

1

00:00:05,140 --> 00:00:06,080

Victoria Robinson: Hello, everybody.

2

00:00:06,700 --> 00:00:09,960

My name's Victoria Robinson  
with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice.

3

00:00:10,490 --> 00:00:14,620

I'd like to welcome you to our National  
Environmental Justice Community Engagement

4

00:00:14,620 --> 00:00:19,870

Call. Now, before we get started, I'd like  
to go over a few housekeeping items with you.

5

00:00:20,470 --> 00:00:25,510

First is we're asking folks to join by  
phone or computer, but not both.

6

00:00:25,530 --> 00:00:30,990

It will help with saving bandwidth on your  
end, as well as allow as many participants as

7

00:00:30,990 --> 00:00:32,760

possible into the room.

8

00:00:34,020 --> 00:00:39,120

Participants are all on mute, so we're asking folks to enter your comments into the

9

00:00:39,120 --> 00:00:48,030

Q&A pod, which is located on the toolbar for the Zoom meeting, and when we do

10

00:00:48,030 --> 00:00:50,880

get to the part where we actually open up for questions,

11

00:00:51,180 --> 00:00:54,330

if you're selected during that dialogue time, we're going to ask you to limit your

12

00:00:54,330 --> 00:00:55,680

comment to one minute.

13

00:00:56,100 --> 00:00:59,490

Please note that a recording and a transcript will be available online in the

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00:00:59,490 --> 00:01:08,610

near future. For those who would prefer to listen to the media in Spanish, we do have

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00:01:08,610 --> 00:01:14,100

the interpretation mode enabled so that if you want to, you can switch to the Spanish

16

00:01:14,100 --> 00:01:17,070

language audio channel by clicking that interpretation globe.

17

00:01:17,310 --> 00:01:22,770

You can also add questions in Spanish to the Q&A pod, and we will attempt to respond

18

00:01:22,770 --> 00:01:23,850

to those questions.

19

00:01:24,450 --> 00:01:28,110

Then later on, our meeting materials  
will be made available in Spanish as much as

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00:01:28,110 --> 00:01:30,180

we can do at that time.

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00:01:31,050 --> 00:01:32,600

But yes, thank you very much.

22

00:01:32,610 --> 00:01:38,670

Now I'm going to turn it over to Matthew  
Tejada, the director of the EPA's Office of

23

00:01:38,670 --> 00:01:40,240

Environmental Justice, to take it from here.

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00:01:40,260 --> 00:01:41,400

Thank you, Matt.

25

00:01:42,330 --> 00:01:43,470

Matthew Tejada: Thank you, Victoria.

26

00:01:43,740 --> 00:01:46,600

Thanks to everyone so  
much for joining us today.

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00:01:46,650 --> 00:01:48,390

Again, my name is Matthew Tejada.

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00:01:48,720 --> 00:01:53,070

I'm the Director of the Office of Environmental  
Justice and the EJ program here at

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00:01:53,070 --> 00:01:58,200

EPA. We are doing these  
biweekly engagement calls.

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00:01:58,830 --> 00:02:00,090

We know it's a lot.

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00:02:00,270 --> 00:02:03,000

As I said, I think last  
time, it's a lot for us,

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:09,000

we know it's a lot for our community leaders  
and community organizations, but that's

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:10,800

because there is a lot going on.

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00:02:11,100 --> 00:02:17,310

It is an unprecedented historic time for  
advancing equity and justice and civil rights

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00:02:17,310 --> 00:02:20,240

across the federal  
government, especially at EPA.

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00:02:21,270 --> 00:02:26,580

We felt these were necessary for some  
time to continue these biweekly.

37

00:02:26,670 --> 00:02:31,980

But we will look in the new year,  
potentially to ease off the gas a little bit

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00:02:31,980 --> 00:02:38,250

as we hopefully settle into a more regular  
cadence of work on equity and justice at EPA.

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00:02:39,090 --> 00:02:45,240

But today, the day after we celebrated  
Indigenous Peoples Day, I'd like to begin a

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00:02:45,240 --> 00:02:50,040

little bit differently, instead of just  
jumping right in to talking at you all with a

41

00:02:50,040 --> 00:02:53,850

bunch of information and then engaging on  
that information,

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00:02:54,330 --> 00:03:01,260

I'd like to invite you all to take just a  
moment to arrive at this meeting by noticing

43

00:03:01,260 --> 00:03:04,620

where you are in time  
and in space right now.

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00:03:05,740 --> 00:03:13,060

I want you to notice how do your feet feel  
on the ground or how does that chair feel

45

00:03:13,060 --> 00:03:15,970

underneath your body that's connecting you  
to the ground?

46

00:03:16,920 --> 00:03:20,460

Feel the texture of the socks or the shoes  
you're wearing.

47

00:03:21,510 --> 00:03:26,610

For me, I'm actually barefoot, so thinking  
about that carpet underneath my feet right

48

00:03:26,610 --> 00:03:34,410

now. Notice how solid though your legs feel  
or how solidly you're planted in that chair.

49

00:03:35,670 --> 00:03:40,720

The ground that I'm standing on is actually  
the native land of the Nacotchtank or

50

00:03:40,720 --> 00:03:45,990

Anacostian people or potentially the  
Piscataway people, but it's generally the

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00:03:45,990 --> 00:03:48,680

land now referred to  
as Silver Spring, Maryland.

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00:03:49,620 --> 00:03:54,810

By sharing this with you, I'm reminding  
myself as many of our indigenous colleagues

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00:03:54,810 --> 00:04:00,180

in the EJ network often remind us that I am not  
doing this work alone.

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00:04:01,360 --> 00:04:06,370

I'm connected to the actions of my  
ancestors, and I have a responsibility to my

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00:04:06,370 --> 00:04:09,760

forebears through

what I do in this lifetime.

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00:04:10,870 --> 00:04:14,710

We just wanted to take that little moment of mindfulness, and I really want to thank

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00:04:14,710 --> 00:04:19,660

Chitra Kumar, our Assistant Director in the Office of Environmental Justice, for urging

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00:04:19,660 --> 00:04:24,400

me to take the time to start our meeting this week today, especially given that

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00:04:24,400 --> 00:04:26,290

yesterday was Indigenous Peoples Day.

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00:04:27,270 --> 00:04:32,880

When we work on EJ, we spend so much time acting and

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00:04:32,880 --> 00:04:37,600

reacting, and resisting,

and fighting, and surviving.

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00:04:39,850 --> 00:04:46,660

But to move EJ forward, we really have to move together more intentionally, so we're trying

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00:04:46,660 --> 00:04:53,440

to work both to honor that mindfulness, there's actually folks at EPA

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00:04:53,440 --> 00:04:57,640

who have started a mindful EPA council to help all of us really think about these

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00:04:57,640 --> 00:05:02,080

things as we proceed throughout our very hectic days.

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00:05:02,830 --> 00:05:08,530

But of course, also to lift up and remind ourselves that we are not here alone and we

67

00:05:08,530 --> 00:05:12,480

are not the first ones to arrive here,  
many people have come before us.

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00:05:12,700 --> 00:05:17,620

Again, we've learned this from our indigenous  
colleagues who start every meeting with an

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00:05:17,620 --> 00:05:20,500

acknowledgement to their  
ancestors and to the Earth.

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00:05:21,610 --> 00:05:26,650

That's one thing that we're going to start  
practicing more of within the EJ program across

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00:05:26,650 --> 00:05:30,010

EPA, and as we engage more externally.

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00:05:30,670 --> 00:05:34,270

If you're interested in learning more about  
the location where you're at,

73

00:05:34,660 --> 00:05:38,230

I found that a really good resource for that  
is a very simple URL.

74

00:05:38,230 --> 00:05:44,620

It's native-land.CA

75

00:05:45,430 --> 00:05:48,520

So that's native-land.CA

76

00:05:49,220 --> 00:05:55,690

Again, thanks to Chitra for urging  
me and helping me to to prevail or to

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00:05:55,690 --> 00:05:58,030

engage with you all at the beginning of this  
meeting that way.

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00:05:58,270 --> 00:06:00,640

We've got a very action packed meeting.

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00:06:00,640 --> 00:06:02,500

We're going to start getting right to it.

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00:06:02,560 --> 00:06:07,800

We've got a section up front that's going to be specific to Justice 40.

81

00:06:08,160 --> 00:06:13,210

Some very good colleagues from the Office of Transportation Air Quality are going to

82

00:06:13,210 --> 00:06:15,370

talk about DERA and the Ports initiative.

83

00:06:15,370 --> 00:06:18,670

That's the Diesel Emission Reduction Act and the Ports Initiative.

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00:06:19,060 --> 00:06:22,420

Then we're going to change gears, though, and part of again, having these biweekly

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00:06:22,420 --> 00:06:24,730

meetings is all the stuff happening.

86

00:06:25,450 --> 00:06:31,510

Last week, a little before last week  
actually, EPA released our next multi-year

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00:06:31,510 --> 00:06:32,560

strategic plan.

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00:06:32,830 --> 00:06:37,220

There's a huge section for the first  
time just on environmental justice.

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00:06:37,240 --> 00:06:41,050

We wanted to save the latter part of this  
meeting for me and some other colleagues to

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00:06:41,050 --> 00:06:46,270

provide information about that strategic  
plan and then start engaging with folks

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00:06:46,270 --> 00:06:48,600

because it is out for  
public comment right now.

92

00:06:49,240 --> 00:06:54,730

With that, I'm going to pass it back  
over, I believe, to Victoria to get us teed

93

00:06:54,730 --> 00:06:56,320

up for our first session.

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00:06:58,490 --> 00:07:00,960

Victoria Robinson: Actually, Matt, I was going  
to leave that to you to introduce the

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00:07:02,040 --> 00:07:08,540

the individuals from EPA's  
Office of Air, who'll be speaking

96

00:07:08,540 --> 00:07:15,800

about DERA, the Diesel Emissions  
Reduction Act and the Ports

97

00:07:15,800 --> 00:07:23,090

Initiative, and how they are integrating  
Justice 40 into that process.

98

00:07:23,330 --> 00:07:29,750

Then when that's done, we'll go ahead  
and turn back to do the EJ strategic plan,

99

00:07:29,760 --> 00:07:33,280

Matthew Tejada: Great. Okay.

[CROSSTALK]

100

00:07:33,290 --> 00:07:35,640

Are you going to lead this section?

101

00:07:35,840 --> 00:07:37,400

Christine Koester: Yes,  
I'll kick us off here.

102

00:07:37,500 --> 00:07:38,400

Matthew Tejada: All right. Go for it.

103

00:07:39,300 --> 00:07:39,950

Christine Koester: Hi, everybody.

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00:07:39,980 --> 00:07:41,450

My name is Christine Koester.

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00:07:41,450 --> 00:07:46,820

I'm with EPA's Office of Air and Radiation,  
and I'm here to talk about the Diesel

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00:07:46,820 --> 00:07:50,420

Emissions Reduction Act, which is a grant  
program that we call DERA.

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00:07:50,690 --> 00:07:53,240

And I'm joined by  
my colleague, Sarah Froman.

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00:07:53,360 --> 00:07:55,880

We'll be talking about  
EPA's Ports Initiative.

109

00:07:58,590 --> 00:07:59,680

Next slide, please.

110

00:08:01,520 --> 00:08:04,600

Just a quick overview  
of what Sarah and I are going to be

111

00:08:04,600 --> 00:08:08,650

discussing, we'll be talking about why it's important to reduce diesel emissions.

112

00:08:08,800 --> 00:08:13,540

The two programs DERA and the Ports Initiative, we will give an overview of both and

113

00:08:13,540 --> 00:08:16,360

how they incorporate environmental justice priorities.

114

00:08:16,420 --> 00:08:20,620

Then we're looking forward to a discussion in which we'll answer questions

115

00:08:20,620 --> 00:08:23,200

you all have about the two programs.

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00:08:23,230 --> 00:08:27,880

We're also interested to hear your perspective about how DERA and the Ports

117

00:08:27,880 --> 00:08:33,480

Initiative can better reach underserved communities and how to promote benefits there.

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00:08:34,820 --> 00:08:35,750

Next slide, please.

119

00:08:37,790 --> 00:08:42,350

A big question that why is it important to reduce diesel emissions?

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00:08:42,770 --> 00:08:47,900

Diesel exhaust contains a number of harmful components, one of which is

121

00:08:47,900 --> 00:08:54,110

particulate matter, and another of which is nitrogen oxide, both of which contribute to

122

00:08:54,110 --> 00:09:01,250

adverse health outcomes, including exacerbating asthma, respiratory illness,

123

00:09:01,760 --> 00:09:07,320

leading to missed school or workdays, and in some cases, even premature death.

124

00:09:07,340 --> 00:09:11,570

Communities that are located in close proximity to where

125

00:09:13,800 --> 00:09:20,160

a lot of older diesel vehicles operate are particularly susceptible to these poor health

126

00:09:20,160 --> 00:09:23,880

outcomes due to the concentration of these diesel vehicles that operate nearby.

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00:09:24,660 --> 00:09:28,950

We mostly focus in our programs on what we call the legacy diesel engines, and these

128

00:09:28,950 --> 00:09:32,890

are the older ones that predate EPA's more

stringent standards.

129

00:09:32,910 --> 00:09:38,580

These are the ones that produce a lot more diesel exhaust and pollution than their newer

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00:09:38,580 --> 00:09:44,520

models, and we estimate that there's about 10 million of these older diesel vehicles on

131

00:09:44,520 --> 00:09:45,320

the road still.

132

00:09:47,400 --> 00:09:48,480

Next slide, please.

133

00:09:49,900 --> 00:09:58,180

Even though EPA has made a number of regulations that control the exhaust from

134

00:09:58,180 --> 00:10:02,800

newer diesel engines, there's still these older legacy diesel engines that are

135

00:10:02,800 --> 00:10:08,200

still in operation, the 10 million or so, that  
are operating in communities and EPA has

136

00:10:08,200 --> 00:10:13,390

two programs that are designed to address  
the emissions from these older diesel

137

00:10:13,390 --> 00:10:18,070

vehicles, and that includes the Diesel  
Emissions Reduction Act, the grant program

138

00:10:18,070 --> 00:10:20,050

called DERA and the Ports Initiative.

139

00:10:20,470 --> 00:10:24,880

The Ports Initiative is focused on reducing  
diesel emissions from goods movement

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00:10:24,970 --> 00:10:28,600

facilities, and DERA is broader and  
covers more sectors.

141

00:10:28,600 --> 00:10:32,050

I'll talk about DERA, and then I'll  
pass it to Sarah Froman to talk about the

142

00:10:32,050 --> 00:10:33,100

Ports Initiative.

143

00:10:35,420 --> 00:10:40,430

DERA is a funding program, we provide  
grants and rebates to eligible entities to

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00:10:40,430 --> 00:10:45,740

reduce diesel emissions, and we fund a  
variety of sectors and types of equipment,

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00:10:45,740 --> 00:10:52,850

including on-road vehicles like buses or  
trucks, on-road equipment, construction or

146

00:10:52,850 --> 00:10:56,210

agriculture, locomotive, and marine vessels.

147

00:10:56,690 --> 00:11:01,400

The projects can include an entire  
vehicle replacement or just an engine

148

00:11:01,400 --> 00:11:06,560

replacement, idle reduction technologies, or  
exhaust retrofits.

149

00:11:07,190 --> 00:11:09,470

We have four different funding programs.

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00:11:09,500 --> 00:11:13,250

I'll talk a little bit more in detail  
about each one of those.

151

00:11:16,620 --> 00:11:22,440

Congress provides DERA an annual  
appropriation, and we immediately set 30%

152

00:11:22,880 --> 00:11:27,600

aside for the state program, which  
is a formula grant program.

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00:11:28,080 --> 00:11:33,430

The remaining funds are put towards the national program, and the national program

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00:11:33,430 --> 00:11:36,000

includes three different funding opportunities.

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00:11:36,330 --> 00:11:39,920

The first is our our national competitive competition.

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00:11:40,260 --> 00:11:45,930

Then we have our Tribal and Insular area Competition, and then we provide rebates for

157

00:11:45,930 --> 00:11:47,340

school bus replacements.

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00:11:47,550 --> 00:11:53,840

In fiscal year 21, the annual DERA appropriation was \$90 million.

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00:11:55,200 --> 00:11:58,360

The national RFA  
was for about \$45 million.

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00:11:58,440 --> 00:12:03,570

The Triba and Insular area was for about 5,  
and the school bus program is receiving about

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00:12:03,570 --> 00:12:05,430

10 million from that appropriation.

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00:12:09,540 --> 00:12:15,280

To talk a little bit more in depth, the  
national program awards funds across the

163

00:12:15,280 --> 00:12:19,570

country for projects that reduce diesel  
emissions and exposure, especially from

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00:12:19,570 --> 00:12:22,600

fleets that operate in  
areas of poor air quality.

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00:12:22,690 --> 00:12:28,570

Eligible entities that can apply in the national competition include regional, state,

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00:12:28,570 --> 00:12:33,760

local, tribal, port agencies with jurisdiction over transportation or air

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00:12:33,760 --> 00:12:40,090

quality, or non-profit organizations that reduce emissions or promote transportation or

168

00:12:40,090 --> 00:12:46,600

air quality. We fund a wide range of highway and non-road diesel engine upgrades

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00:12:46,600 --> 00:12:48,640

and replacements through the national program.

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00:12:48,940 --> 00:12:54,580

Though private fleets are not eligible to apply directly for DERA funds, they can

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00:12:54,580 --> 00:12:59,880

partner with eligible entities and can  
therefore benefit through DERA funds that way.

