EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call 31-Aug-21

Summary of Questions and Answers

Webpage with information for upcoming calls: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls

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Meeting materials and recordings for this call and all past calls will be here: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls

Send follow-up questions or comments to: Environmental-Justice@epa.gov

Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
what is justice40?	Anonymous	We will have a presentation on it in just a bit.
	Attendee	
Can you speak to how the EPA's commitment to Environmental Justice relates to the construction	Anonymous	Hello, thank you for your important question. To better answer your inquiry,
of Enbridge's Line 3 Expansion pipeline? It would be the largest tar sands pipeline, commit this	Attendee	please reach out to the Region 5 EJ Coordinator Kathy Triantafillou:
country to a decades more of fossil fuel dependence, and is being constructed across Anishinaabe		triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov or (312) 353-4293. Thank you!
treaty territory despite opposition from several Tribes. Construction activities have included several		
million gallons of water appropriations during a drought as well as at least 28 inadvertent spills		UPDATED RESPONSE: The Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act 404 permit
totaling over 10,000 gallons of chemicals being released into wetlands and waterways. At what		for the Line 3 replacement pipeline regulates discharge of dredged and fill
point will the EPA intervene in defense of the Clean Water Act?		materials into jurisdictional wetlands and streams. Region 5 is aware of a
		number of recent spills of drilling fluids into wetlands and streams during
		construction of Line 3 in Minnesota. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
		is investigating these spills, under its delegated Clean Water Act authority
		and state authorities. EPA also has independent authority to take
		enforcement action under the Clean Water Act for unpermitted discharges
		into regulated waters. The Corps can also enforce the terms of its CWA 404
		permit. Once in operation, the Line 3 pipeline must operate under standards
		set by the Federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration,
		an agency of the US Department of Transportation. Both EPA and MPCA
		have authority to respond to spills and hold the pipeline company
		accountable. EPA has reviewed the state Draft and Final EISs for the Line 3
		replacement pipeline in Minnesota

Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
In Highland Park, MI we have 90% lead lateral lines and a consent order to replace all 60 miles of water mains. SRF does not work for us because we are already at our debt ceiling. Low income households are already paying \$75 or more per month? How can the pilot help reduce the burdens on people here?		Hello, thank you for your important question. To better answer your inquiry, please reach out to the Region 5 EJ Coordinator Kathy Triantafillou: triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov or 312-353-4293. Thank you! UPDATED RESPONSE: Under Justice 40, the Clean Water and Drinking Water
		State Revolving Funds are covered programs. EPA provides these grants to states who then provide funds to communities. The State Revolving Fund programs (Clean Water SRF and Drinking Water SRF) are primarily loan programs. The programs are also allowed by Congress and by the Clean Water Act/Safe Drinking Water Act to provide principal forgiveness based on a states definition of disadvantaged communities.
		In Michigan, Highland Park qualifies as disadvantaged and therefore is eligible for principal forgiveness. Highland Park applied for and is proposed to receive funding for 2 projects: Lead Service Line Replacements (\$2.4M in a forgiven loan - essentially a grant, the community does not have to pay it back), and funding for Water Main Replacements - \$7.1M (includes \$2M is a state grant, \$1,275,000 plus \$255,000 in principal forgiveness). See the draft FY22 Drinking Water Intended Use Plan (see page 19) at: https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3307_3515_3517,00.html
Who is the target audience for these calls?	Paula Flores-Gregg EPA	Hi Paula, everyone who is interested in EJ, works in EJ, advocates for EJ, and beyond. These calls are free to anyone to attend and have their voices heard.
What would be the approach to connect with Tribal communities with the J40 goals?	Jose Redmond	live answered
Hello, I live in region 4, Durham ,NC. My community is historically blackrural with litle investment	Bonita Green	Hi Bonita, thank you very much for your question. I recommend you reach
from the city. We are blodered by industrial zones, including auto repair shops, a steel company,		out to the Region 4 EJ Coordinator Tami Thomas-Burton: thomas-
trucking companies, a solar farm and freight train railway. I am interested to learn whether we qualify as a brownfield site		burton.tami@epa.gov or 404-562-8027. Tami can help you get in touch with the best offices to help you make this determination.
What happens if the responsible parties became insolvent decades ago and the community has no resources?	Wig - Somerville	Hi there, we encourage you to reach out to Helen Dutaeu at Duteau.Helen@epa.gov so she can provide some insight into your question. Thank you!
What does J40 change, do, to address the EJ Civil Rights	John G. Buddy Andrade	live answered
And with migration of the pollutants offsite as happens with large dry cleaning cheimical spills?	Wig - Somerville	Hi Wig - in general, we have an emergency response side in Superfund that addresses spills.
How does Superfund include/engage linguistically isolated communities near sites?	Paula Flores-Gregg EPA	Hi Paula, please reach out to Helen Dutaeu so she can provide some insight int your question, thank you! Duteau Helen@epa.gov
How can EPA track whether states are spending the money to benefit EJ communities?	Brian Donovan	live answered
How could communities that are breathing carcinogenic Ethylene Oxide gas in our air apply for funding to continuously test our air, since USEPA doesn't?		
And IL? So far the USEPA has not made any attempts to notify our communities of the dangerous	Anonymous	Thank you for your question. Please contact Alan Walts
emissions here even though OIG report recommended they do so."	Attendee	(walts.alan@epa.gov), the EJ manager in EPA's Region 5 (Chicago) office.
Do communities have to be a formalized group or a non profit to apply for J40 Pilot resources?	Ron Ross	live answered

Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
Through what medium will all of this outreach community occur? Town halls? Working group meeting with organizations? RFIs? Comment periods? Others?	Anonymous Attendee	Hi, thank you for your question. My name is Christina Motilall and I am the Communications Lead for the Office of Environmental Justice. We have a lot of avenues we plan to utilize to reach out and engage with communities. Along with the these calls, individual regions will also be working with communities, along with funding opportunities opening for EJ grants. Please join our listsery to learn more. For up-to-date information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listsery by sending a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov. Follow us on Twitter: @EPAEnvJustice.
Christina - thank you for your reply - as a follow-up to my question, I'd like to know how you are advertising these webinars. My biggest concern is that we may only be reaching the known allies (folks who we are already working with in some way). How are we communicating to those who do not know about EJ and EPA?	EPA	Outreach includes the EJ listserv, as well as via our Twitter account, and any other distributio lists by the programs.
Great workbut one question: I'm glad we are assessing and creating greater engagement for programs that are serving disad/dispro communities, but there is a much more glaring problem: populations that are not covered by facilities.	LAINE YOUNG	Thank you for your important question. J40 has such a large variety of programs that it touches. If there is a specific issue or community you would like to have covered, please do share so that we can better respond.
How will "disadvantaged community" be defined?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
The March 2020 OIG report instructed EPA to meet with EJ Communities, Waukegan and Gurnee Illinois about Ethylene Oxide (EtO) in their neighborhoods. We haven't been contacted. When are they scheduled to meet us?	Diane Surufka	Thank you for your comment. Please contact EJ program manager for EPA Region 5 (Chicago), Alan Walts, walts.alan@epa.gov to help with this question.
Is there a similar effort for people who are depending on wells for drinking water and supporting new facilities for communities where septic systems are their wastewater treatment? They are NOT covered by CWA in the same way.	LAINE YOUNG	For decentralized (septic) treatment, please see a new factsheet on CWSRF funding for decentralized wastewater treatment projects. You can access the factsheet here: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-11/documents/funding_decentralized_wastewater_treatment_systems_with _the_clean_water_state_revolving_fund2.pdf., and for additional information on CWSRF eligibilities, please go to: epa.gov/cwsrf. EPA encourages states to open their CWSRF programs to the widest possible variety of eligible water quality and public health projects."
Does the J40 initiative involves working with the Good Neighbor Environmental Board Initiative?	Jose Redmond	Please feel free to contact the Justice 40 Stakeholder Engagement Lead at EPA Victoria Robinson at robinson.victoria@epa.gov to help answer your question.
There was a report from the Office of the Inspector General that illuminated how Trump's EPA deliberately did not inform the public in Gurnee and Waukegan, IL about the dangers posed by two EtO emitting plants and 6 warehouses while they worked methodically to reveal the threats to the wealthy white community of Willowbrook. When is the EPA going to right this wrong and focus on the environmental justice communities in Waukegan, and east Gurnee, IL?	Gloria Charland	Hello, thank you for your important question. To better answer your inquiry, please reach out to the Region 5 EJ Coordinator Kathy Triantafillou: triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov or (312) 353-4293. Thank you!

