Victoria Robinson: All right, so would like to again, welcome everybody to our call.

These calls are part of our regular ongoing conversation about environmental justice at the EPA.

Today’s call will focus on Justice40, and in particular how it intersects with EPA’s Brownfields Program.

But before we start that conversation, I’m going to ask Charles Lee
to provide some EJ program updates.

Charles, you can go ahead and open your video and unmute your line.

Charles Lee: Great, am I on?

Victoria Robinson: Yes, you are.

Charles Lee: Thank you, thanks Victoria and good afternoon everyone.

Just wanted to start with of course, the focus today being Justice40,
some milestones from some milestones related to Justice40,

of course that on August 19th all agencies,

including EPA submitted their stakeholder engagement plan.

Actually this is this session and many to come are part of the EPA’s efforts in a agency-wide coordinated way to do engagement around Justice40.

The next milestone coming up is September 17th
which is 60 days out from the OMB guidance on Justice40, are going to be submitted to OMB

and those are going to include the agency plans for the cover programs to maximize their benefits, significant barriers or constraints for maximizing benefits, opportunities and or resources needed that may address these identified barriers and constraints and timelines for important milestones in the specific plans of cover programs.
So that is the milestones
also just to let everyone know,

this is a pretty dynamic process

and so there's a lot of conversations
between federal agencies

and with OMB on a regular
basis to plan, learn from each other

and to kind of chart out a pathway forward in
a way that really builds on the experiences

and lessons learned from each other.
So that's the first update, the second one has to do with the EPA strategic plan,

and the reason this is important is because of all the planning documents for federal agencies, the strategic plan is probably the most important, in terms of setting a big-- high level strategic goals and performance metrics, accountability metrics associated with them.

So for the first time in EPA history,
the strategic plan has a what they call a strategic goal or a whole separate area devoted to taking decisive action on environmental justice and civil rights.

It should be noted that EPA has heretofore carried out his mission based upon three principles which are sound science, the road law and transparency and the fourth one had now been added which is justice and equity.

So this is a very
significant document

and we probably would plan
to have a couple of sessions

of these engagement sessions focus on
it over the next several weeks or months.

So I think that should do it Victoria in
terms of our specifics updates.

So let me now move on to provide
the introduction for Elyse Sutkus

from the brownfields program.

The brownfields program is probably, is one
of the programs I throughout my-- the course

of my own career has been very interested
in because of the opportunities there

for working within communities and
cleaning up and revitalizing communities.

And I think this really has shown itself
over its history to be just that it

and of course most of these communities
are environmental justice communities,

where-- which are disproportionately
impacted by not only environmental harms
and risks but also lack of you
know opportunities in terms of jobs

and economic development and
health care, and so forth.

So that's just a little bit
of a backdrop in terms of why.

This-- we're so glad that this program
has been has stepped up as one of

the programs under Justice40.

So with that Elyse,
I'll turn it over to you.
Victoria Robinson: Before you get started, Elyse is a reminder to us all as presenters because we do have simultaneous strength—interpretation that we need to slow down and I'm very guilty of this. So we need to slow down to allow for accurate interpretation. Thank you very much.

Go ahead, Elyse.
you Charles and thank you Victoria.

Hello everyone, my name is Elyse Sutkus, and I work in EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization at EPA Headquarters in Washington DC.

I'll be giving today's presentation on the Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program, which is one of the Justice40 pilot program.

Next slide, please.
So just to give you an overview of what I'll be sharing with you today, we'll talk about the definition of a brownfield and the purpose of EPA's program.

I'll give you a bit of historical context about the program, and then we'll move in to talk about more detail for the brownfield grant opportunities that are available.

I'll go over the types of grants, eligibility information, the timeline
that we typically have for those grant competitions and a couple success stories.

We'll also talk about technical assistance that is available to all brownfield stakeholders, so more specifically, we'll get into details about our technical assistance to brownfield community providers. We'll talk a little bit about the American Rescue Plan funding and how it relates to our TAB providers.
I'll also talk about our targeted brownfield assessments and land revitalization.

I'll also go over the program's approach to meeting Justice40 goals and program benefits.

And at that point, we'll have some time for Q&A about this presentation and the program overall.

So throughout the presentation please feel free to type your questions in the Q&A pod.

We do have some staff that will be responding to your questions.
as you ask them during the presentation.

And during the Q&A portion, I'll answer some questions live,

if those are more-- some of them are more broadly applicable to the entire audience.

And after the Q&A, we'd like to solicit some feedback from you all.

So we have some questions to help focus a discussion around Justice40 goals,
and maximize benefits in disadvantaged communities.

So our focused discussion will hopefully hear from you all on your feedback on that and then I'll also give a brief update on some other stakeholder engagement opportunities that will be coming up.

So first, I want to go over the legal definition of a brownfield site,
and that is a property, the expansion, redevelopment,

or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence

or potential presence of a hazardous substance pollutant,

or contaminant and that is in CERCLA,101(39) or Superfund law.

Next slide, please.

So a lot of communities have difficulties in addressing
and redeveloping brownfield sites,

so when the levels of environmental contamination on a property are uncertain

that property often sits vacant or under utilized

which contributes to disinvestment and blight in an area,

so the presence of brownfield properties really puts a strain on the local economy,

the environment, and it can impact residents social well-being.
Next slide, please.

So the EPA's Brownfields and Revitalization program provides grants and technical assistance to help promote planning, assessment, cleanup and reuse of brownfield sites as well as environmental job training for residents that are impacted by brownfield sites in their communities.

The program also provides liability protections to help encourage acquisition.
and investment in the reuse of brownfields,

and also establishes and enhances state and tribal response programs.

So these program resources provide assistance in assessing sites and cleaning up sites and that helps reduce risk, and uncertainty in reusing brownfield sites.

So the EPA's upfront investments really enable communities to take the first steps
towards brownfields cleanup and revitalization,

and EPA is providing startup funding,

and technical assistance to state, local, tribal and non-governmental champions

and stakeholders to help address brownfields.

Next slide.

So next, just a little bit of historical context.
So the brownfields program and EJ movement, really evolved over a similar timeline, helping to fuel one another and build strong communities.

So in the 1990s concerns were growing about being able to reuse contaminated properties that were not Superfund sites. So the Brownfields and Land Revitalization program was born out of the Superfund program in the sense that CERCLA or Superfund laws strict liability scheme made people afraid.
to invest in these lesser contaminated properties that were not Superfund sites.

So the US conference of mayors in the early 90s advocated for financial support and liability protection for these lesser contaminated sites that are often found in downtown areas, and leaders in environmental justice were really at the table from the beginning of the program sharing their concerns and helping to advise EPA on how to build a brownfields program.
So in 1995 in particular, EPA and NEJAC held public hearings for EJ advocates and residents to discuss their needs related to brownfield's funding, and EJ has remained a core consideration of the Brownfields and Land Revitalization program throughout its evolution over the years. So next, I'll talk a bit more in detail about each of these competitive brownfield grant types.
So this fall we have coming up our Fiscal Year 22 competition,

so our assessment cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund solicitation

is expected to be available this month or next month.

Our assessment and cleanup grants are offered annually

and typically the Revolving Loan Fund grants and multi-purpose grants alternate years.

So this year we're competing the Revolving Loan Fund grants
and it's expected that multi-purpose grants will be available in fall 2022.

And also we have brownfields job training grants that are offered annually that solicitation is available right now, and is closing on October 5th.

So in the coming slides, I'll talk a bit more about each of these grant types.

Next slide, thank you.