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00:13:00,360 --> 00:13:05,200

We typically open this program  
around the wintertime.

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00:13:05,440 --> 00:13:10,330

It varies depending on when we have the  
appropriation from Congress.

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00:13:14,080 --> 00:13:18,610

Our second competitive program is the  
Tribal and Insular area grant program.

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00:13:18,700 --> 00:13:22,870

This is a narrower eligibility than the  
national program.

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00:13:23,210 --> 00:13:27,730

Both Tribal governments and Insular area

governments are able to apply in the national

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00:13:27,730 --> 00:13:31,960

competition, but they also have their own  
set of side competition that they can apply

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00:13:31,960 --> 00:13:35,280

for, and eligibility is  
limited to tribal governments.

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00:13:35,620 --> 00:13:39,600

Alaska Native villages or insular area  
governments, which in the U.S. code

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00:13:39,600 --> 00:13:41,960

is defined as the U.S. Virgin Islands,

181

00:13:42,100 --> 00:13:46,360

Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth  
of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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00:13:46,570 --> 00:13:52,870

We establish the separate funding

competition because there are unique

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00:13:52,870 --> 00:13:56,860

considerations and needs for the Tribal and  
Insular area applicants.

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00:13:57,070 --> 00:14:01,060

This makes it so that they can compete  
for DERA funds and that they can actually

185

00:14:01,060 --> 00:14:05,050

implement diesel emissions reduction  
projects in their communities.

186

00:14:06,100 --> 00:14:12,070

In the most recent year, this summer, we  
had offered a Tribal and Insular area

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00:14:12,070 --> 00:14:15,310

competition and based on feedback we'd  
received from tribal governments,

188

00:14:15,520 --> 00:14:17,950

we waived the mandatory cost share.

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00:14:17,980 --> 00:14:22,360

Usually there is a cost share for applicants  
for DERA projects.

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00:14:22,420 --> 00:14:24,100

We have limited amount of funding.

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00:14:24,130 --> 00:14:26,440

So the cost share helps  
stretch the balance further.

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00:14:26,950 --> 00:14:33,130

But in this case, we were hearing that the  
cost share was preventing some organizations

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00:14:33,130 --> 00:14:38,200

from applying, so we waived the cost share,  
made the funding more accessible to more

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00:14:38,200 --> 00:14:41,320

applicants, and we were very pleased with

the results.

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00:14:41,320 --> 00:14:46,120

There were new applicants to the program who had never applied for DERA funding before, and we

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00:14:46,120 --> 00:14:49,360

look forward to announcing the winners of that competition later this year.

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00:14:53,390 --> 00:14:58,190

Our next program is that the state program and this is that 30% that gets

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00:14:58,190 --> 00:15:00,080

set aside according to the statute.

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00:15:00,830 --> 00:15:06,260

EPA awards these non-competitive formula grants to participating states and

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00:15:06,260 --> 00:15:11,570

territories to establish their own diesel

emission reduction program and how much each

201

00:15:11,570 --> 00:15:16,400

state or territory gets is dependent on  
the total appropriation for that year,

202

00:15:16,430 --> 00:15:20,660

how many states and territories are  
participating, and whether or not they match

203

00:15:20,660 --> 00:15:21,920

the EPA funding?

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00:15:21,920 --> 00:15:28,700

If a state or territory matches EPA  
funding, they can receive a bonus of 50%

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00:15:28,700 --> 00:15:30,170

of the initial allocation.

206

00:15:30,620 --> 00:15:35,990

It's the same eligibility criteria as the  
national grants, and it funds the same sort

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00:15:35,990 --> 00:15:38,120

of on highway and non-road projects.

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00:15:38,510 --> 00:15:44,150

Typically, we announce this program in the spring and we just work directly with the

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00:15:44,150 --> 00:15:47,690

state context. We have to determine if they want to participate that year.

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00:15:51,590 --> 00:15:56,930

Our other program is the school bus rebate program, so every fall we open a school bus

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00:15:56,930 --> 00:15:59,800

rebate program and

it differs from the grants.

212

00:15:59,810 --> 00:16:04,880

It's a shorter timeline, shorter project period and a shorter application than the

213

00:16:04,880 --> 00:16:09,800

grants. Grants tend to be longer applications on multiple pages.

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00:16:10,040 --> 00:16:15,710

The rebate application is a one page form that you just download from our website and

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00:16:15,710 --> 00:16:20,270

you submit to us along with the bus titles and registration.

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00:16:21,050 --> 00:16:23,510

Then the project period is much shorter.

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00:16:23,510 --> 00:16:28,520

So it tends to be about a year long for the rebate program from the time the school district

218

00:16:28,520 --> 00:16:32,300

is selected to the time that they receive their rebate payment, and we select

219

00:16:32,300 --> 00:16:34,550

applications via a lottery system.

220

00:16:34,880 --> 00:16:39,170

The rebate program tends to be  
oversubscribed by about four to one.

221

00:16:39,410 --> 00:16:44,630

So we do a lottery system, and the  
amount, the rebate, that a school

222

00:16:44,960 --> 00:16:50,240

receives depends on the fuel type of  
the bus that they are purchasing.

223

00:16:50,750 --> 00:16:57,320

The only buses that school district could  
replace in this program are those older

224

00:16:57,320 --> 00:17:00,640

legacy fleet buses, so 2006, and older.

225

00:17:01,320 --> 00:17:02,630

They can purchase new buses.

226

00:17:02,630 --> 00:17:06,830

They can purchase a new diesel bus and receive a \$20,000 rebate, or they

227

00:17:06,830 --> 00:17:09,920

could go and purchase a new zero emission bus,

228

00:17:10,130 --> 00:17:12,080

and receive \$65,000 for the rebate.

229

00:17:12,800 --> 00:17:18,800

Zero emission is the rebate amount we pay the highest amount for, and we currently have

230

00:17:19,280 --> 00:17:21,770

a school bus rebate program open right now.

231

00:17:21,800 --> 00:17:27,170

We're offering about \$10 million in funding,  
and we are accepting applications until

232

00:17:27,170 --> 00:17:35,150

November 5th. You can go to our website  
[EPA.gov/bureau/rebates](https://www.epa.gov/bureau/rebates) to learn more about

233

00:17:35,150 --> 00:17:38,030

the program and to find the application that  
you can download.

234

00:17:41,330 --> 00:17:44,120

Our next funding  
opportunity is is a new one.

235

00:17:44,330 --> 00:17:49,800

This is a one time only funding opportunity  
under the American Rescue Plan,

236

00:17:49,820 --> 00:17:55,940

EPA received some funds, and seven million of  
that went to the DERA program to run a

237

00:17:55,940 --> 00:18:01,970

rebate program to fund their electric school buses in underserved communities.

238

00:18:02,600 --> 00:18:08,570

This is a much narrower applicant field than the other rebate

239

00:18:08,570 --> 00:18:15,360

program. The regular DERA rebate program, all school districts and private companies

240

00:18:15,360 --> 00:18:18,920

with the contract that serve the school district are eligible to apply.

241

00:18:18,920 --> 00:18:23,340

Under the American Rescue Plan Electric Rebate Program,

242

00:18:23,340 --> 00:18:25,020

we narrowed the eligibility.

243

00:18:25,350 --> 00:18:27,330

There's only seven million available.

244

00:18:27,690 --> 00:18:34,050

School districts that are included on the  
ARP Electric School Bus Eligibility List

245

00:18:34,620 --> 00:18:36,360

are able to apply.

246

00:18:36,420 --> 00:18:39,660

You can find that list on our our website,  
that's listed there.

247

00:18:40,350 --> 00:18:46,110

This list was determined using censuses,  
small area income and poverty estimate.

248

00:18:46,980 --> 00:18:51,960

Tribal schools are also eligible to apply,  
and then private fleets that have a contract

249

00:18:51,960 --> 00:18:56,610

with any of those previously mentioned  
eligible applicants are able to apply.

250

00:18:57,300 --> 00:19:02,600

Like I mentioned before, under our regular  
rebate program, we offer \$65,000

251

00:19:03,080 --> 00:19:07,830

for electric school bus replacements.

Under the ARP rebate program,

252

00:19:07,980 --> 00:19:09,710

we offered \$300,000.

253

00:19:09,750 --> 00:19:14,840

The rebate amount is is much  
higher in this program.

254

00:19:16,200 --> 00:19:17,970

This program is currently open.

255

00:19:17,980 --> 00:19:21,300

It's running concurrently with the regular

school bus rebate program.

256

00:19:21,600 --> 00:19:26,200

You can email your application and a scan of your bus title and registration to

257

00:19:26,200 --> 00:19:31,380

DERArebates@EPA.gov. Again, the website is listed there, so you can find more

258

00:19:31,380 --> 00:19:35,250

information about program eligibility and rules on our website.

259

00:19:38,340 --> 00:19:42,930

There are a few ways in the DERA grant program that we've prioritized environmental

260

00:19:42,930 --> 00:19:48,140

justice, and the three main areas are project location, community engagement

261

00:19:48,150 --> 00:19:52,720

partnerships and project sustainability,  
and I'll talk a little bit more about each three

262

00:19:52,770 --> 00:19:53,280

of these.

263

00:19:58,100 --> 00:20:02,340

The first is project priority location.

264

00:20:02,760 --> 00:20:08,340

We in the grant program prioritize projects  
that take place in areas of poor air quality

265

00:20:08,610 --> 00:20:13,590

and we define areas of poor air quality for  
the DERA program is those that are in non

266

00:20:13,590 --> 00:20:20,160

attainment for PM and Ozone, and counties  
with a high... an 80th percentile or higher

267

00:20:20,370 --> 00:20:22,890

concentration of diesel particulate matter.

268

00:20:23,130 --> 00:20:29,070

We put together before every competition what we call a priority county list, counties

269

00:20:29,070 --> 00:20:35,070

across the country that meet either of those two criteria, and applications where projects'

270

00:20:35,070 --> 00:20:40,440

the vehicles operate a majority of the time in that county are given extra points,

271

00:20:40,440 --> 00:20:43,320

priority points in the scoring of their proposals.

272

00:20:44,410 --> 00:20:49,480

We also prioritize projects that take place at goods movement facilities, so these are

273

00:20:49,480 --> 00:20:55,540

projects where vehicles operate at ports,

airports, railyards, terminals or

274

00:20:55,540 --> 00:21:00,520

distribution centers, those sort of projects  
also receive additional priority points under

275

00:21:00,520 --> 00:21:01,480

the DERA scoring.

276

00:21:05,520 --> 00:21:09,080

Another way that we have prioritized  
environmental justice is through

277

00:21:09,080 --> 00:21:11,060

community engagement and partnerships.

278

00:21:11,270 --> 00:21:15,920

Points are awarded to projects that  
demonstrate community engagement and

279

00:21:15,920 --> 00:21:21,950

partnerships, including seeking input from  
the affected communities with respect to

280

00:21:21,950 --> 00:21:28,760

the project design and those that have support and involvement from project partners.

281

00:21:30,440 --> 00:21:35,660

Applicants can include a letter of support and partnership with local communities

282

00:21:35,660 --> 00:21:36,710

and project partners.

283

00:21:37,610 --> 00:21:41,670

In addition, we ask applicants to describe how the projects will provide a benefit to

284

00:21:41,670 --> 00:21:45,560

the community, so communities with environmental justice concerns,

285

00:21:45,570 --> 00:21:50,280

we'd like to hear about what the concerns are and how the proposed project will help

286

00:21:50,280 --> 00:21:55,410

address some of those concerns, and alleviate those concerns, and points are awarded for

287

00:21:55,410 --> 00:22:00,060

projects that can demonstrate a benefit to communities with environmental

288

00:22:00,060 --> 00:22:01,110

justice concerns.

289

00:22:04,880 --> 00:22:09,240

The final area here is project sustainability.

290

00:22:12,160 --> 00:22:18,550

Projects' periods of time tend to be about two to three years.

291

00:22:18,560 --> 00:22:26,030

We're looking to provide additional points and select projects that commit to

292

00:22:26,030 --> 00:22:29,150

reducing emissions after  
the DERA funding has concluded.

293

00:22:29,150 --> 00:22:35,360

These are projects that have an idle-  
reduction policy or have a publicly available

294

00:22:35,600 --> 00:22:41,780

emissions inventory that people can look up  
or a plan to reduce mobile source emissions

295

00:22:41,990 --> 00:22:46,580

or even a clear point of contact that the  
public could look up for questions or

296

00:22:46,580 --> 00:22:50,800

concerns about any one of those topics they  
just mentioned.

297

00:22:50,810 --> 00:22:56,930

We look for the emissions to be

continuing after the period of performance,

298

00:22:56,930 --> 00:23:00,740

that will also award additional points for  
DERA projects.

299

00:23:01,400 --> 00:23:05,420

With that, I'm going to stop talking  
about DERA, and I'm going to turn it over to

300

00:23:05,420 --> 00:23:08,960

my colleague Sarah Froman to talk about the  
Ports Initiative.

301

00:23:10,930 --> 00:23:15,070

Sarah Froman: Thanks, Christine. As Christine  
mentioned, the Ports Initiative and DERA are

302

00:23:15,070 --> 00:23:17,010

complimentary programs.

303

00:23:17,020 --> 00:23:22,780

The Ports Initiative is focused on

addressing diesel pollution from ships and

304

00:23:22,780 --> 00:23:27,850

trains and trucks and cargo handling  
equipment operating at ports, often in close

305

00:23:27,850 --> 00:23:31,750

proximity, in some cases across the fence  
line from where people live and play.

306

00:23:32,350 --> 00:23:38,350

I'm sure many on the call are aware,  
near port communities that bear the brunt of

307

00:23:38,350 --> 00:23:43,480

air pollution from diesel engines are often  
comprised of low income populations and

308

00:23:43,480 --> 00:23:44,560

people of color.

309

00:23:45,070 --> 00:23:46,380

Go to the next slide.

310

00:23:47,900 --> 00:23:50,710

The five elements of the  
Ports initiative are very much

311

00:23:50,710 --> 00:23:55,630

informed by stakeholder input, including  
some formal recommendations we received.

312

00:23:55,870 --> 00:24:00,790

EPA received back in 2016 from a  
federal advisory committee that was charged

313

00:24:00,790 --> 00:24:06,390

with identifying ways EPA could enhance our  
work to address diesel pollution at ports.

314

00:24:06,400 --> 00:24:12,130

These five elements are funding, and technical  
resources, community port collaboration,

315

00:24:12,220 --> 00:24:16,810

federal government coordination, and

communications creating a knowledge

316

00:24:16,810 --> 00:24:20,380

clearinghouse. It's through these  
program elements that we're trying to

317

00:24:20,410 --> 00:24:24,730

accelerate the adoption of cleaner  
technologies like those funded through the

318

00:24:24,730 --> 00:24:30,220

DERA program, as well as operational  
strategies and clean air planning practices

319

00:24:30,220 --> 00:24:33,790

that we know support for stakeholders in  
making informed decisions.

320

00:24:33,820 --> 00:24:38,650

These are the things like emissions  
inventory, and conducting emissions inventory,

321

00:24:38,920 --> 00:24:42,820

and engaging community that we know can help target efforts.

322

00:24:43,090 --> 00:24:46,690

The next slide is program's quick snapshot.

323

00:24:46,720 --> 00:24:51,460

This program is led out of EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality, but we work

324

00:24:51,460 --> 00:24:56,590

really closely with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and our 10 regional

325

00:24:56,590 --> 00:25:02,050

offices, and it's our regional team members that are working with stakeholders at a very

326

00:25:02,050 --> 00:25:07,030

local level, so building relationships and working to support the very needs of those

327

00:25:07,030 --> 00:25:08,560

stakeholders on the ground.

328

00:25:08,920 --> 00:25:13,880

This is very much a partnership program  
with those external stakeholders, the port

329

00:25:13,900 --> 00:25:18,730

industry, state, local and other federal  
agencies, as well as community groups and

330

00:25:18,730 --> 00:25:19,810

environmental groups.

331

00:25:20,110 --> 00:25:21,000

The next slide.

332

00:25:24,480 --> 00:25:29,350

One goal of the Ports Initiative is to  
help connect port stakeholders with funding.

333

00:25:29,590 --> 00:25:33,880

At the bottom of the slide, you see a link  
to a searchable table we have with over 70

334

00:25:33,880 --> 00:25:35,200

funding opportunities.

335

00:25:35,230 --> 00:25:39,940

One of those funding opportunities is DERA,  
as Christine spoke to before.

336

00:25:39,940 --> 00:25:45,130

We have been successful as this chart shows,  
in attracting good port applicants and

337

00:25:45,130 --> 00:25:47,380

applications through the DERA program.

338

00:25:48,070 --> 00:25:53,050

The program prioritizes, as Christine  
mentioned, port and goods movement projects,

339

00:25:53,170 --> 00:25:58,640

as well as applicants that either have or  
commit to undertaking the Good Clean Air Plan

340

00:25:58,640 --> 00:26:02,890

and planning practices that we promote in  
the Ports Initiative and things like

341

00:26:02,890 --> 00:26:06,160

inventories and clean air plans, and  
community engagement.

342

00:26:06,730 --> 00:26:13,690

This next slide is just a sampling of  
technical resources that we created to help

343

00:26:13,690 --> 00:26:17,380

port stakeholders identify strategies to  
address diesel pollution,

344

00:26:17,380 --> 00:26:21,290

that makes sense for the unique situation  
including the priorities and goals for

345

00:26:21,310 --> 00:26:25,780

residents. These resources include  
things like information on emissions

346

00:26:25,780 --> 00:26:31,000

reduction strategies and guidance on how to  
conduct emissions inventories, and I'm going

347

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:32,080

through these slides pretty quickly.