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will the funding include changing the pipes in the water systems communities? example Flint"	leslee jackson	Thank you for your important question. You might look at the link here which has information about the WIIN Act and grant program to address lead exposure. https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-infrastructure-improvements-nation-act-wiin-act-grant-programs#Section%202105 If it does not address your question, you may follow up with Yu-Ting Guilaran <guilaran.yu-ting@epa.gov> who spoke on today's session.</guilaran.yu-ting@epa.gov>
How will these programs impact Lake County, IL where Ethylene Oxide emissions from sterilizers, warehouses and transportation of hazardous chemicals are effecting our community and our health?	Jaime	Hello, thank you for your important question. To better answer your inquiry, please reach out to the Region 5 EJ Coordinator Kathy Triantafillou: triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov or (312) 353-4293. Thank you!
What does J40 change, do, to address the EJ Civil Rights issues, other than do all now, using techeapproaches. Just a different cover of the same the engagement needed is coming to the community come to See Hear Feel Smell Touch the EJ Civil Rights injustices. We request an Inter Federal Agency Review of all the funding spent and those applied for. We want to engage in this manner that will bring true Benefits no matter how you dress it up what is J40. Buddy Andrade"	John G. Buddy Andrade	Hi there, thank you for your comment. Your request has been documented by our team, thank you so much.
I would encourage the agency to consider the impacts of agricultural practices on historically burdened communities as part of the initiative. Funding advancing sustainable agricultural practices should be prioritized where the literal downstream effects disproportionately impact those communities. One example of this is the nutrient runoff from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in rural Michigan and Ohio leading to toxic algal blooms in Lake Erie that disproportionately impact urban communities of color.		Please see this factsheet on using the CWSRF programs to fund agricultural best management practices. https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-01/documents/cwsrf_ag_bmp_fact_sheet10.26.17.pdf CWSRFs can fund a wide range of activities to address runoff and erosion from cropland and CAFOs and smaller AFOs. [BMP activities at CAFOs are not eligible unless they implement a National Estuary Comprehensive Conservation Program]"
What is the best way for our new Center for Environmental Justice at Colorado State University to get involved? [I can be reached at environmentaljustice.colostate.edu]	Mindy Hill	Please reach out to Victoria Robinson robinson.victoria@epa.gov who is leading stakeholder engaegment for Justice40.
Could we have a weekly/biweekly newsletter with reports from all over the country?	Isabel Segarra Trevino (CAO)	Hi there, thank you for your comment. While we do not have a newsletter at the moment, we do have the EJ Listserv that we send out at least twice a week. 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: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov. You can also follow us on Twitter: @EPAEnvJustice.
Does EPA give grants to polluters to reuse Brownfields and Superfunds in disadvantaged communities? How do you determine what kind of project would protect public health when allowing these toxic sites to be redeveloped?	Anonymous Attendee	Hello, in Superfund we do not have grants for polluters. We do have a Technical Assistance Grant for communities to hire an independent technical advisor. In terms of redeveloping Superfund sites, our cleaups have to meet certain standards in order to be reused and that's why it's important for us to work with communities early in the cleaup process so that we can consider future reuse in our cleanup work. I hope this helps answer your question and please feel free to contact me at duteau.helen@epa.gov with more questions.
On the DW SRF project does teh Navajo tribe get apportioned soem f the program formula grant as a delgated program? How are infrastructure neds in tribal DI programs addressed?	WBcolema	Hello and thanks for your important question. I'm trying to get an answer to your question. If I don't get back before the webinar ends, please follow up with Yu-Ting Guilaran <guilaran.yu-ting@epa.gov> who spoke on today's session or Louise Kitamura <kitamura.louise@epa.gov>.</kitamura.louise@epa.gov></guilaran.yu-ting@epa.gov>

Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
Hi. Who do I talk to about funding problems with the Clean Water & Drinking Water SRF? I'm in DE and I can give you some specific examples of private companies getting \$ for non-EJ projs. that have nothing to do with improving EJ Communities. Also, I have some other points about these.		EPA will be convening an engagement call on September 28 that will focus on the three J40 pilots in EPA's Office of Water. We will forward your name to the Office of Water for follow-up.
How is the EPA engaging states and local gov about J40 and EJ initiatives?	Nina Morgan (she/her Bham, AL)	I think that this question may have been answered, but if not, please contact Victoria Robinson robinson.victoria@epa.gov since she is the lead for stakeholder engagement on Justice40 at EPA.
What efforts in the past have been made to address the needs of communities living near Superfund and brownfield sites? What is being done now, and what is the difference? Recently, I reached out to the EPA representative to inquire about Superfund sites and the impacts of extreme weather conditions, and I never received a response or callback. Is there a hotline or a primary point of contact for individuals who have specific concerns? How will communities be able to ensure that the allotted monies are going to their promised locations and for their appropriate purpose?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
Communities need for EPA to be present in the community and talk to us to solve our EJ issues. Top down solutions without engaging actual people on the ground isn't a proper response to achieving justice.	Anonymous Attendee	Hello, thank you very much for your comment. We agree completely and will make sure we integrate this into our work. Thank you again.
What about air concerns? When can we get information specific to air program and/or grants? Thank you	marie	Hi Marie, do you feel like your question was answered? Hi, I am looking for the best contact name to provide to you. I see now that this question may have already been answered, but if not, please let me know.
These meetings happen during the day and it is hard for a lot of people to make them. Here in Houston, our Houston Ship Channel communities have shift work with inconsistent schedules - including industrial plant workers and schoolchildren. The newsletter could have a q&a and comment feature. This could also take away the stress some of our community members experience with public speaking and using online platforms.	Isabel Segarra Trevino (CAO)	Hi Isabel, thank you very much for your comment, and we understand that holding these webinars is hard due to many conflicting schedules. All meeting materials and recording are available after calls here: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls. In addition, you can reach out on any EJ concerns, issues, and/or comments by emailing us environmental-justice@epa.gov. Thank you again for your comment, it is very important to the EJ work we are doing.
The EPA did not accept the OIG recommendation to promptly notify communities near ETO-emitting plants. Why? We need environmental justice in Lake County, IL from this carcinogenic gas. We need equitable and community-driven solutions. Reach out to Environmental Justice in Lake County for working with frontline communities.	Anonymous Attendee	Hello, thank you for your important question. To better answer your inquiry, please reach out to the Region 5 EJ Coordinator Kathy Triantafillou: triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov or (312) 353-4293. Thank you!
will this help the communities that are affected by fracking and mining that are unable to have clean drinking water"	leslee jackson	Hi Leslee, thank you. We are glad you were able to speak aloud.
In many situations the polution that happens in disavantaged communities is allowed by regulations, because there are no cumulative regulations or there air quality is not measured. Will or how will J40 be involved in changing regulations?	Dave Arndt	Since this is an overarching question about Justice40, this may be best answered by the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council. For more information about the EJ IAC, please contact Corey Solow at CEQ (Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov)
Understanding this is only an EPA Justice40 call, who is the best CEQ POC and POC at other agencies on Justice 40? How can communities engage on these broader questions such as defining communities? Can stakeholders provide thoughts to EPA and can EPA advocate to CEQ given their (EPA's) deep expertise on Enviornmental Justice?	Anonymous Attendee	Hello, thanks for your question. The Executive Director of the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council at CEQ is Corey Solow (Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov).