So with an assessment grant there are a variety of eligible activities
and some of these include an inventory to compile a list of brownfield sites,

classifying sites to identify past uses, the assessment of brownfield sites

whether that’s through phase 1 or phase 2 environmental site assessment.

Community involvement to help engage local stakeholders and site assessment decisions,

and also planning for site cleanup and redevelopment to identify opportunities for redeveloping the site and help develop those site cleanup plans based on the reuse.
Next slide, thanks.

So a little bit more about the different types of assessment grants, because we do have a couple different types.

So the community-wide assessment grants are for communities that don't have one specific site, maybe they're planning to serve a neighborhood or a particular area.
And they're planning to use those grant funds on more than one brownfield site,

so that's the community-wide assessment grant

and the funding for that is available up to 500,000 dollars.

We also offer site-specific assessment grants

for communities that are really focused on one particular site,

and that funding is available for up to 350,000 dollars,
and last we also are offering this year a community-wide assessment grant for states and tribes.

So this is only available to state agencies and Indian tribes and these Alaska organizations here.

So in this competition, the applicant must plan to use these grant funds to assess at least 10 brownfield sites in disadvantaged communities in its jurisdiction.

And that funding will be available up to
200 or up to 2 million dollars, sorry.

And I'll cover-- oh sorry.

I did want to just mention we also have multi-purpose grants that do include funding for site assessment and I'll cover that more in detail on an upcoming slide.

So first, next slide, thank you.

I'll talk a little bit more about our
cleanup grants.

So these grants provide funding for cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites.

And at the time of application, the entity must own the site,

and these applications also require a 20% cost share,

and that cost share requirement is part of our statute.

The cost share may be in the form of contribution of money, labor, material, or services,
and must be used for eligible and allowable costs under the grant.

And communities can apply for a hardship waiver, which is granted on a case-by-case basis,

and those cleanup grants are for funding up to 500,000 dollars.

So Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grants provide capitalization funding
to entities who make
loans or sub grants

205
00:16:12,843 -- 00:16:16,720
to conduct cleanup activities
at brownfield sites.

206
00:16:16,720 -- 00:16:21,147
So eligible entities can apply either
individually or as a coalition,

207
00:16:21,171 -- 00:16:26,128
and our RLF grants also
require a 20% cost share

208
00:16:26,152 -- 00:16:29,737
similarly to how I just
explained for cleanup grants.

209
00:16:29,761 -- 00:16:35,480
Another thing to note is there is a
non-competitive round of supplemental RLF funding,
and that is for high performing grant recipients, and that occurs annually

and funding for the Revolving Loan Fund grants is available up to one million dollars.

Next slide.

All right and just a little bit more about the multi-purpose grants that I mentioned.

So these grants exist to provide funding for a range of planning assessment and clean up activities within a target area,
so with these grants, grantees must produce at least one phase II assessment,

and one site cleanup and an overall plan for revitalization in the target area.

These grants also require a cost share and funding is available for up to 800,000 dollars.

And as I mentioned, multi-purpose grants are expected to be available next year since they are offered annually.

Next slide.
All right and last but not least our Brownfields Job Training grants provide funding to recruit, train and place unemployed and underemployed residents of communities who are impacted by brownfield sites and other wastes. So these training programs provide graduates an opportunity to seek and obtain environmental jobs that contractors might otherwise fill.
with workers from outside of the impacted community,

and these grants are available for up to $200,000 of funding.

Next slide, thanks.

So I won't read through this entire list here,

but eligible entities for brownfield grants generally include governmental

and quasi-governmental entities, non-profits and limited liability corporations
that have 501(c)(3) status and tried.

So this list here is always listed in our grant guidelines and additional information is also available in the specific guideline FAQs that are released whenever we have guidelines come out on our website.

So this graphic up here provides a general timeline for EPA's brownfield grant competitions.
And I have some more specific details on those timelines below.

So for our Fiscal Year 22, ARC or Assessment Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup grant competition, we're expecting that solicitation to come out this month or next month, after the solicitation comes out or the guidelines, we use the term solicitation and guidelines interchangeably.
But we'll have at least 60 days before the deadline is due for those applications to be submitted, in roughly April to May that's when we expect solicitations to be announced.

And in June through September of next year that's when selected applicants will finalize their work plans and work with regional program project officers.
to get some of that grant paperwork finalized,

and by September and October of next year that's when these grants will be awarded and funds will become available.

So the Fiscal Year 22 Job Training grants also are on a similar timeline, but a little bit ahead, so that solicitation as I mentioned is open right now that deadline is October 5th,
and we expect selections to be announced in February of 2022,

July through August will be the time frame for working on those work plans, and finalizing paperwork and then funds should be available in August and September.

So I have a couple of example success stories of communities that have benefited from EPA brownfield funding.
So in this story here, we have the city of Richmond that has partnered with Richmond Community Foundation and they were able to combine EPA brownfields funding with their own social impact bond program to help them purchase, rehabilitate and sell affordable housing that is energy efficient.

And they've focused on selling those homes to first-time home buyers,
particularly to help support wealth building in communities of color,

and this program has had a lot of great success over these past few years.

We have a case study that was recently published on the success story if you're interested in learning more, I wanted to ask if I'd be able to drop that in the chat

if folks do want to see more information about that particular program,

I'll share that with my colleagues,
and they can send that to you if anybody wants to read more.

Next slide.

So another success story we have is Zender, Inc. in Alaska, so Zender, Inc. program provides training for underserved tribal and isolated rural populations in Alaska, and they have been able to train and place over 115 job training program participants.
They have a 95% job placement rate and an average wage of over 18 dollars per hour for graduates of their program.

So moving on from brownfield grants, I'd like to talk a little bit more about brownfield's technical assistance. So EPA offers free technical assistance and training to communities.
and stakeholders on brownfield issues,

so in particular, our technical assistance to brownfield communities or TAB providers help communities to navigate the assessment cleanup and redevelopment process.

So some of the things that they can offer assistance with include grant applications, performing site inventories, reviewing historical information
about sites, the design of the investigation, sampling and field analysis and cleanup and redevelopment planning as well.

Thank you.

So this assistance is free to community stakeholders to help them address brownfield sites and increase their understanding and involvement in site cleanup
and reuse and you do not have to be a brownfield grant recipient

to request technical assistance from these providers.

So information that you see here on this table on the left, all of this is available on our website, on our technical assistance page,

so the TAB providers that I was just talking about are geographically based,

so if you want to reach out to one of them, you should contact the TAB provider
for your EPA region.

And we also have some specific technical assistance providers for focus areas on equitable development,

so Groundwork USA provides nationwide resources and technical assistance to support equitable development and environmental justice in communities that have brownfields,
and we also have a TA provider focused on brownfields redevelopment training and education.

So that's the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute or HMTRI,

and they provide nationwide resources and training for current and prospective job training grantees.

Next slide.

So earlier this year, the American Rescue Plan was passed
and the Brownfields and Land Revitalization program

was able to receive 5 million dollars in ARP funding.

The program has put this money towards our TAB providers that serve EPA’s 10 regions

with the goal that these funds will help facilitate the removal of barriers to brownfields reuse and help spur redevelopment and sustainability

and stimulate economic activity in overburdened communities.
So normally EPA funds are TAB providers year to year, but this funding ensures that TAB providers have access to the resources they need to continue supporting communities.

Next slide.

So for communities that need assistance in assessing a brownfield site we also offer targeted brownfields assessments, so TBAs or Targeted Brownfields Assessments are conducted by an EPA contractor.
on behalf of public entities
and nonprofits

and communities that are selected for
TBAs are chosen locally on a rolling basis

and those services are usually for an
average of about 100,000 dollars

and those services can
include site assessments,
cleanup options and cost estimates,
and community outreach.