348

00:26:32,560 --> 00:26:38,740

We intend to post these online so that they  
can serve as a reference for everyone on the

349

00:26:38,740 --> 00:26:41,080

call today. Then the next slide.

350

00:26:41,830 --> 00:26:44,410

It's our program's collaboration element.

351

00:26:44,480 --> 00:26:49,690

We're working to support better  
communication and engagement between port

352

00:26:49,690 --> 00:26:51,340

operators and near port communities.

353

00:26:51,340 --> 00:26:54,940

This is where we're trying to help ensure that those dialogue is productive and that

354

00:26:54,940 --> 00:26:59,690

communities have a seat at the table and a voice in the port planning process.

355

00:26:59,710 --> 00:27:04,420

The three core tools developed and field tested during four different pilots in

356

00:27:04,420 --> 00:27:07,000

Providence, Savannah,  
New Orleans and Seattle.

357

00:27:07,480 --> 00:27:09,940

The first is the Port's Primer for Communities.

358

00:27:09,940 --> 00:27:12,100

It's a one on one on how ports work.

359

00:27:12,130 --> 00:27:16,660

The second is a Community Action Roadmap,  
which outlines step by step process that

360

00:27:18,070 --> 00:27:21,840

communities can follow to more  
effectively engage in port decisions.

361

00:27:21,850 --> 00:27:26,760

Then the last is an EJ Primer for  
ports, which includes both an EJ 101

362

00:27:26,760 --> 00:27:31,300

for ports, as well as a step by step  
Good Neighbor Roadmap about how to engage, to

363

00:27:31,300 --> 00:27:33,580

better engage with communities.

364

00:27:33,610 --> 00:27:38,890

Again, it's our EPA regional offices who

are working to help support the use of these

365

00:27:38,890 --> 00:27:40,880

resources on the ground.

366

00:27:42,520 --> 00:27:47,320

Just one example recently, our Region  
three office hosted a training on the

367

00:27:47,320 --> 00:27:51,460

Community Action Roadmap to support a  
community group with concerns about diesel

368

00:27:51,460 --> 00:27:53,200

activity over Wilmington.

369

00:27:53,950 --> 00:27:58,660

One thing that we have found in our  
pilot projects and all of our regional work,

370

00:27:58,660 --> 00:28:02,830

and I'm sure it's not news to most folks on  
this call, is that community representatives,

371

00:28:02,850 --> 00:28:08,230

they need more resources and support to  
effectively engage with port and rail yard

372

00:28:08,230 --> 00:28:14,300

operators, they are often unpaid  
volunteers, lots of demand on their time, so,

373

00:28:14,320 --> 00:28:18,580

one thing we've done to try to provide  
more support to communities is that we

374

00:28:18,580 --> 00:28:25,070

partnered with EPA's Office of Environmental  
Justice, OEJ, to include a special emphasis on

375

00:28:25,070 --> 00:28:27,700

Ports Initiative projects in this year's

376

00:28:27,700 --> 00:28:33,490

EJ Small Grants program. That small grants  
opportunity closed back in June,

377

00:28:33,490 --> 00:28:38,500

but we're very excited to be announcing  
grant awards soon, including we anticipate

378

00:28:38,500 --> 00:28:45,350

about six community group projects with the  
focus on diesel emissions, rail yard, ports

379

00:28:45,400 --> 00:28:46,000

and railyards.

380

00:28:46,340 --> 00:28:50,770

The next slide, the stakeholders  
have told us they find value in

381

00:28:50,770 --> 00:28:54,710

hearing about real world examples, so that's  
something the Ports Initiative also does.

382

00:28:54,730 --> 00:28:56,530

We curate case studies.

383

00:28:56,950 --> 00:29:00,670

An example here is some case studies on our community port collaboration pilot

384

00:29:00,670 --> 00:29:05,620

projects where we try to draw out lessons learned that can inform efforts elsewhere.

385

00:29:05,620 --> 00:29:10,240

Things like making sure to address participation barriers for

386

00:29:10,240 --> 00:29:15,340

community leaders, things like language translation, and child care, as well as

387

00:29:15,490 --> 00:29:19,030

getting early buy-in and involvement from senior port leadership.

388

00:29:19,570 --> 00:29:24,340

I think the next slide is just one other example of a case study, a more in-depth one that

389

00:29:24,340 --> 00:29:28,540

we released in April, highlighting  
lessons learned and best practices from the

390

00:29:28,540 --> 00:29:31,220

cleaner planning efforts at  
the ports of L.A. and Long Beach.

391

00:29:31,220 --> 00:29:33,220

There's a ton to learn  
from that experience.

392

00:29:33,680 --> 00:29:38,680

L.A and Long Beach have advanced  
technologies tremendously, but another really

393

00:29:38,680 --> 00:29:41,790

critical part of the story is  
how communities and EJ

394

00:29:41,800 --> 00:29:46,900

organizations have powerful change

agents there, and I'll give a shout out to

395

00:29:46,900 --> 00:29:48,220

the National EJ Group.

396

00:29:48,530 --> 00:29:50,400

Many are familiar with  
the moving forward network.

397

00:29:50,530 --> 00:29:53,180

It was their idea, their  
suggestion to our Region nine.

398

00:29:54,400 --> 00:29:58,900

That this case study would be a valuable  
resource to help inform other communities and

399

00:29:58,900 --> 00:30:03,550

port operators, so we're pleased to provide  
that report and very grateful to the ports

400

00:30:03,550 --> 00:30:08,140

and the communitiies groups in San

Pedro Bay for their input and their insights.

401

00:30:08,800 --> 00:30:13,390

I think this last slide is just something

I also wanted to share, which is an

402

00:30:13,830 --> 00:30:19,110

interactive map that we published earlier

this year with information publicly available

403

00:30:19,110 --> 00:30:23,520

information on clean air practices being

implemented at some of the busiest ports

404

00:30:23,520 --> 00:30:28,780

across the U.S.. The practices in the map

are very similar to those that Christine

405

00:30:28,780 --> 00:30:30,940

outlined in the project

sustainability section.

406

00:30:30,940 --> 00:30:32,050

The DERA RFA,

407

00:30:32,140 --> 00:30:36,220

again, there are indicators of a commitment  
towards continued emissions reductions,

408

00:30:36,220 --> 00:30:41,080

things like emissions inventories and  
setting emissions reduction targets and

409

00:30:41,080 --> 00:30:43,030

engaging neighboring communities.

410

00:30:43,040 --> 00:30:50,230

We hope making this information available  
and more easily accessible can inform

411

00:30:50,230 --> 00:30:54,550

others who are trying to expand their  
efforts, including engaging neighboring

412

00:30:54,550 --> 00:30:58,720

communities, to do the kind of work that's

necessary to address EJ concerns.

413

00:30:58,720 --> 00:31:03,160

With that, we're onto the next slide,  
where we wanted to pause,

414

00:31:03,160 --> 00:31:07,900

we're about to transition to just a little  
bit of a background on Justice 40 for those of

415

00:31:07,900 --> 00:31:13,360

you who may not be familiar with it, but  
then a discussion about how we can maximize

416

00:31:13,360 --> 00:31:18,980

goals, maximize benefits in DERA and Ports  
Initiative disadvantaged communities

417

00:31:18,980 --> 00:31:22,510

Before we turn to that  
discussion, we wanted to just

418

00:31:22,510 --> 00:31:28,210

pause and see if anyone had questions about  
the two programs DERA and Ports Initiative,

419

00:31:28,210 --> 00:31:30,820

how they're currently  
operating before we moved on.

420

00:31:32,450 --> 00:31:36,380

Victoria Robinson: This is Victoria. In  
order to be able to participate in this,

421

00:31:36,850 --> 00:31:41,660

make sure you write any questions or comments  
in the Q&A pod and we will read out a couple

422

00:31:41,660 --> 00:31:47,360

of questions, but then we will also ask if  
anybody would like to speak, give an oral comment.

423

00:31:47,360 --> 00:31:50,000

comment when prompted, we're  
going to ask you to raise your hand

424

00:31:50,240 --> 00:31:53,800

to ask, you can actually raise your  
hand right now to ask a question.

425

00:31:53,810 --> 00:31:58,460

If you're on the phone, you can press \*9  
to raise your hand, and please limit

426

00:31:58,460 --> 00:32:01,030

your questions or comments to one minute.

427

00:32:01,040 --> 00:32:06,440

I'm going to go ahead  
and turn to Christina.

428

00:32:06,500 --> 00:32:13,580

If you've got any questions that are in  
the Q&A pod that relate to these clarifying

429

00:32:13,580 --> 00:32:16,400

questions on DERA or the Ports initiative,  
go ahead and read them out.

430

00:32:17,660 --> 00:32:19,670

Christina: Ok, great, thank  
you so much, Victoria.

431

00:32:20,300 --> 00:32:26,750

One question we have is will the ARP DERA  
program also be based on lottery?

432

00:32:28,790 --> 00:32:32,000

Christine Koester: Yes, selections for  
the DERA ARP rebate program,

433

00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:37,460

which is the electric bus in  
underserved community. Yes, it will also be...

434

00:32:37,820 --> 00:32:39,590

we'll make our selections based off lottery.

435

00:32:39,590 --> 00:32:43,760

If you're eligible and you've  
submitted your application by

436

00:32:43,760 --> 00:32:46,170

the deadline, you'll

be included in the lottery.

437

00:32:46,170 --> 00:32:47,540

We'll make selections that way.

438

00:32:47,870 --> 00:32:52,940

Once selections have been made for  
either program, the regular rebate or the

439

00:32:52,940 --> 00:33:00,110

ARP rebates, we will notify the the selected  
districts within about a month time frame.

440

00:33:02,920 --> 00:33:04,660

Christina: Great, thank

you so much.

441

00:33:05,260 --> 00:33:11,560

The next question to answer aloud is, can  
school districts that lease their buses apply

442

00:33:11,560 --> 00:33:13,360

for DERA school bus funds?

443

00:33:17,130 --> 00:33:20,080

Christine Koester: The buses need  
to be owned by the school district,

444

00:33:20,600 --> 00:33:22,800

so we ask that you submit when you

445

00:33:22,800 --> 00:33:29,430

apply, a copy of the title and registration,  
because we do require that the bus be

446

00:33:29,430 --> 00:33:35,040

scrapped. In order to scrap the bus, we  
want to make sure that we're actually

447

00:33:35,040 --> 00:33:38,700

working with the entity that owns the bus  
before it's destroyed.

448

00:33:38,820 --> 00:33:43,950

The reason that we require scrappage is  
to ensure that the older, heavier polluting

449

00:33:44,250 --> 00:33:45,780

engine is taken off of the road.

450

00:33:49,890 --> 00:33:52,230

Christina: Great. Thank  
you so much.

451

00:33:54,270 --> 00:34:00,900

The last one, we answered this in the  
chat, but if you could also answer it aloud

452

00:34:00,900 --> 00:34:02,230

for anyone on the phone.

453

00:34:02,250 --> 00:34:06,780

How do we find out who is in charge of our  
school district's bus programs?

454

00:34:09,380 --> 00:34:12,420

Christine Koester: Schools usually

have school bus fleet managers,

455

00:34:12,420 --> 00:34:16,970

so I would recommend reaching out to the school district to find out who that person is.

456

00:34:21,120 --> 00:34:23,040

Christina: Great, thank you so much.

457

00:34:23,400 --> 00:34:26,130

Victoria, is there anyone that has their hand raised that would like to ask a

458

00:34:26,130 --> 00:34:26,700

question?

459

00:34:26,880 --> 00:34:28,200

Victoria Robinson: No, not this time.

460

00:34:28,470 --> 00:34:32,850

Not at this time. But I think there's another question where somebody wanted you to

461

00:34:32,850 --> 00:34:36,420

go over the point system for DERA and the Ports Initiative again.

462

00:34:36,450 --> 00:34:40,290

What criteria is shared between the two programs and which ones differ?

463

00:34:42,200 --> 00:34:46,910

Sarah Froman: I thought that might be helpful to answer live and just to take a step back,

464

00:34:47,230 --> 00:34:51,170

the DERA and Ports Initiative programs, they're complementary, but they're distinct

465

00:34:51,170 --> 00:34:52,220

in one important way.

466

00:34:52,310 --> 00:34:56,990

DERA is a funding program, so it's through the DERA program that all of the

467

00:34:57,440 --> 00:35:00,410

grants are awarded and the criteria that  
Christine mentioned,

468

00:35:00,410 --> 00:35:07,100

while Port's initiative is a complementary  
program that helps build the capacity of port

469

00:35:07,100 --> 00:35:11,480

stakeholders to both prepare for and apply  
for DERA grants and other, and undertake

470

00:35:11,480 --> 00:35:16,490

other emissions reduction projects, but it is  
broader than just the DERA grants.

471

00:35:16,940 --> 00:35:19,550

Anything else you wanted  
to add, Christine, to help clarify.

472

00:35:22,680 --> 00:35:23,780

Christine Koester: I think that covers it.

473

00:35:28,330 --> 00:35:32,980

Victoria Robinson: We don't have any more questions, no hands raised at this time.

474

00:35:33,550 --> 00:35:35,170

Christina? Oh yes, we do.

475

00:35:35,170 --> 00:35:37,390

We have Stephanie Thomas.

476

00:35:37,570 --> 00:35:42,220

I'm going to allow her to unmute her line.

477

00:35:42,250 --> 00:35:44,740

Stephanie, can you unmute your line to be able to

478

00:35:47,850 --> 00:35:49,600

ask your question? There you Go.

479

00:35:49,880 --> 00:35:50,670

Stephanie Thomas: Hi.

480

00:35:50,670 --> 00:35:52,230

Hi, good afternoon, everyone.

481

00:35:53,100 --> 00:35:59,610

I really appreciate you all giving this presentation and I have a question about the

482

00:35:59,640 --> 00:36:00,780

Ports Initiative.

483

00:36:00,990 --> 00:36:06,390

Is there someone from every region who's connected to this program or should

484

00:36:06,390 --> 00:36:15,000

communities directly reach out to, I guess, at the federal level, I'm sorry, I'm

485

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:16,220

not saying this quite right.

486

00:36:16,960 --> 00:36:19,560

Sarah Froman: I know exactly  
what you're asking, Stephanie.

487

00:36:19,860 --> 00:36:22,680

Absolutely. There is context  
for you in each region.

488

00:36:22,680 --> 00:36:28,140

I might ask one of my team members to put  
a link to all of our regional contacts in

489

00:36:28,140 --> 00:36:30,150

each of our 10 regional offices.

490

00:36:31,400 --> 00:36:32,630

Stephanie Thomas: Thank you,  
I appreciate it.

491

00:36:34,220 --> 00:36:35,000

Sarah Froman: Absolutely.

492

00:36:37,260 --> 00:36:42,090

You're welcome to reach out to me, but your regional context is probably

493

00:36:42,090 --> 00:36:43,740

even more knowledgeable.

494

00:36:45,370 --> 00:36:47,260

Christina: We have one more quick question.

495

00:36:48,280 --> 00:36:51,250

How old is too old to replace a bus?

496

00:36:54,880 --> 00:36:57,600

Christine Koester: In the rebate program, we don't have a floor,

497

00:36:58,520 --> 00:37:04,480

as long as the bus is a model year 2006 engine or older, it's eligible to be replaced.

498

00:37:04,660 --> 00:37:09,130

I think in the program we've seen some  
from the 80s.

499

00:37:10,150 --> 00:37:13,480

If you have a very old bus and it is

500

00:37:13,480 --> 00:37:14,900

[INAUDIBLE]

501

00:37:14,900 --> 00:37:17,660

in use, that's key point.

502

00:37:17,750 --> 00:37:21,830

It doesn't really matter what its age is, as  
long as it's being used at least three days a

503

00:37:21,830 --> 00:37:28,160

week or 10,000 miles within the last  
year, then it's eligible to be replaced.

504

00:37:32,920 --> 00:37:35,470

Victoria Robinson: Right, we do have  
another person who raised their hand.

505

00:37:36,340 --> 00:37:41,290

Alana Langdon, I'm going to ask you to unmute your line.

506

00:37:42,490 --> 00:37:45,600

Alana Langdon: Thank you. I put this quickly in the chat.

507

00:37:45,700 --> 00:37:46,790

This is Alana Langdon.

508

00:37:46,810 --> 00:37:51,460

I'm with Nikola Corp., or a designer manufacturer of zero emission heavy duty

509

00:37:51,460 --> 00:37:58,960

trucks and the infrastructure to support them, just wanted to know if the EPA has their

510

00:37:58,960 --> 00:38:05,770

own standards or criteria for what you utilize to classify disadvantaged communities

511

00:38:05,770 --> 00:38:07,180

across the country.

512

00:38:08,050 --> 00:38:13,480

And if you could let us know where those are, if there's going to be a process by

513

00:38:13,480 --> 00:38:19,720

which to do that, may be different from how California defines it.

514

00:38:19,750 --> 00:38:21,280

Just wanted to ask that question.

515

00:38:24,010 --> 00:38:25,240

Matthew Tejada: Hey Alana, thanks.

516

00:38:25,540 --> 00:38:31,360

I'll take a first pass at this, I know for the DERA rebate for the American

517

00:38:31,360 --> 00:38:35,160

Rescue Plan, Christine and  
Sarah, I think, can readdress

518

00:38:35,160 --> 00:38:37,480

the specific thing that they are looking for

519

00:38:37,480 --> 00:38:40,960

for that, and that's just for  
the American Rescue Plan.