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How does J40 integrate land, air and water programs are proactive to ensure that hazardous chemicals are not released near our neighborhoods and schools?	Jaime	Since this is an overarching question about Justice40, this may be best answered by the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council. For more information about the EJ IAC, please contact Corey Solow at CEQ (Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov)
Will justice 40 tackle any enforcement efforts where they concern repeat offenders or an emergency alert system similar to amber alert?	Yvette Arellano	live answered
PM2.5 air quality monitoring wasn't addressed today and I am wondering if that topic will be covered in the future? Will J40 provide resources to develop air monitoring programs in EJ communities? Thank you for this session! Cara Fleischer, Tallahassee, FL	Cara Fleischer, Tall., FL	Hi Cara, thank you for your question. Future programs will be joining these calls to speak about their J40 work, including air programs. To learn more about upcoming calls, you can join the EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov. Also you can follow us on Twitter: @EPAEnvJustice.
Can Project 40 address the human carcinogenic Ethylene Oxide pollution in EJ communities by capturing & measuring emissions from facilities and numerous warehouses. Congress & OIG already addresses. Who will follow-up on the OIG's Report of March 2020?	Diane Surufka	Hello, thank you for your important question. To better answer your inquiry, please reach out to the Region 5 EJ Coordinator Kathy Triantafillou: triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov or (312) 353-4293. Thank you!
Increasing enforcement agents and efforts?	Yvette Arellano	live answered
Specifically, how will J40 ensures USEPA addresses cancerous EtO emissions inEJ communities in Lake County,IL sometime in this decade?	Tea Tanaka	Hi Tea! Did you get your questions answered allowed or would you like additional follow up to this one?
or will justice 40 go to re-estaablish any epa labs that closed like the one in Houston.	Yvette Arellano	Hello, thank you for your question. Since this is an overarching question about Justice40, this may be best answered by the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council. For more information about the EJ IAC, please contact Corey Solow at CEQ (Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov)
Eligible entities for EPA Brownfields Grants include government entities and non-profit organizations. Private entities are not eligible for EPA Brownfields funding. In addition, grantees are prohibited from using EPA Brownfields Grant funding to pay for cleanups or response costs for which the grantee is the responsible party.	Patricia	Hi Patricia, thank you for your comment. We appreciate you taking the time to join us today.
Does EJ40 have any opportunities for prison reform and/or environmental conditions for prisoners within the federal prison system?	ernst	Hello, thank you for your question. Since this is an overarching question about Justice40, this may be best answered by the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council. For more information about the EJ IAC, please contact Corey Solow at CEQ (Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov)
We are aiming for 40% of resources to benefit disadvantaged communities- is there an estimate for how much of these resources are currently benefiting disadvantaged communities? How big is this jump, and where did 40% come from?	Lizzy Duncan	Hello, thank you for your question. Since this is an overarching question about Justice40, this may be best answered by the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council. For more information about the EJ IAC, please contact Corey Solow at CEQ (Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov)
What variables are included in this climate and economic justice screening tool? is cummulative burden being included? if so, how?	Anonymous Attendee	Hello, thank you for your question. Since this is an overarching question about CEJST, this may be best answered by the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council. For more information about the EJ IAC, please contact Corey Solow at CEQ (Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov)