So EPA's TBA assistance is available
through two sources,
both directly from EPA through EPA's Regional Brownfield Offices

and from state and tribal voluntary response program offices that receive funding from EPA.

So if you're interested in finding out more about targeted brownfield assessments,

you can click on that link on the slide

and that will give you more information about how you can reach out to your regional offices
for more information.

Okay, next slide.

So EPA's Land Revitalization program offers tools, guides, trainings and best practices to help communities sustainably reuse their brownfield sites.

There are many resources available on EPA's website, so the link on this slide takes you to EPA's Land and Revitalization toolkit and that toolkit is organized into different
stages of the redevelopment process

to help stakeholders find what resources we have in particular for site reuse,

pre-development, development and managing and operations of the site.

The program also conducts land revitalization technical assistance projects

to help communities move past barriers to site reuse.

Next, slide.

So I'll talk a little bit more about the Brownfields
and Land Revitalization programs approach

00:27:26,234 --> 00:27:28,720
for meeting the Justice40 initiative.

00:27:28,720 --> 00:27:33,520
So the program has looked back at our
most recent grant competitions

00:27:33,520 --> 00:27:40,480
from Fiscal Year 21 to identify applicants
that are serving disadvantaged communities

00:27:40,480 --> 00:27:44,159
that were selected to receive
brownfields grants

00:27:44,159 --> 00:27:47,388
and part of that analysis
included projecting the benefits

00:27:47,412 --> 00:27:52,320
that we expect to accrue as
a result of those grant dollars.

The program has also made changes to the Fiscal Year 22 Brownfields Assessment Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup grant guidelines that are coming out this or next month,

and those changes were to reflect Justice40 goals and help improve our process for tracking benefits in disadvantaged communities in the future.
So we’re asking applicants now to make sure they provide addresses if they have site-specific work and also provide census tract numbers if it's applicable for a target area that is a particular neighborhood or area that's smaller than the overall town or city or county.

And of course part of our approach is to engage with stakeholders, we're hoping to get feedback
from you all on this call in just a bit,

so we do have some additional opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the program in the future and I'll talk a bit more about those opportunities,

once we've had our discussion.

And next slide, thanks.

So after, we're going to have some Q&A first,

but after our Q&A, we'd like to hear from you all about the prevalence of brownfields
in your communities and if you're aware of EPA brownfield resources to help with site assessment, cleanup, reuse and job training, we'd like to have a conversation about the benefits of the program. So the program does ask grant recipients to report on the number of sites that are assessed, cleaned up and a number of job training program
participants who are trained in place,

but we want to hear from you all too if
you experience additional benefits beyond

site assessment, cleanup and job
trainees that benefit from our funding.

So we’re looking for feedback
that will help inform our program

how to maximize these benefits in
disadvantaged communities.

Next slide.

All right, so I'll invite you to submit
questions in the Q&A pod if you haven't already

My colleagues have been answering some questions I think during the presentation. If we have any that are applicable to the whole group, I can respond to those here,

And I'll-- oh sorry go ahead.

Victoria Robinson: I was gonna say thank you Elyse, as we start getting a couple questions,

I just wanted to let folks know that
the links that are not where the URL

00:30:30,495 --> 00:30:32,452
is not evident in the slides.

00:30:32,476 --> 00:30:36,887
We will make sure that they are
included in the copy of the slide deck

00:30:37,011 --> 00:30:38,333
that we will make available.

00:30:38,357 --> 00:30:43,028
So we will actually put the-- spell out
the URLs so that you can find those things,

00:30:43,052 --> 00:30:45,743
much easier when you
guys see the slide deck.

00:30:45,767 --> 00:30:50,720
And I think some of those are also
being put into the Q&A pod as well,
and we'll go from there.

So I was going to ask Patricia, I know you're typing an answer, did you want me to go ahead and read the question from-- the first question or you want to go ahead and read that question?

Patricia Overmeyer: Go ahead and read the question, please.

Victoria Robinson: Okay I'll go ahead and read it.
Elyse, we have a question that was asked by Karen Sprayberry,

will applicants get additional points toward their RFP if they are in an EJ community?

Elyse Sutkus: Okay great, thanks for your question.

So we evaluate our applications based on their responses to the criteria that are in our guidelines and we do try to highlight sensitive populations in those guidelines.

So strong applications will describe the
EJ issues that are faced by the community,

they propose to serve.

So our upcoming grant guidelines, they'll be evaluated on the extent to which grantees can demonstrate that their project will address threats to sensitive populations, including their health or welfare if there are any greater than normal incidence of diseases or adverse health conditions, and any disproportionately
impacted populations.

00:32:19,039 -- 00:32:27,559
So we don’t award automatic points or anything for communities in that are identified as EJ,

00:32:27,583 -- 00:32:33,344
but we ask our grantees or applicants to explain their situation

00:32:33,368 -- 00:32:40,840
and respond to our criteria and those that articulate those clear problems

00:32:40,840 -- 00:32:45,043
will score more favorably.

00:32:45,067 -- 00:32:48,000
Victoria Robinson: Thank you very much, Elyse.

00:32:48,024 -- 00:32:50,493
The next question from Maureen Goulet,
are the same organizations such as states, nonprofits, etc.,
eligible to apply for the training funds?

Elyse Sutkus: I'm not entirely clear on which training--
oh, do you mean for the brownfield job training grant?

So as I mentioned those-- the list of the full eligible entities is in the solicitation

and I believe that those entities are the same.
I think that we also-- I might have to get back to you on that one,

but it's my understanding that the eligible entities that I mentioned are available for the job training grants and there might be another category as well.

Patricia Overmeyer: Yes-- this is Patricia.

Generally, they're the same entities but there are additional criteria on that basically to apply for a job training grant.
You also have to have a job training program that basically our grant is to add to your curriculum. So basically you use a brownfields job training grant to add environmental job training brownfield, job training, curriculum, training classes to your curriculum.
be putting together a job training program
to score sufficiently to get a Brownfield Job Training grant.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Patricia.

Next question from Maritza Alvarez.

Are brownfields restricted to land or can they also include bodies of waters such as urban rivers that run through heavily industrialized communities with runoff impacting BIPOC communities?
Elyse Sutkus: Thanks for the question.

So our grants are specifically for brownfield properties or sites that need assessment and cleanup.

I know we have had situations where if there is a river that runs through a brownfield property and the community is interested in daylighting that river or stream, there can be additional investigation into that.
But the funding really does center around brownfield properties that are land not bodies of water.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you.

Next questions.

From-- is our tribal funds just for the federally recognized tribes?

Elyse Sutkus: It looks like my colleague is typing a response to that question.
Victoria Robinson: Okay.

Next question.

Does EPA measure the life cycle cost with EJ considerations of where the cleaned up waste ends up cradle to grave, should we measure the impacts to ensure the waste removed from a contaminated site isn't taken to a TSDF/approved facility
that may impact a disenfranchised community,

are there resources that can help?

Our program does not measure this.

The brownfields program does not measure the life cycle cost of waste even if our funding is used to remove it,
however, someone in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Office at EPA may have more information, but this is beyond our area of expertise.

Victoria Robinson: All right, thank you.

Next question from Amelina.

What tools and specific criteria are you using to identify disadvantaged communities?
how close to a brownfield site does a disadvantaged community need to be, in order for the site to be covered by Justice40.

Elyse Sutkus: I'm not sure.

Oh Patricia, did you want to respond to that?

Patricia Overmeyer: I'll try, I'll give it a try.