520

00:38:40,960 --> 00:38:48,320

For Justice 40, the executive  
order stipulates the creation of a

521

00:38:48,320 --> 00:38:50,830

climate and economic justice screening

522

00:38:50,830 --> 00:38:56,590

tool, which we have lovingly been referring  
to CEJST which I'm hopeful,

523

00:38:56,590 --> 00:38:59,810

once it comes out, they will give  
it a catchier name than CEJST.

524

00:39:01,960 --> 00:39:04,780

But we are not in charge  
of producing that tool.

525

00:39:04,780 --> 00:39:09,940

That tool is being produced by the White  
House Offices of Management and Budget, and

526

00:39:09,940 --> 00:39:11,770

Council on Environmental Quality.

527

00:39:11,950 --> 00:39:14,950

We are waiting on that tool as well.

528

00:39:15,130 --> 00:39:21,310

We engaged with the folks who are leading  
that effort early on to share all of our

529

00:39:21,580 --> 00:39:26,680

knowledge, thoughts, suggestions from our

experience maintaining EJ screen for the

530

00:39:26,680 --> 00:39:29,770

last decade. But we're  
not the ones building it.

531

00:39:29,770 --> 00:39:32,990

We don't have our hands  
or our eyes on that project.

532

00:39:33,760 --> 00:39:38,590

As soon as that tool comes out, though,  
that is the tool that will be used for

533

00:39:38,590 --> 00:39:41,290

Justice 40 globally.

534

00:39:41,650 --> 00:39:46,060

I don't know if they're going to say that  
tool is a floor, and if there's more specific

535

00:39:46,060 --> 00:39:51,190

things you can use those, we don't know, all

that guidance and the tool itself are yet to

536

00:39:51,190 --> 00:39:54,070

be provided by the White House.

537

00:39:56,050 --> 00:40:01,380

Alana Langdon: Is there an estimate, Matthew,  
on when they are trying to have that ready by?

538

00:40:03,640 --> 00:40:05,770

I wouldn't hazard a guess right now.

539

00:40:06,490 --> 00:40:08,220

Everyone asks. We ask a lot.

540

00:40:09,970 --> 00:40:14,830

Everyone's asking, and it's going to come out...  
as soon as it comes out,

541

00:40:14,830 --> 00:40:17,800

I think we'll all find out about it  
right at about the same time.

542

00:40:19,280 --> 00:40:19,920

Alana Langdon: Thank you.

543

00:40:19,920 --> 00:40:20,720

Matthew Tejada: You're welcome.

544

00:40:23,490 --> 00:40:26,250

Victoria Robinson: All right. We do not  
have any more raised hands.

545

00:40:26,280 --> 00:40:32,910

We're going to go ahead to the feedback  
section and then people can still ask

546

00:40:33,180 --> 00:40:34,320

additional questions.

547

00:40:34,590 --> 00:40:38,310

Did you want to go ahead and start this  
slide, Christine?

548

00:40:39,330 --> 00:40:40,650

Sarah Froman: I'll cover it.

549

00:40:40,890 --> 00:40:44,820

I just wanted to briefly mention the slide  
before really quickly for those because there

550

00:40:44,820 --> 00:40:50,520

might be some folks who are joining, who  
maybe don't have the full context of Justice 40,

551

00:40:50,970 --> 00:40:56,340

obviously there's a ton going on across  
federal government to address equity issues.

552

00:40:56,340 --> 00:41:02,480

Justice 40 refers to something  
specifically in an executive order, Biden

553

00:41:02,490 --> 00:41:08,160

signed one of his first executive orders in  
January, which created a Justice 40 initiative

554

00:41:08,160 --> 00:41:12,480

to deliver this 40% of overall  
benefits of federal climate and clean energy

555

00:41:12,480 --> 00:41:14,970

investments to disadvantaged communities.

556

00:41:15,300 --> 00:41:18,450

Oh, I know the OEJ team  
is always helpful to stress.

557

00:41:18,450 --> 00:41:22,230

It's not a new program or a new grant.

558

00:41:22,230 --> 00:41:26,010

It's just a government wide initiative  
looking at federal investments in certain

559

00:41:26,010 --> 00:41:28,020

areas, and it's whole of government.

560

00:41:28,020 --> 00:41:30,210

It's not EPA leading this charge.

561

00:41:30,690 --> 00:41:36,210

But the reason I mentioned is that the DERA  
and along with that, the Ports Initiative

562

00:41:36,210 --> 00:41:41,640

program are one of six programs that are  
participated in a pilot across the

563

00:41:41,640 --> 00:41:47,370

government. Back in January, the Office  
of Management and Budget, [INAUDIBLE] White

564

00:41:47,370 --> 00:41:53,850

House agency released this interim guidance,  
directing federal agencies to do a few things

565

00:41:53,850 --> 00:41:57,780

to support the Justice 40 Initiative,  
like develop a stakeholder engagement plan,

566

00:41:57,780 --> 00:42:02,850

identify benefits of the program and propose  
methods to calculate and report on program

567

00:42:02,850 --> 00:42:04,990

benefits for disadvantaged communities.

568

00:42:05,010 --> 00:42:09,930

You'll note there that the first one is  
to engage with our stakeholders.

569

00:42:09,930 --> 00:42:16,380

so that's what we want to do a little  
bit up today because the whole initiative is

570

00:42:17,160 --> 00:42:21,930

hoping to learn from the pilot programs of  
which DERA and Ports Initiative are one of them.

571

00:42:21,930 --> 00:42:24,980

So we're excited to have  
an opportunity to do that today.

572

00:42:24,990 --> 00:42:30,420

This next slide is just to help frame the  
discussion today on Justice 40. At a very

573

00:42:30,420 --> 00:42:35,340

high level, we see DERA and Port's initiative offering two primary benefits.

574

00:42:35,350 --> 00:42:39,060

The first and the big one is sort of direct diesel emissions reductions and the

575

00:42:39,060 --> 00:42:42,360

associated health benefits from DERA funded projects.

576

00:42:42,720 --> 00:42:48,840

Then the second one is enhanced capacity for additional diesel emissions reductions

577

00:42:48,870 --> 00:42:50,820

beyond DERA funded projects.

578

00:42:51,030 --> 00:42:55,320

As we think about maximizing benefits in underserved and disadvantaged communities,

579

00:42:55,380 --> 00:43:00,360

we want to continue to prioritize  
Justice 40 goals and regular updates to the

580

00:43:00,360 --> 00:43:03,630

zero funding program that Christine was  
talking about.

581

00:43:03,630 --> 00:43:09,630

We also want to continue to build  
capacity of our respective grantees and then

582

00:43:09,780 --> 00:43:13,800

promote additional emissions reductions in  
communities with EJ

583

00:43:13,890 --> 00:43:18,780

concerns above and beyond those projects  
were able to fund through DERA.

584

00:43:19,110 --> 00:43:23,040

We've always really valued stakeholder

input to strengthen our programs, and we're

585

00:43:23,040 --> 00:43:27,930

looking forward to hearing from stakeholders  
on today's call and others who aren't able to

586

00:43:27,930 --> 00:43:33,220

join us, who are experiencing diesel  
pollution in their community communities.

587

00:43:33,240 --> 00:43:37,890

We want to know, are there opportunities  
for programs to further maximize benefits to

588

00:43:37,890 --> 00:43:39,420

disadvantaged communities?

589

00:43:39,660 --> 00:43:44,940

In this next slide, we've teed up a  
few questions to get the discussion

590

00:43:44,940 --> 00:43:49,080

started, but we very much welcome your input

and thoughts are really only ways that we can

591

00:43:49,080 --> 00:43:52,290

maximize benefits from these program  
in disadvantaged communities.

592

00:43:52,290 --> 00:43:54,570

I will read these questions.

593

00:43:54,570 --> 00:43:59,940

I think I see some Q&A questions  
happening [INAUDIBLE] raise hands.

594

00:43:59,940 --> 00:44:06,720

But the first one is a methodology question,  
which is how should EPA determine benefits to

595

00:44:06,720 --> 00:44:11,060

a particular community for these mobile  
source projects, which means things like the

596

00:44:11,070 --> 00:44:13,760

vehicles that travel

between different communities?

597

00:44:13,950 --> 00:44:18,210

Another question is we want to hear are disadvantaged communities aware

598

00:44:18,210 --> 00:44:20,880

of your funding and its potential to help communities.

599

00:44:20,880 --> 00:44:26,130

If not, how could EPA reach more communities and support them in partnering

600

00:44:26,130 --> 00:44:28,110

with eligible DERA applicants?

601

00:44:28,470 --> 00:44:33,720

Then are there additional ways that EPA can be encouraging community engagement,

602

00:44:33,900 --> 00:44:37,770

diesel emissions reductions in

disadvantaged communities, both as part of

603

00:44:37,770 --> 00:44:42,120

the DERA projects and beyond the life of  
the DERA projects, e.g. additional outreach,

604

00:44:42,120 --> 00:44:45,870

technical resources, training, other  
information that we could be developing? And

605

00:44:45,870 --> 00:44:48,840

then specifically with  
respect to school buses,

606

00:44:49,440 --> 00:44:54,630

how can we be engaging better with school  
districts in disadvantaged communities

607

00:44:54,630 --> 00:45:00,000

about these funding opportunities and about  
the adoption of newer technologies like

608

00:45:00,000 --> 00:45:01,190

electric school buses?

609

00:45:01,260 --> 00:45:06,090

Again, these are starter questions,  
and we look forward to engaging

610

00:45:06,090 --> 00:45:06,660

with you today.

611

00:45:08,310 --> 00:45:13,380

Victoria Robinson: Go ahead and see if there's any  
questions in the in the Q&A pod that can be

612

00:45:13,380 --> 00:45:16,420

read out and then we'll move to people  
who've raised their hands.

613

00:45:16,420 --> 00:45:19,920

If you want to ask a question, please  
don't hesitate to raise your hand.

614

00:45:20,040 --> 00:45:23,370

Press \*9 for those of you who are on

the phone.

615

00:45:23,520 --> 00:45:28,770

Christina, do you see any question that might be relevant to ask in response to these

616

00:45:28,770 --> 00:45:29,370

questions?

617

00:45:31,280 --> 00:45:34,910

Christina: I had a question that is

618

00:45:36,110 --> 00:45:40,850

slightly related, but I did think would be good to read out loud, which is can schools,

619

00:45:41,840 --> 00:45:46,280

for example, apply directly for funding of replacing buses, or does the applicant need

620

00:45:46,280 --> 00:45:47,660

to be a state entity?

621

00:45:49,070 --> 00:45:50,270

Christine Koester: That's a good question.

622

00:45:50,310 --> 00:45:54,680

School can apply directly for DERA funds.

623

00:45:55,640 --> 00:45:59,610

Most of the applications that we do receive  
in the rebate program are from school

624

00:45:59,610 --> 00:46:03,900

districts directly. As long as the school  
district owns the bus that they're seeking to

625

00:46:03,900 --> 00:46:06,060

replace, they're eligible to apply.

626

00:46:07,020 --> 00:46:12,510

In some cases, like in South Carolina,  
the state owns all of the buses.

627

00:46:12,510 --> 00:46:16,500

So in that case, the state would apply on behalf of the school districts.

628

00:46:16,500 --> 00:46:19,290

But that's a unique circumstance in most cases, it seems.

629

00:46:19,560 --> 00:46:21,390

The school districts own their own buses.

630

00:46:24,190 --> 00:46:25,360

Christina: Great, thank you.

631

00:46:26,200 --> 00:46:28,630

Another question we have is

632

00:46:29,660 --> 00:46:34,040

Has EPA conducted monitoring by which to show the improvement in air quality by the

633

00:46:34,040 --> 00:46:37,320

DERA and Ports Initiative  
to front line communities?

634

00:46:41,450 --> 00:46:43,360

Christine Koester: We have  
not done monitoring,

635

00:46:43,360 --> 00:46:48,350

we really rely on modeling, so  
we have an online tool called

636

00:46:48,350 --> 00:46:53,480

the Diesel Emissions Quantifier, where we  
can input the information about the old

637

00:46:53,480 --> 00:46:58,790

vehicle and the information about the new  
vehicle to determine the emissions reduction

638

00:46:58,790 --> 00:47:00,320

that has occurred from the project.

639

00:47:05,120 --> 00:47:06,500

Christina: Great. Thank you.

640

00:47:08,470 --> 00:47:11,110

Victoria, I think we have a hand raised.

641

00:47:11,710 --> 00:47:16,960

Victoria Robinson: Yes, I'm going to go ahead  
and ask Denise Bennett to unmute her line.

642

00:47:17,380 --> 00:47:19,300

Are you able to do that, Denise?

643

00:47:26,100 --> 00:47:28,800

So far, I think her hand,  
she is still muted.

644

00:47:28,860 --> 00:47:31,240

Hold on one second.

Denise, if you do get unmuted.

645

00:47:31,590 --> 00:47:35,840

Christina, go ahead and read another  
question while we work with Denise to unmute

646

00:47:35,840 --> 00:47:36,390

her phone.

647

00:47:36,780 --> 00:47:37,440

Christina: Absolutely.

648

00:47:37,680 --> 00:47:41,340

The next question is do the DERA staff reach out to those communities that

649

00:47:41,340 --> 00:47:47,420

meet the 80 percentile of air pollution to encourage those school districts to apply for

650

00:47:47,420 --> 00:47:48,980

the grant opportunities?

651

00:47:51,240 --> 00:47:53,680

Christine Koester: For the the 80 percent

652

00:47:53,680 --> 00:47:58,440

number that comes from our priority counting list that is

653

00:47:58,440 --> 00:48:04,470

created for the grant program, so we put together a list of counties that are in that

654

00:48:04,470 --> 00:48:11,520

attainment for PM or Ozone, or 80 percentile or higher exposure for diesel particulate matter.

655

00:48:11,850 --> 00:48:16,980

We do not reach out directly to every single county on the list, but instead we do

656

00:48:16,980 --> 00:48:19,770

advertise the DERA funding opportunity.

657

00:48:19,890 --> 00:48:26,040

We do national press releases, list serves and then our regions are pretty active in

658

00:48:26,040 --> 00:48:34,880

reaching out to organizations in their region to apply and to answer questions that way.

659

00:48:35,720 --> 00:48:41,800

We do try to maximize the amplification  
of the announcements, but we

660

00:48:41,800 --> 00:48:48,310

would like to even do more outreach to  
communities as well, but we do try to amplify

661

00:48:48,310 --> 00:48:50,560

the announcements as much as we can.

662

00:48:54,200 --> 00:48:56,580

Christina: Great, thank you so much,  
do we have time for another?

663

00:48:57,930 --> 00:48:59,040

Victoria Robinson: Yes, you do.

664

00:48:59,310 --> 00:48:59,720

Christina: Ok.

665

00:48:59,720 --> 00:49:02,040

Victoria Robinson: Denise is not unmuted.

666

00:49:05,490 --> 00:49:10,900

Christina: The next question is, does DERA cover only the cost of replacing these buses?

667

00:49:10,920 --> 00:49:16,170

Are there any programs to cover or help to cover the cost of installing charging

668

00:49:16,170 --> 00:49:18,900

stations for new zero emissions buses?

669

00:49:20,220 --> 00:49:26,670

Christine Koester: In the DERA grant program, EPA will pay 45%

670

00:49:26,940 --> 00:49:33,360

for the cost for a zero emission replacement, so if a selected grantee is

671

00:49:33,360 --> 00:49:39,510

going to replace and purchase a new electric school bus, we'll pay 45% of the

672

00:49:39,510 --> 00:49:44,610

cost of the bus itself and 45% of the cost of the charging

673

00:49:44,610 --> 00:49:48,120

station that it comes with.

In the rebate program,

674

00:49:48,630 --> 00:49:54,360

we just provide a flat amount and it's up to the recipient if they want to use that to

675

00:49:54,360 --> 00:49:58,350

reimburse themselves for the cost of the bus or if they want to use it to reimburse

676

00:49:58,350 --> 00:50:02,400

themselves for the cost of the charger, installation for that charger.

677

00:50:02,610 --> 00:50:09,740

For the rebate program, to receive  
the rebate payment, the applicant would

678

00:50:09,750 --> 00:50:15,330

have taken delivery of the new bus, scrapped  
the old bus, and then submitted the proof of

679

00:50:15,330 --> 00:50:16,380

paperwork to us.

680

00:50:16,410 --> 00:50:19,190

Then we would provide  
them the rebate payment.

681

00:50:19,190 --> 00:50:23,430

At that point, they can decide how they  
want to reimburse themselves for them,

682

00:50:23,430 --> 00:50:26,120

the cost of them, the charger  
and the new vehicle.

683

00:50:26,630 --> 00:50:29,130

Matthew Tejada: I just wanted to  
add in a couple of points.

684

00:50:29,130 --> 00:50:31,530

I see a few questions getting at this.

685

00:50:31,680 --> 00:50:34,410

This is a pilot, right?

686

00:50:34,770 --> 00:50:39,750

DERA, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act  
program has been around for quite some time,

687

00:50:40,050 --> 00:50:44,430

but because of the American Rescue Plan  
funding for environmental justice the EPA

688

00:50:44,430 --> 00:50:48,480

received earlier this year,  
as the COVID relief package,

689

00:50:48,480 --> 00:50:53,040

there were four statutes specifically not mentioned, but we were...

690

00:50:53,070 --> 00:50:55,740

They gave us four statutes to use.

691

00:50:56,490 --> 00:50:59,700

Congress did, for spending that \$50 million.

692

00:50:59,730 --> 00:51:01,680

One of those four was DERA.

