



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
POLICY

DEC 10 2019

Richard Moore, Chair
National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
c/o Karen L. Martin
NEJAC Program Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (MC2201A)
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Moore:

Thank you for the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)'s August 14, 2019 letter, concerning the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and environmental justice. I appreciate the opportunity to respond on the Agency's behalf.

The Environmental Protection Agency appreciates the NEJAC's feedback on how the Agency can strengthen environmental justice analysis and considerations in the NEPA process. The EPA's NEPA program is committed to assisting other federal agencies to adequately consider environmental impacts in their decision-making process. As part of this process, we have increased early engagement with federal agencies to help identify potential issues. We believe that identification of issues, such as environmental justice considerations, at early stages provide increased opportunities to avoid or minimize adverse impacts while continuing to meet project purposes and the needs of the nation.

We look forward to continuing engagement with the NEJAC on NEPA and other environmental justice matters. Please feel free to reach out to Robert Tomiak, Director of Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-5400 or tomiak.robert@epa.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany Bolen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brittany Bolen
Associate Administrator