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At what point does the EPA step in if the State is not doing proper enforcement in disadvantaged communities?	Brandi Crawford- Johnson	Hi Brandi, thank you for your important question. I encourage you to reach out to the EPA's Office of Enforcement of Compliance's EJ Coordinator Loan Nguyen: nguyen.loan@epa.gov or 202-564-4041. Thank you!"
Why is region 5 unresponsive to stakeholders in Lake County, IL?	Jaime	Hi Jamie, I am sorry to hear you have not had a great experience with Region 5. Our region 5 EJ coordinator is very responsive, please reach out to the Region 5 EJ Coordinator Kathy Triantafillou: triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov or 312-353-4293. Thank you!
I would like to talk about Justice 40 and questions outside of Justice 40 too	Nina Morgan (she/her Bham, AL)	Hi Nina, if you like to engage further on Justice40, please contact Victoria Robinson at robinson.victoria@epa.gov
there has been an increase in bottle water companies. will there be a cap on water output for these companies??"	leslee jackson	live answered
Will all disadvantage communities in the U.S. benefit from Justice 40? How will you determine who gets what? Will you go by EJ scores in each State?	Brandi Crawford- Johnson	Hello, thank you for your question. Since this is an overarching question about Justice40, this may be best answered by the White House Envirornmental Justice Interagency Council. For more information about the EJ IAC, please contact Corey Solow at CEQ (Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov)
Thanks, Frank Sylvester. FYI - The link is not working. I'll share as soon as I can receive (perhaps email layo461@ecy.wa.gov?). I work in the Water Quality Program in point (NPDES) and non-point issues.	LAINE YOUNG	https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016- 11/documents/funding_decentralized_wastewater_treatment_systems_with the_clean_water_state_revolving_fund2.pdf trying again and emailing to you. Hope it works."
Will Justice 40 have any funding set aside to relocate members from frontline communities that are facing health effects like the Northside Community in Kalamazoo, Michigan?	Brandi Crawford- Johnson	Since this is an overarching question about Justice40, this may be best answered by the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council. For more information about the EJ IAC, please contact Corey Solow at CEQ (Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov)
Thanks for an excellent overview and the online and Oral Q&As!	Keith Steck	Hello and thank you! Points of contact you requested are: DW SRF - Yu-Ting Guilaran <guilaran.yu-ting@epa.gov> who spoke on today's session and Frank Sylvestra Sylvester, Frank <sylvester.frank.j@epa.gov>. Louise Kitamura <kitamura.louise@epa.gov> is the overarching Office of Water contact for J40. Thank you."</kitamura.louise@epa.gov></sylvester.frank.j@epa.gov></guilaran.yu-ting@epa.gov>
For the person who asked for contacts for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs, please reach out to me, Louise Kitamura, kitamura.louise@epa.gov. I am the senior advisor to the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water and I can find the appropriate person to respond. Thank you for your question. Louise	Louise Kitamura	Thank you Louise!
Are there calls like this at the regional level? It seems that Region 7 does not do much EJ engagement	Anonymous Attendee	Hi, thank you for your question. Each region has different ways of doing their EJ engagement. I encourage you to reach out to Region 7's EJ Coordinator Monica Espinosa: espinosa.monica@epa.gov or 913-551-7541. Thank you!
EPA does have mobile labs that can be deployed all over the U.S.	NNICHOLS	Thanks for the reminder
Thank you for Region 5 contacts. Our group has worked with John Kim for 2 yrs. HE is the reason Lake County's polluters have free reign. I have no confidence in Region 5 under his administration.	Diane Surufka	Hi Diane, thank you for your comment. Did I give you Tami's contact info already?

Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
Yes. I will follow up with Yvette.	Gloria Vaughn	Thank you Gloria!
An EJ and Econ tool was described earlier. Is there a timeline for this roll out?	Kiana Courtney	Hi Kiana, thank you for your question. This may be best answered by the
		White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council. For more
		information about the EJ IAC, please contact Corey Solow at CEQ
		(Corey.F.Solow@ceq.eop.gov). Thank you!