693

00:51:01,980 --> 00:51:06,690

We sat down with our colleagues in  
OTAQ, in the Office of Transportation Air

694

00:51:06,690 --> 00:51:12,870

Quality and said, OK, if we have  
some money for DERA, that's specific around

695

00:51:13,140 --> 00:51:20,850

trying to do something for the  
disproportionate impacts of COVID on certain

696

00:51:20,850 --> 00:51:26,190

communities based upon the pollution they have. Obviously, focusing on

697

00:51:26,190 --> 00:51:31,140

environmental justice, what would be a great use of a smaller amount of money than DERA

698

00:51:31,170 --> 00:51:32,340

usually receives?

699

00:51:32,400 --> 00:51:37,050

The answer we got, and the answer that was confirmed by engaging with some other

700

00:51:37,050 --> 00:51:41,880

stakeholders, particularly through the NEJAC was figure out how to use DERA for

701

00:51:41,880 --> 00:51:43,170

electric school buses.

702

00:51:43,260 --> 00:51:46,820

This is us really figuring it out.

703

00:51:46,890 --> 00:51:51,060

We thought the rebate program  
would be better than the grant program

704

00:51:51,060 --> 00:51:55,380

because there's a lower threshold for people  
to request it.

705

00:51:56,220 --> 00:52:01,720

Our colleagues in the Office of  
Transportation Air Quality thought that \$300K

706

00:52:01,720 --> 00:52:04,760

that's a lot more than we would  
typically give out, I believe,

707

00:52:05,120 --> 00:52:09,480

because we really wanted to see,  
well, is that enough to try to get electric

708

00:52:09,480 --> 00:52:15,810

school buses to the districts, to the parts  
of the country that we really want,

709

00:52:15,810 --> 00:52:20,850

the parts of the country that were suffering  
disproportionately from COVID-19?

710

00:52:20,970 --> 00:52:22,530

But this is a pilot, right?

711

00:52:22,530 --> 00:52:24,780

We want to see how this works.

712

00:52:24,930 --> 00:52:29,490

Thinking ahead, thinking to the future, where  
hopefully the DERA program will get more and

713

00:52:29,490 --> 00:52:34,770

more funding to do specifically this sort of  
work, really to try to drive

714

00:52:34,770 --> 00:52:39,450

electrification into places that need it,  
that are harder to penetrate.

715

00:52:39,870 --> 00:52:41,820

That's why this is working this way.

716

00:52:41,820 --> 00:52:43,700

That's why this pilot has  
been set up this way.

717

00:52:43,700 --> 00:52:48,570

We really are using this American Rescue  
Plan funding not just to have some benefits

718

00:52:48,570 --> 00:52:53,880

out in communities, but to try to catalyze  
our understanding in preparation for future

719

00:52:53,880 --> 00:52:55,770

efforts to do more and more of this.

720

00:53:04,330 --> 00:53:07,120

Christina: Great, thank you. Do we have time for another question?

721

00:53:07,870 --> 00:53:10,810

Victoria Robinson: Yes, we have time for one more question.

722

00:53:11,440 --> 00:53:12,280

One or two.

723

00:53:12,730 --> 00:53:19,660

Christina: Forgive me if I pronounce your name wrong, but I believe it's Alan Harnett,

724

00:53:19,660 --> 00:53:23,650

asked a question and it's quite long, but there's a good question in the

725

00:53:23,650 --> 00:53:30,070

middle of it that says do the state DERA programs provide capacity support to local

726

00:53:30,070 --> 00:53:32,740

governments to apply for DERA programs?

727

00:53:36,960 --> 00:53:39,300

Christine Koester: Yes, that is a good question.

728

00:53:39,330 --> 00:53:45,090

There's a limited amount of the DERA funding that can be used for education and outreach.

729

00:53:45,390 --> 00:53:50,970

Most of the funding should be used for the actual vehicle or engine replacement to

730

00:53:50,970 --> 00:53:56,850

maximize benefits, but the states can use a small portion for education and outreach to

731

00:53:56,850 --> 00:53:57,810

reach communities.

732

00:54:01,090 --> 00:54:03,900

Sarah Froman: I just wanted to add one thing, but I'll check to see if you can hear me,

733

00:54:03,900 --> 00:54:05,830

someone said that was difficult earlier.

734

00:54:06,980 --> 00:54:12,200

Am I coming through?[CROSSTALK]

Both DERA and Ports Initiative team, so

735

00:54:12,200 --> 00:54:17,540

DERA is really focused on getting grants  
out and real emissions reductions,

736

00:54:17,540 --> 00:54:21,710

but both of our teams, we work a lot at the  
headquarters and regional level to try to

737

00:54:21,710 --> 00:54:23,720

build the capacity of grantees.

738

00:54:23,720 --> 00:54:28,160

One of the ways that happens is  
our regional offices will hold

739

00:54:28,160 --> 00:54:30,070

workshops with local stakeholders.

740

00:54:30,080 --> 00:54:32,090

Often state and local agencies are there.

741

00:54:32,090 --> 00:54:37,340

It is something that we try to do  
regularly and are always open to

742

00:54:37,340 --> 00:54:42,460

feedback on what kind of information  
sessions might be helpful to support our

743

00:54:42,500 --> 00:54:43,820

prospective grantees.

744

00:54:51,040 --> 00:54:52,180

Christina: Great, thank you.

745

00:54:52,400 --> 00:54:54,880

Victoria Robinson: I have one person

who has raised their hand.

746

00:54:56,200 --> 00:55:03,010

Leticia Colombia Mejias, I apologize  
if I mangled your name pronunciation.

747

00:55:03,010 --> 00:55:05,960

so if you go ahead and unmute your line, Leticia.

748

00:55:06,250 --> 00:55:07,780

Leticia Colombia: Thank you, ma'am.  
I appreciate it.

749

00:55:08,650 --> 00:55:12,040

Thank you for providing this  
wonderful information.

750

00:55:12,250 --> 00:55:14,080

I'm learning a lot, that's for sure.

751

00:55:14,530 --> 00:55:18,040

I had asked the question about schools  
applying directly because I was fortunate

752

00:55:18,040 --> 00:55:23,050

enough to work with legal conservation  
voters and Chispa here in Connecticut to get

753

00:55:23,050 --> 00:55:24,410

an electric school bus.

754

00:55:24,430 --> 00:55:30,210

We found multiple barriers to the  
process while applying. Here in Connecticut,

755

00:55:30,220 --> 00:55:34,150

we found that the areas where buses were  
being placed, for example, were often

756

00:55:34,150 --> 00:55:37,870

communities that were not at risk or  
vulnerable, and they were more likely to be

757

00:55:37,870 --> 00:55:43,650

communities that had additional supports,  
such as a staff that wrote Grant, a staff

758

00:55:43,660 --> 00:55:49,510

writer, rather to write the grants or had direct connections with programs that were

759

00:55:49,510 --> 00:55:54,490

already calculating implications of emissions related to buses.

760

00:55:54,520 --> 00:55:59,650

Really, it's more of a comment that in relationship to looking for ways to expand

761

00:55:59,740 --> 00:56:03,700

the pilot, I think that one of the biggest things that I've seen needed across our

762

00:56:03,700 --> 00:56:11,530

nation is a support person directly able to actually help schools apply for the

763

00:56:11,530 --> 00:56:15,940

resources. And then the other thing that

because oftentimes they don't have someone on

764

00:56:15,940 --> 00:56:17,550

staff to do that process.

765

00:56:17,560 --> 00:56:23,400

Then the other piece that I wanted to  
bring forward was that in some cases, in outreach

766

00:56:23,400 --> 00:56:30,430

communities, the buses are actually  
provided by other people and through

767

00:56:30,430 --> 00:56:34,750

contract. It's the lowest bidder who  
gets the contract and then they're not

768

00:56:34,750 --> 00:56:38,830

worried about the buses emissions because  
they're just worried about the lowest cost of

769

00:56:38,830 --> 00:56:42,520

the contract. I just wanted to bring that

forward because I see that you're doing a

770

00:56:42,520 --> 00:56:46,390

very good job of working on that equity,  
inclusion and diversity lens.

771

00:56:46,390 --> 00:56:50,350

It would require the acknowledgement  
that in the low income communities, they just

772

00:56:50,350 --> 00:56:57,670

don't have the time to attend this type of  
educational presentation, and they need more

773

00:56:57,850 --> 00:57:00,970

hand-holding to actually complete the  
application process.

774

00:57:01,360 --> 00:57:01,990

Thank you.

775

00:57:03,760 --> 00:57:05,050

Christine Koester: Yeah,

thanks for that comment.

776

00:57:05,080 --> 00:57:10,030

I really appreciate it, it's something that we're aware of and we're trying to come up

777

00:57:10,030 --> 00:57:16,060

with more strategies to help low income and underserved communities with the application

778

00:57:16,060 --> 00:57:19,510

process. We appreciate the feedback like that and it is something that we're

779

00:57:19,510 --> 00:57:21,070

trying to be mindful of.

780

00:57:22,630 --> 00:57:27,250

One of the nice things about the rebate program is it is just a one page application

781

00:57:27,250 --> 00:57:32,770

rather than a 12 page narrative that is

needed for the grants.

782

00:57:32,950 --> 00:57:36,160

That is something that we can provide.

783

00:57:37,020 --> 00:57:40,950

Try to figure out ways to provide more education about the difference between the

784

00:57:40,950 --> 00:57:45,540

grant and the rebate program, and that the rebate program is less of an administrative

785

00:57:45,540 --> 00:57:47,430

burden for some applicants.

786

00:57:47,520 --> 00:57:51,240

Leticia Colombia: The other thing that's important on the equity lens as well is that it's a

787

00:57:51,240 --> 00:57:57,060

leveraged application, so you're cash matching 60% or 65% in those

788

00:57:57,210 --> 00:58:00,480

risk communities, they already don't even have budgets for like, let's say, science or

789

00:58:00,480 --> 00:58:01,590

art at all.

790

00:58:01,710 --> 00:58:06,150

So leveraging funds is truly impossible when they can't meet their basic needs.

791

00:58:06,150 --> 00:58:10,530

An equity based approach to addressing this would be that additional

792

00:58:10,530 --> 00:58:13,440

resources would go to communities, for example, that were title one,

793

00:58:13,440 --> 00:58:18,810

schools or those vulnerable populations that historically don't apply would get additional

794

00:58:18,810 --> 00:58:23,130

funding in a higher amount than, for example, a community that already had

795

00:58:23,130 --> 00:58:25,500

resources. So that's all I have to contribute today.

796

00:58:25,500 --> 00:58:28,890

But obviously going forward, there'll be opportunity for continued discussion.

797

00:58:30,070 --> 00:58:33,470

Christine Koester: Thank you for that, and like Matt said, the American Rescue Plan

798

00:58:33,470 --> 00:58:38,860

rebate program is a pilot, and that's why we set the \$300,000 limit where we did

799

00:58:38,860 --> 00:58:43,720

because we've heard feedback that some

schools can't even afford the cost of a new

800

00:58:43,720 --> 00:58:45,250

diesel bus, which could be about \$90,000.

801

00:58:45,940 --> 00:58:53,050

We are trying the \$300,000  
threshold in this very targeted rebate

802

00:58:53,050 --> 00:58:57,610

program to see if that is the tipping point  
or if an adjustment needs to be made there.

803

00:59:06,170 --> 00:59:07,670

Victoria Robinson: Thank you  
very much, Leticia.

804

00:59:09,290 --> 00:59:15,500

Christine, Sarah, do you want to go ahead and  
close out with any other closing comments?

805

00:59:19,070 --> 00:59:21,500

Sarah Froman: I have none

but to say thank you.

806

00:59:21,710 --> 00:59:25,010

I don't know if we put it in here,  
but we should.

807

00:59:26,340 --> 00:59:30,240

Our email address is [DERA@EPA.gov](mailto:DERA@EPA.gov).

808

00:59:30,270 --> 00:59:33,990

If you have any other further input because  
you really want to hear from folks and I'm

809

00:59:33,990 --> 00:59:39,360

seeing some additional questions come  
in, I will definitely take a look at, and

810

00:59:39,360 --> 00:59:41,370

suggestions. Thank you for all of that.

811

00:59:42,120 --> 00:59:44,600

Christine Koester: Thanks, everybody for  
your questions and comments.

812

00:59:44,760 --> 00:59:46,290

Much appreciated.

Thanks for having us.

813

00:59:46,920 --> 00:59:48,640

Victoria Robinson: I'll also add that

814

00:59:49,160 --> 00:59:54,210

the questions that are posed in the Q&A pod, if there isn't an answer provided during

815

00:59:54,210 --> 00:59:59,940

the call, that we will publish that as part of our summary of the Q&A pod, we will try to

816

00:59:59,940 --> 01:00:03,520

get an answer, and put an answer into the pod,

817

01:00:03,720 --> 01:00:09,180

in our summary, I'm sorry, of the questions and answers, so thank you very much.

818

01:00:09,960 --> 01:00:14,700

I'm now going to move it over to the program updates with Matthew Tejada.

819

01:00:17,660 --> 01:00:19,040

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Victoria.

820

01:00:19,490 --> 01:00:26,150

So very quickly, I just wanted to go over a few updates with folks before we get into the

821

01:00:26,960 --> 01:00:30,590

EPA multi-year strategic plan conversation.

822

01:00:31,490 --> 01:00:37,010

Obviously that is the biggest update right now, the overall agency's strategic

823

01:00:37,010 --> 01:00:38,960

plan is out on the street.

824

01:00:39,470 --> 01:00:42,320

We're going to be  
going over that plan today.

825

01:00:42,740 --> 01:00:47,600

We will also be using the next of these  
calls in the same fashion that we are today.

826

01:00:47,600 --> 01:00:51,860

We will have some of our program colleagues

827

01:00:51,860 --> 01:00:56,600

join us to talk about Justice 40 and how  
their program is implemented.

828

01:00:56,600 --> 01:00:59,600

Justice 40, I believe we have the Office of  
Water next time.

829

01:00:59,600 --> 01:01:00,440

Victoria?

830

01:01:01,640 --> 01:01:02,440

Victoria Robinson: Yes, that's correct.

831

01:01:02,840 --> 01:01:03,440

Matthew Tejada: Thank you.

832

01:01:03,440 --> 01:01:08,450

And then we'll do a repeat or  
kind of a refresher of the information I'm

833

01:01:08,450 --> 01:01:14,210

about to share with you all, and receive some  
more feedback because this multi-year agency

834

01:01:14,210 --> 01:01:16,820

strategic plan, it is out on the street  
right now.

835

01:01:17,330 --> 01:01:20,930

The public comment period for it ends on  
November 12.

836

01:01:21,230 --> 01:01:26,090

So we're using these two calls in October to  
provide a bunch of information, receive any

837

01:01:26,090 --> 01:01:29,560

feedback we can during  
the length of these calls.

838

01:01:29,690 --> 01:01:35,600

Then also, I'm not sure if it's even hit  
the Federal Register yet, but we are planning

839

01:01:35,600 --> 01:01:38,030

for the afternoon of November 10th.

840

01:01:38,330 --> 01:01:43,370

We will convene the National Environmental  
Justice Advisory Council or the NEJAC that is

841

01:01:43,370 --> 01:01:46,340

our Federal Advisory Committee on EJ to EPA.

842

01:01:47,180 --> 01:01:53,090

They'll be convened on the afternoon of  
November 10th to focus in even more on

843

01:01:53,090 --> 01:01:58,370

receiving some feedback and advice from the  
NEJAC on this multi-year strategic plan.

844

01:01:58,370 --> 01:02:03,020

This is really kind of the biggest game in  
town right now for us.

845

01:02:03,440 --> 01:02:09,620

Obviously, a lot of the other things that we  
have that we want to work on, such as

846

01:02:09,800 --> 01:02:15,050

standing up a national program as was  
requested in the president's budget request

847

01:02:15,050 --> 01:02:16,100

to Congress.

848

01:02:16,580 --> 01:02:21,770

Anything that might be contemplated through  
the American Jobs Plan or the Build Back

849

01:02:21,770 --> 01:02:28,640

Better agenda. We're all just as excited as anyone else out there about the potential for

850

01:02:29,000 --> 01:02:30,430

those things to come through.

851

01:02:30,440 --> 01:02:35,510

But we are just like everyone else, waiting for them to come through to see

852

01:02:35,510 --> 01:02:40,280

where Congress lands on multiple packages.

853

01:02:40,910 --> 01:02:42,920

Hopefully, all this fall, we'll see.

854

01:02:44,060 --> 01:02:48,050

But that would include like the American Jobs Plan, the Build Back Better

855

01:02:48,080 --> 01:02:55,040

reconciliation package and then the  
fiscal year 22 federal budget, which would

856

01:02:55,040 --> 01:02:56,780

include the budget for EPA.

857

01:02:56,780 --> 01:03:04,430

And hopefully we'll see where that  
lands with respect to President

858

01:03:04,430 --> 01:03:09,530

Biden's historic, unprecedented request for  
funding for environmental justice.

859

01:03:10,220 --> 01:03:16,580

With that, I don't have any other  
immediate updates.

860

01:03:16,760 --> 01:03:25,160

I wanted to get on to the strategic plan  
information and engagement.

861

01:03:25,280 --> 01:03:28,970

I think there was, I'm sorry, I can't remember, it was from the Gulf.

862

01:03:29,420 --> 01:03:31,070

Your name is just escaping me now.

863

01:03:31,070 --> 01:03:34,580

Somebody in chat had asked if they could ask a general EJ question.

864

01:03:34,970 --> 01:03:39,710

I don't know if that person can raise their hand real quickly or if they ever put their

865

01:03:39,710 --> 01:03:40,760

question in the chat.

866

01:03:40,760 --> 01:03:42,400

I don't think I ever saw any of the questions.