So the question is nothing-- basically how close to the community
or basically when you apply for a
ground field-- a brownfields grant,

488
00:37:28,736 -> 00:37:35,828
you can either apply for community-wide
assessment grant, a site-specific assessment grant

489
00:37:35,852 -> 00:37:39,760
and then for cleanup grants you
apply for sites specific.

490
00:37:39,760 -> 00:37:43,712
So generally, we don't have
any criteria with regard
to how close the brownfield site
has to be to any particular population,

491
00:37:43,736 -> 00:37:49,990
but we do expect our applicants to
provide information about the community
that's going to usurp the benefits of either assessing or cleaning up that property.

So we don't put a distance on it if it's right next door, if it's, what we-- it's a couple blocks or a mile away,

but we do want the applicant to explain to us that during the-- if the site is assessed and or cleaned up with our funds,

we want to know who's going to benefit from that cleanup or that assessment
and we do expect an award a greater point for those applicants that can show that disadvantaged or economically challenged, communities are in fact the beneficiaries of the brownfields grant and the project that's going to be funded.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you.

We're going to do the next three questions,
and then-- that does not mean necessary that the fourth

or future questions are not going to be answered,

we're going to move on to these engagement questions in just a moment,

we'll answer the next three.

Maureen Goulet.

I'm hoping I'm pronouncing that correctly.
Says that you mentioned that ARP is looking to remove barriers to brownfields reeves,

can you elaborate?

Elyse Sutkus: I can start out answering that,

so as I mentioned the program has put the ARP funding towards our technical assistance
to brownfields providers.

And those providers are free and available for any communities
that have brownfields so there is the goal

that these providers are there to help any disadvantaged communities

that have challenges with brownfields, it's free and available for them

to reach out to these providers for assistance

with understanding the process or understanding the application process,
or other resources that might be available for them.
So the goal is that this funding is there to help anyone, not just successful applicants for our grant.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Elyse.

Next question from David Brewster.

Is EPA tracking House Resolution 4427 entitled Brownfields Redevelopment Tax Incentive Reauthorization Act of 2021?

While it’s not a direct funding source from EPA, it is an incentive program for private cleanup
and development of brownfields.

If EPA is tracking this bill, is there any information or update that you can provide?

Patricia Overmeyer: This is Patricia.

We are tracking it somewhat, I don't think the bill has a lot of co-sponsors yet,

but for those of you who aren't familiar with the bill,

several years ago, there was a federal brownfields tax incentive
that was in place that was basically

a form of accelerated
depreciation for those companies,

who were cleaning
up brownfields

that basically rather than depreciate the cost
of a cleanup over the life cycle of the equipment

and the cleanup, the tax
incentive allowed all those costs
to be used as an accelerated--
as depreciation in the year
that the cleanup was conducted.

The tax credit-- tax incentive I should say,

The tax incentive sunset I think somewhere around 2011 or 2012,

it has not come back yet.

It usually it used to be part of the what they used to call the extenders package,
by congress as a package.

It got taken out of that package,

and since it's had some struggles with getting enough sponsors in congress.

So right now, I think there is a limited try,

or a limited push within the house to put this back in place,

but as of yet, I don't think it has enough sponsors to really get back into
that extenders package or to
make it to the-- through the committee

and to the floor on its own.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Patricia.

Question from Jacques Werle.

How do you first identify or
designate a brownfield site?

Elyse Sutkus: So a brownfield
site is really a property

that is contaminated or
potentially is contaminated.
So it could be a site that is just suspected of contamination.

And, these sites can include some something like a closed dry cleaner or auto body shop, abandoned gas stations, etc.

So I'm not sure.

Patricia if you want to talk a little bit more about all appropriate inquiries at any point,

but part of our program is providing funding for communities to assess these sites
that are suspected of contamination.

And that's the main purpose of our assessment grant.

Patricia Overmeyer: Yeah, this is Patricia.

Basically, any real property can really be a brownfield site.

There are some sites that we consider not brownfields,

but basically if a property looks bad or it seems like either it's contaminated
or it's perceived to be contaminated,
that site could be a brownfield site

we do exclude very limited
numbers of sites from brownfield sites,

and we exclude them basically just because
they're not-- they don't qualify for our funding.

And there's sites that are excluded
what we exclude from the definition

of brownfield, it's basically
any site that's a Superfund site

that basically gets on
the national priorities list
because that funding needs to come from the polluters and or from the Superfund.

And we also exclude federal facilities, because federal facilities are owned by the federal government, some branch of the military or DOE or some other part of the federal government, and so those entities are responsible for the cleanup, so we don't include them in brownfields,
the definition of brownfield site

and we don't provide funding for them
and then there are other certain sites--

some sites under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

And a couple of a very minor number of sites in the underground storage bank program

if they're already-- if underground storage tank sites are leaking on the restoration states

are being funded with the less trust fund then we don't include them.
Congress made the definition of a
brownfield site very broad

so that communities could make
use of our funds could apply for

and make use of our funds, so we're very careful
about not restricting sites from the definition

as long as they don't fall within those
very few excluded categories.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you
very much Patricia and this question

here I'm going to direct to
Matthew and Charles
and while we're answering that question then we'll be moving to the next set of questions

and we'll give instructions on how we're handling that session of that conversation--

So Matthew and Charles, the question is from Melinda Bouquet.

Are their criteria to define disadvantage, i.e below median income or other such criteria?

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, so there's a little bit of language

and I haven't read it in a couple months, it's sitting on my shelf right over there.
There's a little bit of language though in the actual Executive Order 14008 on what disadvantaged means but the big piece of that is that CEQ, the Council on Environmental Quality at the White House, as well as the Office of Management Budget which is another part of the White House, they are in charge of producing a tool, a new tool, a climate and environmental justice and a climate and economic justice screening tool—excuse me.
and that tool-- I guess its primary purpose, maybe its sole purpose is to delineate what is a disadvantaged community. So that is being worked on at a very high level over at the White House and we, like a lot of folks in the public, are very curious to see what that tool contains once it is released to the public, it has not been released yet, we have
not reviewed a version of it or anything,

so we are curious about that.

I think it will contain, it will likely contain a lot of different information,

obviously climate and economics are in its title,

I would imagine it would also contain demographic information, income information,

maybe some other environmental or health or housing data sets, we'll see,

that's all being handled
over the White House

00:47:52,720 --> 00:47:57,828
and that will determine for the
long-term implementation of Justice40

00:47:57,852 --> 00:48:05,559
exactly which communities across the United
States are designated as disadvantaged.

00:48:06,319 --> 00:48:08,108
Victoria Robinson: Thank you very much, Matt.

00:48:08,132 --> 00:48:10,988
As we move to the
next section of the call,

00:48:11,012 --> 00:48:16,000
it's the listening session
and dialogue which will be--

00:48:16,000 --> 00:48:20,975
have several questions that the brownfields
program would like to get feedback on from you.

00:48:20,999 --> 00:48:26,160

To participate, so we're asking you to provide any comments or questions in the Q&A pod,

00:48:26,160 --> 00:48:30,079

please go ahead and put those in there like some of you've already been doing.

00:48:30,079 --> 00:48:35,119

When prompted, we're going to ask you right now go ahead and raise your hand

00:48:36,319 --> 00:48:38,927

to indicate that you would like to ask a question.

00:48:38,951 --> 00:48:42,564

If you're using a phone, press *9 to raise your hand

00:48:42,588 --> 00:48:46,053
and then when we will see that when it's your turn to ask a question

00:48:46,077 --> 00:48:49,037
we'll call you out and give you the last call out the last three digits

00:48:49,061 --> 00:48:52,348
of your phone number and ask you to unmute your line at that time.

