

Environmental Justice in Region 5 2015 Highlights

Some communities are faced with more environmental challenges than others are. This raises environmental justice (EJ) concerns. Environmental justice is achieved when everyone has a healthy environment and equal access to decisions about environmental protection. EPA programs consider potential EJ concerns as they issue permits, enforce environmental laws, and work with communities throughout Region 5 to reduce pollution and improve public health. EPA strives to reach and assist communities with potential EJ concerns. Here are a few EPA projects from 2015 in communities with EJ concerns.



EPA reduced air pollutants by more than 126 million pounds in Region 5. Our work in Dearborn, MI is just one example. EPA reached a settlement with AK Steel that reduces particulate matter emissions from their iron and steel manufacturing plant. The

settlement includes new air filtration systems at two area schools.

EPA removed over 595,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris around Region 5. For example, EPA safely removed electronic waste and soil contaminated with lead from an abandoned waste collection facility in Oconto Falls, WI. EPA worked with Oconto County Solid Waste to recycle salvageable waste.



EPA cleaned up nearly 367,000 cubic yards of contaminated aquifers and water in Region 5. EPA worked with the Coast Guard to manage an oil spill from a retired power plant in Cleveland, OH. EPA will continue to work with Cleveland Public Power on long-term issues.

EPA eliminated about 8.5 million pounds of hazardous waste in Region 5. An on-going project in East Chicago with Arcelor Mittal Indiana East continues to remove hazardous wastes from the site.

EPA worked to eliminate more than 655,000 pounds of toxics and pesticides in Region 5. As part of this effort, EPA worked with communities to provide training to over 200 head start providers and family workers on principles of children's health and healthy homes. Participants learned how to reduce exposure to pesticides and household chemicals.



EPA reduced water pollutants by more than 2 million pounds in Region 5. In Chicago, EPA made Beaver Oil Company, a waste treatment and recycling company, improve record keeping for over 100,000 gallons of wastewater per day.