867

01:03:42,550 --> 01:03:43,790

There it is, Naomi.

868

01:03:44,180 --> 01:03:47,690

Can we unmute Naomi real quickly, Victoria.

869

01:03:48,670 --> 01:03:50,680

Victoria Robinson: Yes,

I'm doing that right now.

870

01:03:50,950 --> 01:03:52,450

Matthew Tejada: Thank you. I'll be just a second.

871

01:03:53,250 --> 01:03:53,920

Victoria Robinson: Go ahead Naomi.

872

01:03:53,920 --> 01:03:54,840

Matthew Tejada: Here we go.

873

01:03:55,260 --> 01:03:57,090

Naomi: Great, thank you so much.

874

01:03:58,440 --> 01:04:01,950

I had a couple of issues I wanted to raise.

875

01:04:03,390 --> 01:04:11,850

In particular, I wanted to talk about the air and pollution issues in Louisiana and

876

01:04:11,850 --> 01:04:19,530

Texas. Right now, each company is permitted to emit air pollution as though it's the only

877

01:04:19,530 --> 01:04:20,780

plant in the area.

878

01:04:20,790 --> 01:04:30,720

We also have an issue with what happened regarding information and data that the

879

01:04:30,720 --> 01:04:36,900

EPA collected after Hurricane Ida for what was spilled and released.

880

01:04:37,980 --> 01:04:47,960

That information of what was actually being emitted into the air and water has

881

01:04:48,030 --> 01:04:50,040

still not been made available.

882

01:04:50,040 --> 01:04:58,260

It also wasn't ever made  
available to the people that live next to

883

01:04:58,260 --> 01:04:59,630

those facilities.

884

01:04:59,640 --> 01:05:09,360

What is being done to address this issue  
of telling people in Louisiana and Texas

885

01:05:09,360 --> 01:05:14,550

environmental justice communities, which is  
pretty much all of the industrial corridor in

886

01:05:15,900 --> 01:05:21,030

in the Mississippi River  
Valley, plus Lake Charles?

887

01:05:22,260 --> 01:05:26,730

What is being done to let people know what  
is in their air and water?

888

01:05:29,290 --> 01:05:31,030

Matthew Tejada: Thank you  
for that, Naomi.

889

01:05:31,480 --> 01:05:37,270

On the first part of that, that  
actually ties in with something I'm going to

890

01:05:37,270 --> 01:05:44,710

talk about here in a moment where I think  
for the first time ever, we have drafted

891

01:05:44,710 --> 01:05:51,940

commitments for the agency to finally make  
meaningful, substantive progress on

892

01:05:52,270 --> 01:05:53,920

disproportionate impacts.

893

01:05:54,370 --> 01:06:01,120

Disproportionate impacts was a term used in the original executive 12898.

894

01:06:01,520 --> 01:06:06,790

It really, I think, to a lot of us, disproportionality and really defining what

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01:06:06,790 --> 01:06:12,860

disproportionality means and doing so in a way that is then operationalizable,

896

01:06:12,910 --> 01:06:14,020

if that's a word.

897

01:06:15,040 --> 01:06:19,820

In a way that we can actually integrate thinking about disproportionality

898

01:06:19,820 --> 01:06:24,770

in our analyses and in the actual decisions we make, whether that's in the context of a

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01:06:24,770 --> 01:06:27,830

rulemaking or a permitting process.

900

01:06:28,400 --> 01:06:29,850

Those are front and center.

901

01:06:29,870 --> 01:06:33,380

Some of the most important things that we  
have got to figure out in this

902

01:06:33,380 --> 01:06:39,770

administration and what you are, I believe,  
pointing to in terms of the reality faced by

903

01:06:39,770 --> 01:06:43,850

communities in areas like along the Gulf  
Coast, heavily industrialized areas,

904

01:06:44,480 --> 01:06:47,720

cumulative impacts is  
part of that disproportionality.

905

01:06:47,720 --> 01:06:52,520

It is the beating heart of  
disproportionality for many, if not most,

906

01:06:52,520 --> 01:06:54,320

communities with EJ concerns.

907

01:06:54,710 --> 01:07:01,730

I'll get to that, hopefully in a minute,  
but it is a very high priority issue for this

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01:07:01,730 --> 01:07:06,740

administration. Some of the stuff that the  
administrator has already signed out

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01:07:06,740 --> 01:07:15,260

publicly, including his letter on general  
iron earlier this summer, has put a marker

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01:07:15,260 --> 01:07:21,170

down that we will figure this out and we  
will start to implement and integrate and

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01:07:21,170 --> 01:07:24,980

appreciation for cumulative impacts in things such as permitting processes.

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01:07:24,980 --> 01:07:29,180

That is one of the big pieces of work we have finally undertaken with all

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01:07:29,180 --> 01:07:30,710

seriousness at EPA.

914

01:07:30,980 --> 01:07:40,220

On the second point, we completely hear you and agree that information, data

915

01:07:40,760 --> 01:07:47,450

transparency, usable data and information, in real time is needed.

916

01:07:48,830 --> 01:07:50,960

Hurricane Ida made that point.

917

01:07:51,200 --> 01:07:56,000

The deep freeze earlier this year that was suffered by a lot of these same areas made

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01:07:56,000 --> 01:08:01,220

that point. We are working right now with our colleagues in the Office of Emergency

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01:08:01,220 --> 01:08:09,770

Management and other parts of the agency to really take a hard look at EPA policies and

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01:08:10,160 --> 01:08:13,490

resources that can be brought to bear in a quicker way.

921

01:08:13,520 --> 01:08:18,410

I don't have a satisfying answer for you right now, except to say that for the first

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01:08:18,410 --> 01:08:22,640

time since I've been at this agency, I think we're finally starting to have some of the

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01:08:22,640 --> 01:08:27,800

conversations we really need to have to get  
the agency in a better place in terms of

924

01:08:29,210 --> 01:08:36,240

integrating EJ concerns, EJ realities  
in times of crisis, in times of disaster,

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01:08:36,240 --> 01:08:38,930

and the role EPA and the rest of the

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01:08:38,930 --> 01:08:43,800

federal government should be playing to  
respond to those to support the communities

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01:08:43,800 --> 01:08:46,410

that are most overburdened and most  
vulnerable to them.

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01:08:47,610 --> 01:08:50,590

Some stuff I hope you  
see reflected here.

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01:08:50,590 --> 01:08:55,020

The stuff on emergency management, I can't really share more of that yet, but we are

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01:08:55,020 --> 01:09:03,510

spending, we're putting a lot of work into trying to improve how the agency responds and

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01:09:03,510 --> 01:09:08,580

and provides information, and support, and clarity in those times to the communities

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01:09:08,580 --> 01:09:12,660

that need it the most. Thank you very much for those questions.

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01:09:13,140 --> 01:09:14,340

[CROSSTALK]

934

01:09:15,210 --> 01:09:21,960

Naomi: I just wanted to respond and say thank you and that I guess I would like to

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01:09:21,960 --> 01:09:29,010

encourage you all to consult with some of us  
on the ground that are trying to do

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01:09:29,010 --> 01:09:34,680

some of this work to get the information to  
the communities and the roadblocks that

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01:09:34,680 --> 01:09:39,060

we're running into, because I think that we  
can solve this together.

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01:09:39,060 --> 01:09:43,020

But it needs to be logical.

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01:09:43,830 --> 01:09:46,560

Matthew Tejada: I absolutely agree with you.

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01:09:46,560 --> 01:09:52,020

I mean, we we held a NEJAC down in  
Gulfport a number of years ago.

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01:09:52,260 --> 01:09:57,720

I think once we get this to a place and I'm  
hopeful that it's not super long,

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01:09:58,110 --> 01:10:02,550

I'm hopeful that here in the next couple of  
months, we'll have some things on paper that

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01:10:02,550 --> 01:10:04,770

we think is a good starting point.

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01:10:05,610 --> 01:10:09,420

Then we'll probably be thinking about  
the NEJAC, thinking about some other ways

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01:10:09,420 --> 01:10:14,040

to get that out to folks and get some input  
on it because we absolutely want a ground

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01:10:14,040 --> 01:10:17,730

truth. The things we think will  
work with the folks that actually need it to

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01:10:17,730 --> 01:10:20,000

work, to make sure it  
actually will work for them.

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01:10:20,760 --> 01:10:22,680

We definitely hear you there, Naomi.

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01:10:22,680 --> 01:10:25,350

Thank you.

I think we want to go ahead.

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01:10:25,350 --> 01:10:28,650

We're going to do. I know some of the folks  
have some questions if folks could hold on

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01:10:28,880 --> 01:10:33,860

just a minute more, I'm going to get  
through this as quickly as I can.

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01:10:33,890 --> 01:10:35,420

It is a lot of information, though.

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01:10:36,320 --> 01:10:40,200

This is a historic and

unprecedented opportunity.

954

01:10:40,460 --> 01:10:47,570

We have never had environmental justice in  
the profile and the position that it is in, in

955

01:10:47,570 --> 01:10:50,180

in the multi-year strategic plan.

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01:10:50,420 --> 01:10:55,250

Just for folks, it took me a few years  
to really understand the importance

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01:10:55,250 --> 01:10:58,280

of the strategic plan  
in a government agency.

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01:10:59,560 --> 01:11:04,630

But it dictates so much of anything that  
happens, whether it's the budgets that get

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01:11:04,630 --> 01:11:12,430

made, the things that individual

staff are assigned to do or committed to do

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01:11:12,430 --> 01:11:18,100

on an annual basis and then appraised on that, and receive raises or anything else, or

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01:11:18,100 --> 01:11:23,920

promotions based upon that, how whole programs prioritize their efforts.

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01:11:24,070 --> 01:11:32,230

The strategic plan of a federal agency is a keystone of everything that the agency does.

963

01:11:32,650 --> 01:11:36,560

We've never had environmental justice incorporated in it.

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01:11:36,580 --> 01:11:41,110

What's even more exciting is not only do we have a goal that's dedicated to

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01:11:41,110 --> 01:11:46,630

environmental justice, but it's dedicated to  
environmental justice and civil rights

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01:11:46,630 --> 01:11:47,920

compliance together.

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01:11:47,920 --> 01:11:53,890

Because this administration sees the  
relationship and the synergies and the

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01:11:53,890 --> 01:11:59,500

reinforcing ability that exists between our  
environmental justice program and our

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01:11:59,500 --> 01:12:01,000

external civil rights program.

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01:12:01,540 --> 01:12:03,650

This is a really exciting time.

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01:12:03,670 --> 01:12:07,410

Like I said before, it's out for a few weeks  
right now to get public feedback.

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01:12:07,420 --> 01:12:11,470

That's why we wanted to use these meetings  
to make sure we were sharing it with folks,

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01:12:11,470 --> 01:12:16,510

make sure folks had as much insight into  
it as possible and to start that conversation

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01:12:16,510 --> 01:12:18,410

back so we can hear feedback from folks.

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01:12:18,410 --> 01:12:20,720

We're going to  
the next slide, please, Victoria.

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01:12:22,240 --> 01:12:27,480

Just wanted to say, the Administrator,  
since his first days has

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01:12:27,480 --> 01:12:33,120

made it crystal clear that he is centering  
the mission of EPA on advancing equity and

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01:12:33,120 --> 01:12:39,630

justice, that everyone in this nation  
deserves clean air, clean water, clean land

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01:12:39,630 --> 01:12:41,130

and a prosperous future.

980

01:12:41,880 --> 01:12:47,280

To me, this is the most important platform

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01:12:47,280 --> 01:12:53,920

we have to look at things like Justice 40, to  
look at things like executive order 13985,

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01:12:53,920 --> 01:12:57,540

the equity executive order that  
the president signed on his first

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01:12:57,540 --> 01:13:03,060

day in office and to really bring these  
things together to drive them forward through

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01:13:03,060 --> 01:13:04,710

EPA for the next several years.

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01:13:04,830 --> 01:13:06,000

Next slide, please, Victoria.

986

01:13:07,840 --> 01:13:10,540

What we're going to do today  
is we're just going to provide

987

01:13:10,540 --> 01:13:13,710

that overview, there's a lot going on in the  
strategic plan.

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01:13:13,720 --> 01:13:15,640

It's a bureaucratic document.

989

01:13:16,510 --> 01:13:20,560

It is what it is, but we want to try to  
break it down and explain it as well as we

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01:13:20,560 --> 01:13:23,790

can. And then we want to start that conversation coming back.

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01:13:23,800 --> 01:13:26,260

We want to get your feedback, we want to get your questions.

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01:13:26,260 --> 01:13:31,000

Like I said earlier, we'll be doing this again on October 26, which is the

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01:13:31,000 --> 01:13:34,780

next of these biweekly meetings in case folks have something to say or in case folks

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01:13:34,780 --> 01:13:39,430

miss it. We want to provide as much as we can during this public feedback period

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01:13:39,580 --> 01:13:42,550

some input and insight into this.

Next slide.

996

01:13:45,130 --> 01:13:49,120

There's a few really key elements of the strategic plan, and you'll see these as we

997

01:13:49,120 --> 01:13:52,700

start to walk through it, there's the overall mission statement for the agency.

998

01:13:52,720 --> 01:13:54,700

then there are a number of principles.

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01:13:55,060 --> 01:13:59,530

There are four principles for EPA that we must follow across the board.

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01:13:59,770 --> 01:14:03,450

Then you have a number of cross agency strategies. In the past,

1001

01:14:03,460 --> 01:14:06,340

this is where environmental justice would typically be mentioned.

1002

01:14:06,550 --> 01:14:10,750

We would get a mention in the cross agency strategy here or there.

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01:14:11,110 --> 01:14:15,850

But those are the ones that really kind of cut across the entire strategic plan.

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01:14:15,880 --> 01:14:20,620

The real pillars of the strategic plan, though, are the strategic goals, and you'll

1005

01:14:20,620 --> 01:14:23,250

see what those look like here in a minute.

1006

01:14:23,260 --> 01:14:26,320

In those goals, those are like the chapters.

1007

01:14:26,320 --> 01:14:30,640

Think of the goals as the big chapters of this book, and inside of those

1008

01:14:30,640 --> 01:14:32,920

chapters, you have sections of each chapter.

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01:14:32,920 --> 01:14:34,150

Those are the objectives.

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01:14:34,150 --> 01:14:38,290

You break each strategic goal down into objectives to make it more

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01:14:38,290 --> 01:14:43,120

manageable. Inside of those objectives, then, is where you actually have the very

1012

01:14:43,120 --> 01:14:49,870

clear commitments, the measurable outcome based things that we want to achieve across

1013

01:14:49,870 --> 01:14:52,230

all of these different strategic priorities.

1014

01:14:52,240 --> 01:14:56,800

Those are the things that to me, I think

are really the most important, are those long

1015

01:14:56,800 --> 01:14:58,900

term performance goals is what we call them.

1016

01:14:59,110 --> 01:15:02,620

Then we have some smaller goals that  
underlie those, that are year

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01:15:02,620 --> 01:15:08,650

by year goals that get different pieces of  
business done to support achievement of those

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01:15:08,650 --> 01:15:10,060

long term performance goals.

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01:15:10,090 --> 01:15:10,840

Next Slide.

1020

01:15:12,360 --> 01:15:15,860

Some of the things that  
are new in this strategic plan, like I was

1021

01:15:15,860 --> 01:15:21,980

saying, environmental justice and civil rights are right there as a core goal as well

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01:15:21,980 --> 01:15:24,590

as environmental justice and civil rights.

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01:15:24,620 --> 01:15:27,740

Climate change has also been added as its own goal.

1024

01:15:27,770 --> 01:15:32,570

It used to be tucked in typically into the goal on air quality that has been pulled out

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01:15:32,570 --> 01:15:36,650

and it is now a goal for the whole agency just on climate change in the same way that EJ

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01:15:36,650 --> 01:15:37,730

and civil rights are.

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01:15:38,180 --> 01:15:41,120

There are, as I mentioned,  
four cross-agency strategies.

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01:15:41,120 --> 01:15:42,560

You'll see those here in a minute.

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01:15:42,890 --> 01:15:48,590

There's a lot in here specific to tribes, to  
our tribal partners.

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01:15:49,010 --> 01:15:55,100

There's also an increased emphasis  
overall just on enforcement, enforcement and

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01:15:55,100 --> 01:15:58,190

enforcement for environmental justice is  
back in this administration.

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01:15:58,200 --> 01:16:03,320

Our colleague, Larry Starfield has very  
clearly said that in a number of places, but

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01:16:03,330 --> 01:16:05,570

want to make sure that that is really seen  
in this as well.

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01:16:05,570 --> 01:16:09,710

That's another goal area that we're not  
going to talk about too much today or really

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01:16:09,710 --> 01:16:11,200

at all. Next slide.

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01:16:12,000 --> 01:16:13,040

It is in there.

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01:16:13,040 --> 01:16:15,320

You can see the entire strategic plan online.

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01:16:15,440 --> 01:16:19,430

I wanted to note that those principles I  
was mentioning, there's four of them.

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01:16:19,430 --> 01:16:21,410

Before this administration, there were three.

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01:16:21,530 --> 01:16:23,800

There was science, law, transparency.

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01:16:24,410 --> 01:16:28,760

Administrator Regan has added advancing  
justice and equity as a core principle

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01:16:28,760 --> 01:16:32,270

instead of the agency,  
just core principle straight up.

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01:16:32,300 --> 01:16:37,370

Then you'll see there, you see the  
cross cutting strategies, scientific

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01:16:37,370 --> 01:16:41,690

integrity, protecting children's health, and  
other vulnerable populations.

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01:16:41,960 --> 01:16:43,220

Just strategy three.