00:48:52,372 --> 00:48:55,528
And once again, please limit your questions or comments to one minute

00:48:55,552 --> 00:48:58,327
to allow as many people to ask questions as possible.

00:48:58,351 --> 00:49:03,408
So I'm going to turn it now back to Elyse for her to start with her questions
that she would like to get feedback on.

Elyse Sutkus: Thank you, Victoria.

So on this first slide we just have more of a couple icebreaker questions.

So we're just looking to hear from any of you about a response to these.

Do you have brownfield sites in your community?

And are you aware of resources, in particular EPA resources for brownfields assessment,
cleanup, reuse, job training and technical assistance?

644
00:49:31,839 --> 00:49:39,400
So please, as Victoria said feel free to respond in the chat or raise your hand.

645
00:49:44,960 --> 00:49:49,440
Victoria Robinson: All right, we're gonna have Michelle Jackson.

646
00:49:49,440 --> 00:49:53,040
You can go ahead and unmute your line.

647
00:49:53,040 --> 00:49:58,528
Michelle Jackson: Yes, I'm aware of funding for brownfield cleanup

648
00:49:58,552 --> 00:50:04,079
but it seems like it only goes to the bigger corporations.
So I don’t know of any small ones, I live in the city of Detroit, I live on the east side of Detroit.

I do know FIAT did the expansion, they received some funding for brownfield

and also a new project that’s very big over here

where they just recently tore down the old Cadillac plant

that was by the city airport.

So money is out there but I don’t see any-- I don’t see any remnants in the smaller community
that's touching the
smaller communities,

it's basically going to the
bigger corporations, I'll say.

Thank you.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you very much.
Elyse Sutkus: Thank you, Michelle.

Victoria Robinson: Anybody else have a
question or comment they want to add to that?

Okay, somebody asked if we could show the
speakers instead of the slide.
That's going to be a little bit more difficult to be able to do both.

We would lose the questions for the time being.

So I'll leave it up to Elyse how she want to move forward on that.

Elyse Sutkus: Can you still see those speakers on the side?

Matthew Tejada: You should be able to change your view where you get not little tiny speaker squares but actual bigger boxes next to the slide,
but yeah we--

We're trying as best we can to get folks the visuals that people want

but we're not experts and this is not a platform designed specifically for this purpose,

so we'll do the best we can.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matt.

Any other have any questions?

Elyse Sutkus: There aren't any but any other attendees that want to comment on this,
we can move on to the next couple questions.

Victoria Robinson: Okay we'll do that now.

All right so this gets to a bit more of the heart of what we're trying to get feedback on from you all.

So we'd like to ask what barriers or challenges do you see for disadvantaged communities in accessing brownfield resources?
And are there any strategies that you’d recommend to help EPA raise awareness and increase access to these resources, in particular in disadvantaged communities?

Victoria Robinson: If you want to go ahead and answer that live, go ahead.

Okay Maureen I will go ahead and Maureen Goulet-- you can go ahead unmute your line.

Are you able to unmute your line, Maureen?

Maureen Goulet: Hi, this is kind of in the same vein of the response in the previous question
and that the-- I think a lot of the folks who are working locally in municipalities and communities are focused on economic redevelopment and not necessarily on the community aspect of it although that's an important part of it.

I just think that there's always a priority on redeveloping properties that are now going to be on the tax roll.
Victoria Robinson: Thank you.
Elyse Sutkus: Thank you, Maureen.

Victoria Robinson: Now Vanessa Gordon has written a comment that challenges and barriers include access to technology, language factors support from decision makers.

And she also adds use public libraries as a means to communicate.

I believe that's probably in response to the digital divide concerns.
Anybody else have any questions or comments to these two questions?

Susan Alsner.

You can go ahead and unmute your line.

Susan Alsner: Yeah I would like to make the suggestion that additional training that could be offered would be capacity building for engaging with the digital tool building that's happening as part of Justice40.
Community voices are really needed there but the conversations are often very technical

and it makes it hard for people to figure out where to plug in,

so open trainings for that would be incredibly valuable, thank you.

Elyse Sutkus: Thank you, Susan.

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Susan.

Yeah I think across the board with Justice40, one of the things everyone has identified is there's a huge need for capacity
building not just for communities

but for community partners
especially at the local level

whether that be cities or municipalities or academic institutions, even just local schools

there's a huge need for capacity building.

So we're hopeful like I know a lot of folks are hopeful

that in the upcoming budget decisions that are being cooked away up on the hill right now
that there will be resources
for a completely different reality

717
00:56:06,852 --> 00:56:12,079
in terms of capacity building for
communities and their local partners.

718
00:56:12,079 --> 00:56:17,119
In the meantime and
acknowledging things like

719
00:56:17,119 --> 00:56:22,569
communities don't have the resources to apply
for grants which Melinda put in the chat

720
00:56:22,593 --> 00:56:26,805
or the question box or
the persistence of a digital divide

721
00:56:26,829 --> 00:56:30,799
and needing to get
out to places like public libraries.
These are great reminders suggestions

even as we wait for hopefully new resources to come from the hill,

these sorts of meetings and other things that we are trying to get out there

as quickly as we can are our attempts to try to bridge some of those

or at least recognize and lift up these needs more broadly,

not just for the brownfields chop but for everyone at EPA
whether they're involved in Justice40 or not
and I really thank the brownfields program

for being one of the first ones to
kind of charge into this space with us

and have these-- exactly
the sort of open conversation

and to hear back from you all.

Patricia Overmeyer: Well, this is Patricia.

I'm sorry I didn't realize I wasn't--
didn't have my camera on.
So yes there are several questions about several comments in the--

that people have made about communities not having the capacity

or not having availability of resources,

please know that every community, every non-profit, all of you can take advantage of our technical assistance to brownfields providers.

We have several providers, we put the link to our website
where you can get information on who is the provider in your region and your neighborhood.

but all of these technical assistance providers are paid for by EPA but available to you.

So if you have questions about how you can apply for a brownfields grant,

if you need assistance applying for a brownfields grant,

if you have questions about brownfields in your community

whether the site is a brownfield, how to do an assessment, how to read an assessment
that was done by somebody else, these
providers are available to you.

You can call them up and ask them these questions
and you can get free technical assistance

from our providers.

I really encourage people to make the best
of these resources as they're available to you

and if you go to their websites,
you'll also see that they have--

they generally have lots of workshops and
webinars available to help you get started
and thinking through your brownfield challenges in your communities.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Patricia.

We do have a question, I think it might be directed more toward Matthew again.

If Justice40 is not clearly defined, can other community issues such as violence, crime and access to services like child care be included as factors for sensitive populations?
Matthew Tejada: That's a great question.

To just remind one of the things -- I think so, I think those are great things

and when we start talking about the realities faced by communities with EJ concerns at EPA and looking at things like cumulative impacts,

those are definitely some of the things that we talk about

and that we want to insert in the conversation to really fully appreciate
what the most overburdened and vulnerable communities deal with in their reality.

00:59:42,196 --> 00:59:45,355
But it began to repeat
one thing that I said earlier--

00:59:45,379 --> 00:59:50,319
we're not the ones going to make the
decision on what actually goes into the tool

00:59:50,319 --> 00:59:55,920
that defines which communities
are or are not disadvantaged.

