!	Thank You
Thank you for this forum Charlotte NC	Thank You
excellent matt: so thrilled this outreach was restarted	Thank You
Glad the real EPA is being rebooted.	
Thanks you for this listening session. I look forward to receiving the recording or notes, and more resources engaging with EPA.	