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01:16:43,820 --> 01:16:49,070

Just the ability of EPA as an organization  
to achieve our mission supporting that and

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01:16:49,070 --> 01:16:52,670

then strategy four, strengthening  
partnerships across the board.

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01:16:52,910 --> 01:16:56,570

But then those big pieces, those  
chapters are these goals you see down

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01:16:56,870 --> 01:16:59,040

tackling the climate crisis.

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01:16:59,060 --> 01:17:01,220

Goal two is the one we're going to talk  
about today.

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01:17:01,430 --> 01:17:06,290

Then you have the rest of the goals that  
really align with EPA structure.

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01:17:06,290 --> 01:17:09,330

Goal three is the one that goes to the  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance

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01:17:09,330 --> 01:17:14,430

Assurance. Goal four is the Office of Air  
and Radiation. Goal five, the Office of Water.

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01:17:14,430 --> 01:17:16,290

Goal six, Office of Land Emergency Management.

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01:17:16,290 --> 01:17:18,480

Goal seven, Office of Research and Development.

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01:17:18,910 --> 01:17:22,590

This is part of kind of treating EJ

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01:17:22,590 --> 01:17:27,060

and civil rights as a national program. Goal  
two is really lifting that up.

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01:17:27,090 --> 01:17:28,080

Next slide, please.

1059

01:17:29,760 --> 01:17:33,980

I want to make sure folks understand, though, that at EPA, we

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01:17:33,980 --> 01:17:38,000

actually have two offices that handle different parts of civil rights.

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01:17:38,390 --> 01:17:43,310

We have the traditional Office of Civil Rights, which is in the administrator's

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01:17:43,310 --> 01:17:50,390

office and still is in charge of all of our equal employment opportunity issues, EEO

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01:17:50,750 --> 01:17:52,080

diversity, equity, inclusion.

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01:17:52,100 --> 01:17:55,670

They work a lot with our Office of Mission

Support on diversity, equity, inclusion

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01:17:55,670 --> 01:18:00,350

issues. There's that office that still exists and is still doing its own thing as

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01:18:00,350 --> 01:18:01,610

the Office of Civil Rights.

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01:18:01,980 --> 01:18:08,510

For goal two, we are talking about another facet of civil rights at EPA, and that is external civil

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01:18:08,510 --> 01:18:09,620

rights compliance.

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01:18:09,620 --> 01:18:15,350

So that is making sure that anybody who receives EPA funding complies with Title six

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01:18:15,350 --> 01:18:21,260

of the Civil Rights Act, as well as other civil rights acts such as Americans with

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01:18:21,260 --> 01:18:26,810

Disability. And also just making sure that everything we do at EPA is accessible, both

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01:18:26,810 --> 01:18:31,300

in language terms as well as disability access just just across the agency.

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01:18:31,310 --> 01:18:35,260

That is the office and the program that is working with the EJ

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01:18:35,270 --> 01:18:36,530

program on goal two.

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01:18:36,740 --> 01:18:37,560

Next slide, please.

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01:18:38,490 --> 01:18:42,270

Like I was mentioning, goal two is really the

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01:18:42,270 --> 01:18:46,710

platform, it's the venue where we're going  
to see a lot of these different efforts,

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01:18:47,100 --> 01:18:52,800

efforts from right now, like Justice 40,  
like executive 13985

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01:18:52,940 --> 01:18:54,420

but also historic things.

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01:18:54,450 --> 01:18:58,230

What the NEJAC has been telling us for  
decades, what just community leaders have

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01:18:58,230 --> 01:19:02,490

been telling us for decades, what other  
bodies like the General Government

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01:19:02,490 --> 01:19:07,110

Accountability Office or the Office of  
Inspector General or other institutions

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01:19:07,110 --> 01:19:13,230

that have recommended or  
critiqued the agency, or criticized the

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01:19:13,230 --> 01:19:16,950

agency for a long time about advancing  
environmental justice and civil rights.

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01:19:16,980 --> 01:19:22,560

We really see goal two, as the first  
major platform we have to really say very

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01:19:22,560 --> 01:19:24,110

clearly, here's how we see this.

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01:19:24,120 --> 01:19:25,230

We hear you.

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01:19:25,260 --> 01:19:29,670

These are the commitments we're going to set  
for ourselves at EPA for the next four years,

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01:19:29,670 --> 01:19:33,420

and we're going to do this in a way that's  
transparent and accountable moving forward.

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01:19:33,580 --> 01:19:34,720

We move to the next slide.

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01:19:36,440 --> 01:19:40,920

A few things to think about as we move  
through these, a few questions to consider.

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01:19:41,320 --> 01:19:44,610

do you think these goals that we're  
about to describe, do you think these are a

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01:19:44,610 --> 01:19:46,110

good way of tracking our progress?

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01:19:46,980 --> 01:19:49,230

Reporting on these goals,

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01:19:49,230 --> 01:19:52,300

will they provide transparency and

accountability to you?

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01:19:52,350 --> 01:19:56,310

Do you think you will see  
the things that you want to see the

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01:19:56,310 --> 01:20:01,200

agency do by the way that we are committing  
ourselves in these goals and tracking it?

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01:20:01,560 --> 01:20:05,880

Do you see a connection between  
what is written in this strategic plan

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01:20:05,880 --> 01:20:10,620

and the the issues that communities have  
been bringing to us for so long or the

1100

01:20:10,620 --> 01:20:14,400

issues like Naomi was just bringing to us  
about folks down on the Gulf Coast?

1101

01:20:16,170 --> 01:20:19,470

Do you think there are specific actions that we could take at the implementation of these

1102

01:20:19,470 --> 01:20:22,290

goals to make sure that your concerns are being addressed?

1103

01:20:23,160 --> 01:20:27,360

There's one in here specifically that's talking about making some outcome commitments

1104

01:20:27,360 --> 01:20:33,510

for the agency. If anybody has some clear examples or ideas of what are some

1105

01:20:33,510 --> 01:20:38,730

outcomes that we should be signing up for at EPA to make sure that we're measuring

1106

01:20:38,730 --> 01:20:41,070

our achievement of real outcomes on the ground.

1107

01:20:41,610 --> 01:20:44,220

What are some examples of that that you'd like to see us consider?

1108

01:20:44,850 --> 01:20:45,480

Next slide.

1109

01:20:47,040 --> 01:20:51,270

Starting off with goal two, like I mentioned before,

1110

01:20:51,270 --> 01:20:54,690

this is the goal, take decisive action to advance environmental justice and civil

1111

01:20:54,690 --> 01:20:56,810

rights, and there are three objectives.

1112

01:20:56,820 --> 01:20:59,440

There are three sub parts to goal two.

1113

01:20:59,580 --> 01:21:03,810

The first one is basically everything

outside of EPA.

1114

01:21:03,810 --> 01:21:08,850

Our relationship with states, the support we provide to communities.

1115

01:21:09,520 --> 01:21:13,040

Our actions in Indian country and in tribal lands.

1116

01:21:13,470 --> 01:21:16,080

It's all the external work of the agency.

1117

01:21:16,080 --> 01:21:18,110

That's all an objective 2.1.

1118

01:21:18,120 --> 01:21:23,480

Again, that's for EJ and for external civil rights compliance, are all in that objective.

1119

01:21:23,800 --> 01:21:27,880

Objective 2.2 is then all inside of the agency.

1120

01:21:27,900 --> 01:21:29,970

How do we pursue community driven work?

1121

01:21:30,720 --> 01:21:34,980

How do we make sure we integrate  
environmental justice and disproportionate

1122

01:21:34,980 --> 01:21:40,680

impacts inside of our major decisions and  
the things that we actually do in the agency?

1123

01:21:42,030 --> 01:21:45,840

How do we make really clear commitments to  
change on the ground that we're going to

1124

01:21:45,840 --> 01:21:48,090

measure our success by year over year?

1125

01:21:48,720 --> 01:21:53,940

Objective 2.2 point two is all inside  
of EPA. Objective 2.3 is

1126

01:21:53,940 --> 01:21:57,400

specific to that

external civil rights office.

1127

01:21:57,420 --> 01:22:03,300

Because that office, that program, is

experiencing an unprecedented level of

1128

01:22:03,300 --> 01:22:05,370

support, just like the EJ program is.

1129

01:22:05,400 --> 01:22:11,070

There's an objective here that's just

about really propelling that program forward

1130

01:22:11,070 --> 01:22:12,120

in this administration.

1131

01:22:12,120 --> 01:22:16,620

There's some very specific stuff to them

in that program and 2.3.

1132

01:22:16,620 --> 01:22:17,310

Next slide.

1133

01:22:18,540 --> 01:22:21,630

Starting off with that first one,  
objective 2.1, and I'm sorry, these

1134

01:22:21,630 --> 01:22:23,720

next few slides, it's going  
to be a lot of words.

1135

01:22:23,880 --> 01:22:25,770

People told me it needs more pictures.

1136

01:22:25,770 --> 01:22:29,610

I couldn't think of any pictures  
for these but our big guiding

1137

01:22:29,610 --> 01:22:35,760

principles for just objective 2.1,  
building capacity for communities to be

1138

01:22:35,760 --> 01:22:41,080

resilient to climate and to maximize

benefits to communities engaging and

1139

01:22:41,080 --> 01:22:44,980

supporting the other parts of the  
environmental regulatory endeavor,

1140

01:22:45,180 --> 01:22:49,420

states, tribes, local governments,  
for them to push forward on equity and

1141

01:22:49,420 --> 01:22:54,460

justice achievements in partnership with  
communities. Then also looking at the

1142

01:22:54,460 --> 01:23:00,820

implementation of our authorities in Indian  
country to make sure that everything the EPA

1143

01:23:00,820 --> 01:23:05,800

does, we see that achieving our mission in  
Indian country is a part of our environmental

1144

01:23:05,800 --> 01:23:10,720

justice mission overall, as well as a part  
of our centering the agency's mission on

1145

01:23:10,720 --> 01:23:11,890

environmental justice.

1146

01:23:12,040 --> 01:23:14,660

If you go forward to  
the next slide, you'll see the actual...

1147

01:23:14,680 --> 01:23:20,560

These are the actual goals and typically  
in the rest of the strategic plan,

1148

01:23:20,560 --> 01:23:23,560

there's one or two goals in each objective.

1149

01:23:24,220 --> 01:23:30,810

We took some liberty because we know that  
there's a lot of ground to make up.

1150

01:23:30,820 --> 01:23:34,670

There's a lot of ground to cover in terms of

environmental justice and civil rights.

1151

01:23:34,690 --> 01:23:41,170

We by far have more commitments for the agency in goal two than any other part of the

1152

01:23:41,170 --> 01:23:48,010

strategic plan. The first one of these is that any agency at EPA that needs to

1153

01:23:48,010 --> 01:23:51,370

meaningfully engage with communities has got to provide that

1154

01:23:51,370 --> 01:23:55,600

communities with the capacity support to engage back with us, no more of

1155

01:23:55,600 --> 01:24:01,270

these days of programs going out and wanting to hear from communities, but not providing

1156

01:24:01,270 --> 01:24:05,140

them with information, not providing them  
with training, not providing them with

1157

01:24:05,140 --> 01:24:11,020

support to understand what it is we're doing,  
and to actually be able to talk back to us in

1158

01:24:11,020 --> 01:24:15,040

a way that we can then do  
something, that it's our

1159

01:24:15,040 --> 01:24:20,740

responsibility to provide that capacity to  
communities if we want and need to engage

1160

01:24:20,740 --> 01:24:24,820

with them to inform our thinking.  
That first one is just making sure any part

1161

01:24:24,820 --> 01:24:28,540

of the agency that does that has got to  
provide that capacity support.

1162

01:24:28,750 --> 01:24:32,560

We're going to measure that, every part of the agency that does so is providing capacity

1163

01:24:32,560 --> 01:24:39,430

support during the length of the strategic plan. That we will also, on the

1164

01:24:39,430 --> 01:24:44,830

second one here, that any of our formal agreements with states or with

1165

01:24:44,830 --> 01:24:48,890

tribes or other levels of government that stand in EPA shoes,

1166

01:24:48,910 --> 01:24:54,940

those other government agencies that actually implement EPA's authority for us in their

1167

01:24:54,940 --> 01:24:58,000

areas, that we're going to start to look at

1168

01:24:58,090 --> 01:25:02,650

how will we include commitments to  
address disproportionate impacts in those

1169

01:25:02,650 --> 01:25:05,080

agreements? Disproportionate impacts

1170

01:25:05,230 --> 01:25:10,300

is that term that that is encompassing in  
our understanding of it, of cumulative

1171

01:25:10,300 --> 01:25:14,800

impacts. Cumulative impacts and  
disproportionate impacts aren't the same thing.

1172

01:25:15,760 --> 01:25:20,260

But if we get to disproportionate  
impacts, that is cumulative impacts and other

1173

01:25:20,260 --> 01:25:24,370

things, because you can still have...there are  
still communities with EJ concerns out

1174

01:25:24,370 --> 01:25:29,740

there that are really being impacted by one place or one source, but that impact is

1175

01:25:29,740 --> 01:25:36,550

disproportionate. We want to see a reflection of that in our formal

1176

01:25:36,550 --> 01:25:39,550

agreements with other levels of government.

1177

01:25:40,960 --> 01:25:45,220

The third one here by September 30th, this is one we worked on with our colleagues

1178

01:25:45,220 --> 01:25:49,630

in the American Indian environmental office that looking at our direct

1179

01:25:49,630 --> 01:25:53,800

implementation, because in most Indian country, in most tribal lands

1180

01:25:53,800 --> 01:25:57,540

across the United States, the tribes aren't  
actually standing in our shoes.

1181

01:25:57,550 --> 01:26:00,070

There are some that do for some programs.

1182

01:26:00,700 --> 01:26:05,980

But for the most part, EPA is still  
responsible for protecting health and

1183

01:26:05,980 --> 01:26:09,600

environments in Indian  
country, in tribal lands.

1184

01:26:09,610 --> 01:26:13,780

We're going to start measuring the fact  
that, yeah, we need to achieve our mission in

1185

01:26:13,780 --> 01:26:17,560

Indian country just as much as we do for  
anywhere else in the United States.

1186

01:26:17,560 --> 01:26:20,670

That'll be a part of environmental justice.

1187

01:26:20,710 --> 01:26:24,970

Protecting those overburdened and vulnerable  
communities in Indian country

1188

01:26:25,000 --> 01:26:28,810

is pursuing environmental  
justice, is advancing it.

1189

01:26:28,810 --> 01:26:31,600

It is centering the agency's mission on  
environmental justice.

1190

01:26:31,600 --> 01:26:34,980

You'll see here there's an X so  
this is still a draft.

1191

01:26:34,990 --> 01:26:36,990

We want to hear anywhere, any of this.

1192

01:26:37,000 --> 01:26:39,130

we want to receive feedback on it.

1193

01:26:39,610 --> 01:26:40,690

Do you think these are right?

1194

01:26:40,690 --> 01:26:42,730

Do you think there's a reflective like on  
number two?

1195

01:26:43,240 --> 01:26:46,870

Do you have examples of what sorts of formal  
agreements you'd like to see us include in

1196

01:26:46,870 --> 01:26:51,070

this? Because we still got to do some  
defining and some hammering on this. Same

1197

01:26:51,070 --> 01:26:52,800

thing on number three,  
there's that X in there.

1198

01:26:53,050 --> 01:26:55,870

How many actions do

you think would be meaningful?

1199

01:26:55,880 --> 01:26:59,560

A thousand, one hundred?

Should we do a percentage?

1200

01:27:00,220 --> 01:27:01,990

A percentage might be hard to count.

1201

01:27:01,990 --> 01:27:06,540

But anytime you see an X, that's us saying

we don't know what the right number is.

1202

01:27:06,550 --> 01:27:08,920

We want to hear from

the public on this stuff.

1203

01:27:09,250 --> 01:27:12,550

And then Kurt, if Kurt is on, Kurt, do

you want to take this fourth one?

1204

01:27:13,780 --> 01:27:14,240

Kurt Temple: Yeah, sure.

1205

01:27:15,550 --> 01:27:21,320

That relates to the civil rights obligations  
under our EPA nondiscrimination regulation

1206

01:27:21,320 --> 01:27:23,830

at 40 CFR, parts five and seven.

1207

01:27:24,430 --> 01:27:31,870

That our state recipients are obligated  
to have in place foundational requirements of

1208

01:27:31,870 --> 01:27:36,790

a nondiscrimination program such as  
non-discrimination coordinator,

1209

01:27:37,960 --> 01:27:41,080

nondiscrimination statement,  
grievance procedures.

1210

01:27:41,890 --> 01:27:46,810

In addition, that they also are providing  
meaningful access to persons with limited

1211

01:27:46,810 --> 01:27:51,640

English proficiency and  
individuals with disabilities.

1212

01:27:52,450 --> 01:27:58,630

This is part of our obligation in the  
external civil rights office to ensure that

1213

01:27:58,630 --> 01:28:02,500

recipients of EPA funding  
have this system in place.

1214

01:28:04,280 --> 01:28:05,440

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Kurt, and  
I should have introduced Kurt.

1215

01:28:05,440 --> 01:28:07,850

Kurt is our very good  
colleague from the external civil

1216

01:28:07,850 --> 01:28:12,800

rights compliance office, so we wanted to

make sure that he was on for this

1217

01:28:12,800 --> 01:28:15,560

presentation. If we can go  
ahead a slide please, Victoria.

1218

01:28:15,650 --> 01:28:19,010

Now looking at objective 2.2,  
it's that next section.

1219

01:28:19,010 --> 01:28:21,440

This is looking at everything inside of EPA.