00:59:55,920 --> 01:00:02,880
And just from experience though, having
run EJSCREEN for a very long time at EPA,

01:00:04,480 --> 01:00:06,079
one of the biggest--

01:00:06,079 --> 01:00:09,188
one of the biggest things
when you're looking at things

like violence or crime
or child care services

one of the biggest hurdles we have is

"Okay, where's the data and how
granular, how fine is that data"

because for EJ we need it to be right
down at the community level,

it can't be like "Well, there's
20 of these in a county"
that doesn't help us, we need actual neighborhood scale data

but we need it to be available for the entire United States

and that's one of the things that a lot of the data sets that we look at in EJSCREEN

it's really tough because we might have a data set that looks really good until you get out into a rural population or until you look at Alaska,

and then the data just starts to disappear on you
and there's an inherent inequity in using data that works really well for some communities but not very well for other communities especially if we're looking at using that data for something like the allocation of resources.

We need data that's going to be fair that's going to be equitable by the nature of the data and sometimes things that folks think
we should obviously have access to at the federal government,

we actually don't, they might not exist in those ways

but again, for the purposes of the Justice40 definition of disadvantaged community, those decisions are going to be made over at the White House, not at EPA.

Patricia Overmeyer: Yeah, this is Patricia I would also add to remember that Justice40
isn't an EPA program and
so to answer that question,

there are other-- Department of Justice, the
Department of Education, Health and Human Services

and Housing and Urban Development,

all of these agencies and departments,
Department of Transportation

are all part of Justice
and their grant programs

might cover some of the
items that were mentioned
such as violence and
child care and housing

may be included in Justice40 under
other departments and agency programs

just maybe not be specifically
touched by EPA grants.

Matthew Tejada: And I'm
not sure Victoria, Megan Smith

is putting a lot of information in about a
Justice40 open source data and tech community.

Can everyone see that? Can everyone see
everyone else's questions or can just us see it?
Victoria Robinson: I just made it answered live so she didn't see it

because I was gonna bring it up and then I could read it,

but yes I've now made it live so people can see Megan's suggestions about the data--open data and tech community collaborative that's going on for Justice40.

Matthew Tejada: Thanks for that Megan, that's really great.

Victoria Robinson: All right, wonderful.
There was a question that the person said I would be curious as to what the EPA is currently doing in terms of raising awareness and increasing access to these grants and assistance.

Even thinking of the context of this call, I don't believe that the registration said that would be focused on brownfields, so how are we making sure the right people are engaged?
Elyse Sutkus: I think I can answer that.
Matthew Tejada: There you go.

So I did want to mention and I'll mention later on too

we do have a brownfields listserv that folks can sign up for

to get updates on our program, our grant announcements, webinars, resources

that are available.

EPA's regional brownfield offices also conduct outreach
for the states, tribes and territories that are covered by their regions,

so that outreach is going on as well.

Now let me just drop the link for our-- I'm not sure the best way to share this.

I don't know if I can type answers in the Q&A but somebody else can share that in the group.

Victoria Robinson: Yeah.

Charles Lee: Can I also say that
I think this is a great question

and at least us to think more of
long-term and more coordinated

These sessions are just the
first of sessions presenting
information and beginning to
engage around a particular program,

but each of the programs
are going to continue to do

their own outreach and engagement
as Elyse has suggested or indicated

in terms of the brownfield program.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Charles.

Elyse Sutkus: And I also did want to mention too that our office does coordinate with OEJ so when things like grant guidelines are posted,

those go out on the EJ listserv as well to help folks be aware.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Elyse.
Bruce Mendelson, you've got your hand raised,

if you can go ahead and unmute your line.

Bruce Mendelson: Hi there, thank you.

I agree with the strategy for-- this is to the question of raising awareness.

So a colleague mentioned engaging your local libraries,

yes and engage organizations and leaders in the targeted communities
with materials relevant to them.

So one of the things that we're doing to engage and recruit potential participants in our environmental workforce development and job training grant is translating flyers into multiple languages, Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, etc. and engaging the leaders in those communities as credible sources.
Thank you.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Bruce.
Elyse Sutkus: Thank you, Bruce.

Victoria Robinson: Okay, Megan is going to-- has her hand up

Go ahead, Megan.

Megan: My colleagues, it's great to be with everybody, thank you for this information.

I just wanted a little bit more so people are aware--
one of the big challenges we have in our society is we get in silos and a lot of the tech data colleagues are in a separate silo from amazing long-standing EJ leaders. Some EJ leaders are data scientists, some are community activists, some are scientists, so many different things. What we're trying to do with the open source group that OMB is hosting
in the US Digital Service-- we did not create this group-- I'm from Region 7

but they opened it up, it's trying to make sure the tech native folks that are in there are hearing from more EJ leaders and teammates

and it's much more of a cross-functional group.

And so the workshop on Monday, September 20th of which I think there's three posts here--
if you make them live people
can see all the links and emails.

Shelby Switzer at OMB, somebody
you can email if you need it.

People are hoping to connect
us better and begin that teamwork

because we have the internet now
and so we want to use the internet

to be much more accelerated
on our cross-functional teamwork

so we can move faster
for a lot less money.
I'm using all the tools of the universe together with the help of the government colleagues.

Thanks.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Megan.

We have another person who wrote that considering non-federally recognized indigenous communities do not qualify for brownfields funding, would they be able to be recognized as disadvantaged communities
when they cannot have access
to local traditional sites for ceremony
due to water contamination?
Matthew Tejada: Wow, can you let
me-- I was listening to that, oh there it is.
Let me read it real quick
to make sure I understand the point.
Indigenous communities do not qualify
brownfields funding--

would they be able to be
recognized as this and they could not--
Well, I believe and correct me Elyse and Patricia if I'm wrong,
even though if it's a non-federally recognized indigenous community
but if the community has established a community based organization
like a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit then they would still-- Patricia's nodding,
you would still be able to apply for brownfields program funding
and regardless of whether or not you are federally recognized or not
that's not going to be like a binary choice, I believe, for Justice40 overall,

Justice40 is going to look at a lot of different things.

And to the earlier question that an anonymous attendee

but if you look in the answers that we have posted,

the anonymous entered the question at 3 o'clock,
one of our colleagues in OEJ, Rebecca Huff,

she sent me the citation in the executive order for some of the language about what should be considered for disadvantaged.

while we wait for this tool to come out, so I've included that as well.

Those are some of the things that are under consideration for disadvantaged.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matt.
Next question, since I don't see any hands raised.

And hey folks on the phone remember you can press *9 if you want to ask a question.

Maureen Goulet asks, are any chance there could be funds available to gather that local level data?

Matthew Tejada: I mean there are different funds that are out there,
we are still in the process of scoring for our environmental justice grants

that we competed earlier this year.

Those would be--

those are fairly general in terms of supporting communities to do things

like monitoring and sampling and organizing and education,

so those aren't open now but we're hopeful again
that we're going to get a lot more funding and potentially have those open

just as on a rolling basis not to have to compete them at a set time every year.

Elyse or Patricia, are there other means of support

through the brownfields program to do things like community monitoring or sampling?

Patricia Overmeyer: Well, the EPA brownfields program--
where each of our 10 regional offices do have funds where they can go out and do assessments for communities who don't have the capacity to do it for themselves and some of those funding sometimes can also be used a little bit of planning around an assessment. But so as far as the sampling or the assessment of brownfields in a community
for a community doesn't have a capacity they could request assistance through our regional offices and we can use our targeted brownfields assessment program to address those concerns in their communities and also just general information about health impacts and or the benefits of sampling could be through our-- you can get additional
information through our targeted--

939
01:12:02,880 --> 01:12:07,840
our tab program --targeted--
I can't think of the name

940
01:12:09,440 --> 01:12:11,408
technical assistance
to brownfields program--

941
01:12:11,432 --> 01:12:14,948
I'm sorry about, that our technical
assistance brownfields program

942
01:12:14,972 --> 01:12:18,239
can help you with answer a
lot of those questions.

943
01:12:18,239 --> 01:12:21,279
Now that being said, our technical
assistance for the brownfields program

944
01:12:21,303 --> 01:12:29,600
they cannot go out and do sampling
or generally collect data for us

01:12:29,600 --> 01:12:37,840
but they can at least help communities
collect their own data

01:12:38,159 --> 01:12:42,880
and characterize their
sites and their communities.

01:12:43,840 --> 01:12:45,600
Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Patricia.

01:12:46,719 --> 01:12:49,708
So Bruce followed up his
comment earlier,

01:12:49,732 --> 01:12:55,061
he wanted to add that to address your question
about strategies for awareness building,

01:12:55,085 --> 01:12:59,168
he says "Yes, please engage organizations and leaders in the targeted communities

with materials relevant to them such as flyers translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, etc.

All right so--

Matthew Tejada: And on this one, Victoria

so we have somebody who is asking to be put in touch with Region 7 EJ Coordinator and I guess they have not made the connection
but if you would email me
directly Tejada.matthew@epa.gov

So it's just my name, you
should see my name right here

and just do lastname.firstname@epa.gov.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matt.

Elyse we wanna move on
to the next set of questions,

Elyse Sutkus: Yes and this
our last set of questions here.
Victoria Robinson: Thank you.

All right go ahead.

Elyse Sutkus: All right.

So obviously I've been talking about how the program empowers states communities and stakeholders to work together to prevent assess clean up and sustainably reuse brownfields.
I talked a little bit earlier about how the direct benefit of brownfields grants include assessing sites, cleaning up sites training job, trainees in the job training program and placing those graduates.

And revitalizing and reusing sites also creates additional benefits throughout the community, so we'd like to hear from you all about what some of those benefits are that you see and experience in your community.
from the assessment cleanup and reuse of brownfields or from job training programs?

And what are some ways that the program can help maximize those benefits in disadvantaged communities?

Victoria Robinson: Anybody have any questions?

Feel free to raise your hand.

Elyse or Patricia while we're waiting for somebody to raise their hand or ask
pose a question, is there anything you want to add to that

about how you see those answers helping you to better move that along the Justice40 thing along for brownfields?

Elyse Sutkus: Let me see.

Patricia Overmeyer: I think that Justice40 is helping us to use the federal family and our internal resources to make us all more aware of the communities
that we can serve and also helping us to share our results about

how do we best collectively work together to identify the communities

and identify the benefits that could be going to these communities

such as the conversation that we're having today.

We'll have additional conversations but I think looking toward

sharing information across the federal
government about the different communities and stakeholders

that we all serve, how we get to them, how we can share information and data

and just the ability to reach out and do more and more communication

particularly now in a time when we’re on the pandemic.

The brownfields program we’re often out at lots of workshops and in the communities and lots of conferences that where we can talk to and engage with people
who are not getting all those opportunities right now.

So I think the more that we can work with each other, share our resources and share our ability to talk with people--

I think Justice40 is going to give us more and more opportunities to understand our audiences, understand our stakeholders and give us more opportunities to engage.
So I think that's one of the major benefits of the program might be.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Patricia.

We're not seeing any questions or hands raised at this moment.

Did you want to move on to the next slide?

Elyse Sutkus: Sure, yeah and if anybody thinks of something please feel free to raise your hand before we wrap up here.
but yeah, I can talk about our other future engagement opportunities on the next slide.

So I just want to mention registration and other details for these events

and other important updates are sent out on our brownfield listserv,

so I definitely encourage you to visit our website and sign up

if you're interested in staying up to date on the EPA's brownfield program

and I'll make sure that that link is available when these slides go out.
Victoria I can coordinate with you.

Yeah, just in terms of upcoming opportunities after our Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup grant guidelines are released, about one or two weeks later, we'll have an outreach webinar to walk through those guidelines.

We also have our TAB providers offering different workshops and roundtable discussions this fall.
So one thing I did want to note, we have Kansas State University or KSU,

our TAB provider is having an EJ webinar series.

So that series will help assist communities in understanding more about EJ and how it may be impacting their community and there's three sessions that they have scheduled there and we'll be advertising that via our listserv.
We also have the National Brownfield Training Conference coming up in Oklahoma city, Oklahoma in person, that's December 8th through 11th.

And the day before the conference begins, we have the EJ Caucus also in Oklahoma city, and EJ stakeholders will have an opportunity to engage there and discuss issues and challenges and resources for brownfields to be used.

And also the ASTSWMO Mid-Year Meetings are coming up in October this year.
So please if you want to stay up to date about these and other events, definitely sign up for our brownfields listserv.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you very much.

Elyse Sutkus: And I think that's it, thank you.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, all right.

All right, you want to go ahead with this--
Matthew you want me to go ahead and read these points of contact?

Matthew Tejada: You can do it.

Victoria Robinson: All right cool.

Office of Environmental Justice here at EPA, we've got several people who are actively engaged in supporting the Justice40 effort here at the agency.

As obvious Matthew Tejada, who's the Director of the office,
he's also the Senior Staff Representative
on the White House Interagency Council

1048
01:20:24,719 --> 01:20:29,920
and he's one of our main
points of contact for Justice40.

1049
01:20:29,920 --> 01:20:32,548
Charles Lee and myself, we're the leads
for Stakeholder Engagement

1050
01:20:32,572 --> 01:20:34,529
and you can
see our emails as well.

1051
01:20:34,553 --> 01:20:42,239
Nicolette Fertakis, she is the lead
for Justice40 overall in our office

1052
01:20:42,239 --> 01:20:44,880
and Patrick Beckley also is the--

1053
01:20:44,880 --> 01:20:53,280
supports Nicolette in that effort for Justice40 and the Interagency Council.

And then again, these slides will be provided to everybody in the next couple of days and will be posted to our website.

and I'll send-- to everybody that's provided an email address, you'll get an email from me indicating that these things are now posted on the website.

We do want to mention there's some upcoming engagement opportunities.
in addition to what Elyse pointed out over the next few months

for engagement around brownfields.

We do have other engagement opportunities that relate to environmental justice.

The first one is--starts tomorrow, there is as part of our

environmental justice webinar series for tribes and indigenous peoples,
and it's a webinar on how some federal agencies are considering traditional knowledge and implementation of their missions and there's the link on this slide as well.

In addition, on October 20th we will hold our open discussion with the public about using EJSCREEN as an opportunity to learn about EJSCREEN as well as to get any questions answered you have about how to use it and how to better use it and enhance your use in the work that you're doing.
We also-- our office in Region 4 has been doing a series of EJ workshops growing grassroots and building capacity for environmental justice work,

these are on September 23rd.

The fourth session out of five is focusing on building capacity for individuals and organizations working in underserved and disadvantaged communities.

This session is specifically about accessing funding for communities
and offer practical tips on successful
grant writing and information

about accessing
community-based funding.

You can learn about the series at
our website--again, the link is provided

and I see that somebody would
like the links put into the chat.

These links will be in the document, the slide
document that gets posted in a couple days

but we'll see about trying
to get it into the chat as well.
Last upcoming engagement opportunity, Fiscal 22-- there's the Brownfields Job Training Grants, and this is a reminder that those applications are due October 5th Elyse has already given a lot of information on that. And David Brewster is asking whether the EJSCREEN session for October 20th is it for the current EJSCREEN or the updated version.
Matthew can you answer that question?

Matthew Tejada: It will be for whatever version is out there for folks to use when we do it.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, thank you, Matt.

Matthew Tejada: We're working on a lot of different updates and there's obviously a lot of things happening in the whole tool screening space.

I just got an update yesterday from the state of Colorado--
I don't know if they published it or what

but they're getting ready to launch a state-based one which is awesome.

So that's part of our commitment just to make sure we're out there as often as possible providing information and opportunities for folks to engage with us and offer feedback.

I don't think by that time we'll have an update out for EJSCREEN, so it should be the one that's out there right now today.
But if somehow we managed to sneak an update out, then it'll be on that version.

Victoria Robinson: All right, thank you, Matt.

You want to go ahead and--

you want to provide information on the sites for more information about Justice40

for those who would like some.

Matthew Tejada: Sure, yeah and just so folks are aware,
we have a couple of URLs up here, I know it’s not always the easiest to look at a slide like this

1108
01:24:50,814 --> 01:24:52,933
and type in a URL but here they are,

1109
01:24:52,957 --> 01:24:56,880
or you should be able to Google these things fairly easily.

1110
01:24:56,880 --> 01:24:59,120
So the interim implementation guidance

1111
01:24:59,120 --> 01:25:03,199
for Justice40 that’s the overall document that is directing

1112
01:25:03,199 --> 01:25:08,639
everything we’re doing today on Justice40 including what we’re actually doing right now,

1113
01:25:08,639 --> 01:25:11,440
that is on a White House site.
And then we have also put
up for ease of locating them

the recommendations from the White House
Environmental Justice Advisory Council,

the WHEJAC, they have already
put out recommendations for Justice40,

so those are on an EPA website.

So those are the
addresses for those or again,

you could fairly simply Google either
of those two things that are underlined
in some combination and you should be able to go right to either of those resources.

Victoria Robinson: All right, thank you, Matthew.

And then go out I'll let you go ahead and give the closing remarks.

Matthew Tejada: Sure, yeah so our next community engagement call is going to be September 28th.

I don't know that we have as somebody said earlier,
getting out there information that today we were going to focus on brownfields.

I'm not sure if we know exactly which one we're going to focus on the September 28th or what the content is going to be, as soon as we square that away though we try to put that out either through our listserv and there are instructions on the very bottom here about how to sign up for the environmental justice listserv at EPA,
or not the very bottom, in the middle-- I'm sorry

and then also we have our Twitter handle specific to the EJ program at EPA,

it's @EPAEnvJustice, so whenever we have more information

about when these will occur or what topics we will potentially be covering in these

community engagement calls, we'll try to put that out for folks as early as we can.

Sometimes it's just a matter of not
getting squared away soon enough

1138
01:26:52,753 --> 01:26:59,280
but we're working as hard as we
can to get that stuff planned ahead of time

1139
01:26:59,280 --> 01:27:03,108
and I apologize that I was not able
to be on for the first half hour

1140
01:27:03,132 --> 01:27:07,840
I managed to double book
myself for this meeting today.

1141
01:27:07,840 --> 01:27:10,880
So I think the update was
already offered,

1142
01:27:10,880 --> 01:27:14,548
but we are coming
into the home stretch
on the agency's next EPA
multi-year strategic plan,

so that is the document that really directs
what we do at EPA for the next several years.

And for the first time ever, a central
goal of that strategic plan

will be environmental justice and civil rights,
and the draft of that will be coming out

likely in October, early October hopefully

for about a six week engagement
period with the public and feedback,
so we will likely be using this call,
at least probably one or two of them

in October, early November to
kind of go through what we have

in that draft strategic plan and start that
feedback process with members of the public.

So please look out for that and again as
soon as we get those things framed up

and for sure, we will put
that information out for folks

so you know what to expect and which
meetings you want to attend or not attend
based upon your interest or if you want to share any of that with other community colleagues or other stakeholders to make sure that there's awareness.

We do everything we can to try to put out tons of information but we love it when our fellow travelers and community folks and other partners help us broadcast the information that folks and communities need.
to try to make sure that they are in
the flow of what is going on

and have a chance to engage and
lift up their own voices for us to hear.

And I think that’s all we have for today.

Then Victoria, are we ending a little early?

Victoria Robinson: I think so, I do not
see any other questions or comments,

no raised hands however
we do have a question.
Did you give a ballpark time frame for the new EJSCREEN?

Matthew Tejada: No, we don't, we really don't know yet.

We have some things that we've been cooking on and they're coming up to being ready to go, we don't know exactly when those are going to come out.

We're also thinking ahead for some updates over the winter,
so we're working hard on those and as soon as we have them completely nailed down and have everyone comfortable with them, we'll be pushing them out but it always takes a little longer than I hope and that I anticipate. We've managed to get the timing down to shorter than it was 6, 7 years ago for doing an update but we're not quite yet buttoned away completely yet. Victoria Robinson: Matt, real quick question.
Are we talking about the new EJSCREEN--

is it a combination of new data and or a new interface or changes to the interface?

We've been working on both and I don't think the new interface will be ready in the next couple of months,

I think we're probably going to look at early 2022 for that, calendar year 2022,

but we've-- I mean, we're working on a lot of stuff which is awesome
because this is the first time, the last six months are the first time that we've had

basically any resources to actually build some of the stuff in EJSCREEN

that people have been asking us for since it was first launched

and we have done-- we have built EJSCREEN and maintained EJSCREEN

on the stringiest of shoe strings in federal government perspective.

So we finally with this administration have some resources
and also just have the support to really do to EJSCREEN the things that people have asked us for.

So we're working on a number of those things and trust me, we are just as if not more excited than anybody on planet earth to get newer and better versions of EJSCREEN out there, so we're working away on them and as soon as we can, we're going to pop out any of the new stuff
whether it's new data or new layers or a new interface,

we have some mock-ups of the new interface already

and I think they answer-- if we can actually make them work,

I think they answer a lot of the things people have been asking us

for a long time and will make EJSCREEN much more much simpler,

much more kind of user friendly
and easy to use for novice users,

so we’re excited to get them out there.

So again-- but any information on that, if you
join that EPA EJ list, that middle email over there,

anytime we do anything on EJSCREEN we
will send something out by that listserv

and also on our twitter
account to make sure folks know.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you very much, Matt.

And not seeing any other questions I guess
it's it will be time for the end of our call.
We do have another caller as we said on September 28th, the same time at 2 PM Eastern.

We'll be sending out announcements via Twitter and our listserv within the next week or maybe by the end of this week with that information, what includes the registration and information about what the subject matter is.
And thank you for that suggestion and reminder for us to make sure we include the topic in those announcements, thank you.

Matthew Tejada: One more question came in, I'm not sure if it was a region or a state but if folks out there are using EJSCREEN, there is no reason to wait to use EJSCREEN to train on EJSCREEN, to figure out how to use it in very firm program policy ways, it's not like EJSCREEN is going to come out as this completely different thing,
it'll be evolutions on what we have now,

so don't wait for new things to come out,

get people using it, get people trained on it, start wrapping your arms around it

it'll only make it that much easier when newer versions come out to assimilate that

into how and to folks understanding and use.

Okay and now I think we're done, Victoria.
Victoria Robinson: Yes I think we're done.

Matthew Tejada: Okay, thank you everybody.

Victoria Robinson: Forward to seeing everybody seeing folks in the next week, in two weeks from today.

Thank you.

Matthew Tejada: Thank you Sean, thank you, Nestor for interpreting again today,
we appreciate y'all.

Victoria Robinson: Indeed, thank you.

Matthew Tejada: All right, thanks everyone.

Hey great job Elyse and Patricia that was great.

Patricia Overmeyer: Thank you.

Elyse Sutkus: Thanks everyone.

Thank you.