1220

01:28:21,590 --> 01:28:24,740

This first one is a  
big one to unpack, or wait,

1221

01:28:24,740 --> 01:28:28,370

I'll get to that a minute, but we want to  
make commitments on actual change on the

1222

01:28:28,370 --> 01:28:30,380

ground. These are the principles here.

1223

01:28:30,380 --> 01:28:38,300

We want to make sure that EPA  
decision making is really incorporating what

1224

01:28:38,300 --> 01:28:43,340

we hear from communities and that it  
analyzes and addresses disproportionality in

1225

01:28:43,340 --> 01:28:44,750

our actual decisions.

1226

01:28:45,300 --> 01:28:52,590

We want to continue to build the capacity of  
EPA to pursue community driven solutions.

1227

01:28:53,190 --> 01:28:57,480

We think that actually working with  
communities on the ground in a community

1228

01:28:57,480 --> 01:29:01,160

centered way isn't just a powerful way to  
advance environmental justice,

1229

01:29:01,170 --> 01:29:05,160

it's a necessary way, that we have got to start looking at the holistic challenges of

1230

01:29:05,160 --> 01:29:10,980

communities, engaging with them, and driving our work forward in a way that really answers

1231

01:29:10,980 --> 01:29:12,690

those needs of communities.

1232

01:29:13,020 --> 01:29:16,740

Then, of course, again, we have the Civil Rights Compliance Program, making sure

1233

01:29:16,740 --> 01:29:21,180

that all of the programs across EPA, whether it's the water program or the air program

1234

01:29:21,180 --> 01:29:25,710

that everyone in EPA, all of our programs are fully compliant with our civil

1235

01:29:25,710 --> 01:29:30,760

rights obligations. Go forward  
one more slide, please, Victoria.

1236

01:29:30,910 --> 01:29:32,100

Here are the actual goals.

1237

01:29:32,310 --> 01:29:34,950

Again, here are the things  
that to me are the most...

1238

01:29:35,310 --> 01:29:38,910

This is the actual teeth of what we  
have in the strategic plan.

1239

01:29:39,060 --> 01:29:40,650

This first one, I need to unpack.

1240

01:29:41,070 --> 01:29:49,480

Back in the EJ 2020 action agenda, which was the  
EJ strategic plan, the standalone EJ strategic

1241

01:29:49,480 --> 01:29:54,970

plan that we crafted and finalized in  
October of 2016, it was never...

1242

01:29:54,970 --> 01:29:56,560

it was never formally implemented.

1243

01:29:56,920 --> 01:30:03,010

But we knew then, just as we know today, in  
almost 30 years of EPA advancing

1244

01:30:03,010 --> 01:30:06,700

environmental justice, we've got to start  
showing what we're doing.

1245

01:30:06,700 --> 01:30:09,580

We've got to start showing the change happen  
on the ground.

1246

01:30:10,300 --> 01:30:12,220

We got a lot of work to get there.

1247

01:30:12,970 --> 01:30:17,680

We've got to figure out what are the commitments that we want to make? Things like

1248

01:30:17,770 --> 01:30:20,800

100% of the people in the United States should have access to drinking

1249

01:30:20,800 --> 01:30:22,570

water. That's a good commitment.

1250

01:30:23,500 --> 01:30:27,490

We don't have the capacity right now to measure how many people in the

1251

01:30:27,490 --> 01:30:31,620

United States, what percentage of the United States actually has access to drinking water?

1252

01:30:31,630 --> 01:30:36,880

We've got a lot of figuring out to do just to be able to make those sorts of very

1253

01:30:36,880 --> 01:30:40,930

clear meaningful commitments operational  
because they don't...

1254

01:30:40,960 --> 01:30:44,260

We're not talking about the  
bureaucratic commitments that we

1255

01:30:44,260 --> 01:30:45,400

typically make in the government.

1256

01:30:45,400 --> 01:30:49,310

We're talking about very clear, compelling  
commitments to advance environmental justice.

1257

01:30:49,330 --> 01:30:51,840

We want to make at least  
ten of these commitments.

1258

01:30:51,940 --> 01:30:56,470

This is what we're proposing and spend the  
next three years, four years just figuring

1259

01:30:56,470 --> 01:31:01,480

out who's responsible? What policy changes  
do we need? What program changes do we need?

1260

01:31:01,480 --> 01:31:03,520

What kind of new data sources do we have?

1261

01:31:03,520 --> 01:31:05,380

How do we put the tracking in place?

1262

01:31:05,470 --> 01:31:09,880

We've got a lot of work to do to figure out  
how to make really clear compelling

1263

01:31:09,880 --> 01:31:15,250

commitments to outcomes on the ground, but  
this is signing EPA up to overcome that

1264

01:31:15,250 --> 01:31:21,080

challenge. The second one, looking at  
significant EPA actions with EJ implications.

1265

01:31:22,120 --> 01:31:25,400

Permits, rules, rods.

1266

01:31:25,420 --> 01:31:30,730

The other big... the actual decisions that EPA makes, they have got to start being

1267

01:31:30,730 --> 01:31:35,410

responsive to EJ concerns and to addressing disproportionality.

1268

01:31:35,410 --> 01:31:37,120

It's got to be in the document.

1269

01:31:37,120 --> 01:31:38,790

It's got to be in the decision.

1270

01:31:38,800 --> 01:31:43,210

It's got to be clear, all of this work we do for environmental justice, we have got to

1271

01:31:43,210 --> 01:31:48,520

start showing our homework and showing where it's been actually impacting our decisions.

1272

01:31:48,850 --> 01:31:51,850

Again, you'll see here, is it 100%?

1273

01:31:51,880 --> 01:31:55,210

Do folks think 100% of all  
significant EPA actions?

1274

01:31:55,210 --> 01:31:56,530

Is that too ambitious?

1275

01:31:56,560 --> 01:31:57,820

60 percent?

1276

01:31:58,420 --> 01:32:02,280

I want 100%, but we want to  
hear from folks.

1277

01:32:02,290 --> 01:32:07,040

What percentage of this do you think is  
a meaningful commitment for the agency to make?

1278

01:32:07,600 --> 01:32:13,660

Same on this one, XX %, but of the  
programs that work in and with communities

1279

01:32:13,660 --> 01:32:16,180

will do so in ways  
that are community driven.

1280

01:32:16,180 --> 01:32:19,630

Not just the government showing up and doing  
the government business and then walking

1281

01:32:19,630 --> 01:32:25,540

away, but really thinking about us showing  
up as an EPA or showing up as a government

1282

01:32:25,540 --> 01:32:30,580

with other federal agencies, with our state,  
tribal and local partners, really showing up

1283

01:32:30,580 --> 01:32:34,200

to engage the community around the  
community's holistic concerns.

1284

01:32:34,210 --> 01:32:38,440

What can we do with our statutory  
authorities and with our other authorities

1285

01:32:38,620 --> 01:32:42,700

to really drive change that is  
centered on the community's needs?

1286

01:32:42,880 --> 01:32:45,670

Then, Kurt, would you take the  
fourth one again please, sir?

1287

01:32:46,450 --> 01:32:53,620

Kurt Temple: Yeah, sure. We want to make sure  
that EPA, across all its offices and regions, is

1288

01:32:53,620 --> 01:33:00,550

looking at areas where we can ensure  
compliance by our recipients with civil

1289

01:33:00,550 --> 01:33:06,640

rights. In order to do that, we have  
to look at how our programs work and also

1290

01:33:07,390 --> 01:33:12,550

integrate these issues  
into the planning, guidance, and policy

1291

01:33:12,550 --> 01:33:16,880

directives and monitoring,  
etc., from the outset.

1292

01:33:16,900 --> 01:33:22,420

In addition, internally at EPA, we have some  
obligations to ensure that when we are

1293

01:33:22,420 --> 01:33:28,240

engaging with stakeholders, communities,  
others that we're providing language access

1294

01:33:28,480 --> 01:33:35,680

for doing so under the EPA order, and  
also access for individuals with

1295

01:33:35,680 --> 01:33:36,610

disabilities.

1296

01:33:38,350 --> 01:33:39,200

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Kurt.

1297

01:33:39,200 --> 01:33:43,270

Then if we can go forward one,

I think, Kurt, these next couple are all for you.

1298

01:33:45,840 --> 01:33:50,640

Kurt Temple: Sure enough, this is about really strengthening the external civil rights

1299

01:33:50,640 --> 01:33:52,050

compliance office.

1300

01:33:53,700 --> 01:34:01,800

This is the best way. It's a

strong legal tool to ensure

1301

01:34:01,800 --> 01:34:09,150

that our environmental justice efforts and

our civil rights efforts are addressing

1302

01:34:09,150 --> 01:34:15,870

disparities. This is the overall goal  
of this objective 2.3 with

1303

01:34:15,870 --> 01:34:18,420

respect to the external civil rights  
compliance office.

1304

01:34:19,270 --> 01:34:23,500

Title six is a powerful tool, and it's been  
around since 1964.

1305

01:34:27,870 --> 01:34:29,130

See the next slide.

1306

01:34:31,380 --> 01:34:36,450

To that end, here are  
the goals underneath 2.3.

1307

01:34:37,410 --> 01:34:44,760

Often it's been pointed out to us from  
the outside that we need to do more

1308

01:34:44,760 --> 01:34:47,040

civil rights compliance reviews.

1309

01:34:47,490 --> 01:34:53,200

To that end, we've committed  
to doing that in goal number 1.

1310

01:34:53,580 --> 01:34:59,170

In addition, we have to focus  
on our pre-award obligations to

1311

01:34:59,170 --> 01:35:03,850

ensure that those individuals who are  
applying, and groups who are applying for, and

1312

01:35:03,850 --> 01:35:08,620

receiving EPA funding, are meeting their  
obligations because the grant terms and

1313

01:35:08,620 --> 01:35:14,980

conditions say that there's an agreement to  
be bound by civil rights laws in order, as a

1314

01:35:14,980 --> 01:35:17,140

prerequisite to receiving EPA money.

1315

01:35:17,380 --> 01:35:23,260

There's a post award element of that, and  
to ensure that number one, that we're not

1316

01:35:23,260 --> 01:35:26,290

holding up grant process, but also we're  
ensuring compliance.

1317

01:35:26,290 --> 01:35:33,610

We're going to start to do audits of  
the submissions to ensure that those who are

1318

01:35:33,610 --> 01:35:38,560

applying for EPA funding are actually doing  
what they say they are doing.

1319

01:35:39,670 --> 01:35:45,430

Then engagement is really important and  
not only just engagement as to what

1320

01:35:45,430 --> 01:35:52,030

we're doing like with this conversation, but  
also engaging folks in our complaint

1321

01:35:52,030 --> 01:35:57,370

resolution processes. Particularly, we've  
heard that communities want to be

1322

01:35:57,370 --> 01:36:02,410

more in part of our resolutions and have  
input into that.

1323

01:36:02,410 --> 01:36:06,220

So we're going to have more engagement  
on that end.

1324

01:36:06,630 --> 01:36:12,040

Then also, number 4, it says it's  
under development, but the goal is also to

1325

01:36:12,220 --> 01:36:18,610

incorporate some of these commitments  
regarding permitting and other things into

1326

01:36:18,610 --> 01:36:23,440

our informal resolution agreement to ensure  
that civil rights analyses are done

1327

01:36:24,160 --> 01:36:26,840

before permits are issued  
and things of that  
nature.

1328

01:36:28,890 --> 01:36:30,240

Matthew Tejada: All right.

Thanks, Kurt.

1329

01:36:31,400 --> 01:36:36,120

Just real quickly, we'll wrap this  
up. If we can go forward one, Victoria?

1330

01:36:37,400 --> 01:36:42,370

Just making sure everyone knows,  
obviously, October 12th is today, on 26th,

1331

01:36:42,380 --> 01:36:46,180

we'll be rehashing, redoing this  
conversation, getting more feedback.

1332

01:36:46,190 --> 01:36:47,780

Maybe we'll do it a little bit snappier.

1333

01:36:48,770 --> 01:36:54,380

There are also specific meetings on the 14th  
and the 28th where there will be a similar

1334

01:36:54,380 --> 01:36:56,720

presentation, but it'll be focused on tribes.

1335

01:36:57,680 --> 01:37:01,490

Then, on November 10th, the NEJAC, the  
National Environmental Justice Advisory

1336

01:37:01,490 --> 01:37:05,600

Council, will be meeting to discuss the  
strategic plan and give us some feedback

1337

01:37:05,600 --> 01:37:11,360

there. There will be a public hearing at the

end of that so folks can testify to the NEJAC.

1338

01:37:11,360 --> 01:37:15,980

if you like, then we'll be taking all  
of this in for the rest of November and

1339

01:37:15,980 --> 01:37:19,400

through December, taking all  
this feedback in. making changes,

1340

01:37:19,820 --> 01:37:25,760

working on the plan revisions in January, and  
then sometime in February, we're going to pop

1341

01:37:25,760 --> 01:37:29,630

out with this next multi-year strategic plan  
for the agency.

1342

01:37:30,130 --> 01:37:31,370

Can we go forward a slide, please?

1343

01:37:34,370 --> 01:37:36,980

Here's all of our contact information.

1344

01:37:37,070 --> 01:37:43,190

Myself and Chitra Kumar, the Assistant  
Director of OEJ, who's been really co-leading

1345

01:37:43,190 --> 01:37:47,330

this with me, and then Kurt Temple, you see  
his name and email here, and his and the

1346

01:37:47,330 --> 01:37:51,680

Director of the ECRCO, External Civil Rights  
Compliance Office, Lilian Dorka,

1347

01:37:51,980 --> 01:37:53,660

their information is here.

1348

01:37:53,870 --> 01:37:57,200

If we haven't sent this out yet, we will  
send this around to everyone who registered

1349

01:37:57,200 --> 01:37:58,970

for today. Next slide, please.

1350

01:37:59,240 --> 01:38:03,710

If you want more information about the tribal consultation, that is, and there's those

1351

01:38:03,710 --> 01:38:08,990

tribal informational sessions happening Thursday and then two weeks from Thursday.

1352

01:38:09,020 --> 01:38:14,870

You can contact our new chief financial officer Faisal Amin, or just with written

1353

01:38:14,870 --> 01:38:17,920

comments, generally Joey Bailey, or Judy Lieberman.

1354

01:38:18,170 --> 01:38:19,570

Their information is here.

1355

01:38:19,670 --> 01:38:20,960

Go forward a slide, please.

1356

01:38:24,510 --> 01:38:28,870

Then we'll leave this up for a minute,  
so you can see the draft plan at either of

1357

01:38:28,870 --> 01:38:30,310

these two URLs.

1358

01:38:30,940 --> 01:38:32,080

Any comments today?

1359

01:38:32,080 --> 01:38:33,280

We want to hear them.

1360

01:38:33,280 --> 01:38:38,410

We're recording, we're taking notes, but we  
would also encourage folks if you really had

1361

01:38:38,410 --> 01:38:43,270

some meaty comments, if you  
really want to give it to us, please do it

1362

01:38:43,270 --> 01:38:47,950

through the docket that makes a public

record of it, that make sure everyone can see

1363

01:38:47,950 --> 01:38:51,280

it, that make sure my bosses at EPA see it.

1364

01:38:51,850 --> 01:38:55,270

We don't have the whole agency leadership on  
this call for them to hear you.

1365

01:38:55,630 --> 01:38:58,640

That is the best place for everyone in the agency

1366

01:38:58,640 --> 01:39:01,240

to hear you through that docket system.

1367

01:39:01,930 --> 01:39:03,640

I think we're going to  
leave that up for a minute.

1368

01:39:03,640 --> 01:39:08,590

There's a couple of folks that had their  
hands up since I started to talk, including

1369

01:39:08,590 --> 01:39:14,500

our very good friend and colleague and  
former NEJAC member, Edith Castagna from the

1370

01:39:14,500 --> 01:39:16,090

Great State of Connecticut.

1371

01:39:17,020 --> 01:39:21,520

99% sure it's Connecticut, but  
Edith, why don't you kick us off with a

1372

01:39:21,520 --> 01:39:22,570

question or comment?

1373

01:39:25,420 --> 01:39:27,080

Well, I think we're trying to unmute you, Edith.

1374

01:39:30,550 --> 01:39:31,670

Victoria Robinson: She has  
to unmute herself.

1375

01:39:31,690 --> 01:39:34,630

I've asked her to unmute,  
so waiting for her to do that.

1376

01:39:34,640 --> 01:39:35,800

You want to go to Anthony?

1377

01:39:36,220 --> 01:39:37,960

Matthew Tejada: Sure. It looks  
like Anthony is ready to go.

1378

01:39:39,210 --> 01:39:41,640

Yes. So, Anthony, go ahead and unmute your  
line.

1379

01:39:43,580 --> 01:39:46,190

Anthony: Thank you, Director.

My name is Anthony [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

1380

01:39:46,190 --> 01:39:49,790

I believe I am in the  
EPA region five in Michigan.

1381

01:39:49,790 --> 01:39:53,810

I just wanted to currently say as an  
activist in Flint, I wanted to say thank you

1382

01:39:53,810 --> 01:39:59,820

for your weighing in on our current situation  
as that we are facing Ajax permitting,

1383

01:40:00,920 --> 01:40:04,330

Ajax asphalt plant being  
permitted in our community.

1384

01:40:05,060 --> 01:40:11,060

It serves predominantly a minority community  
of 500 families in 13 park areas.

1385

01:40:11,090 --> 01:40:17,780

We're very thankful to see that you got  
involved and weighed in on that, and we are

1386

01:40:18,230 --> 01:40:23,750

very interested in working with people in  
the area regarding all these wonderful moving

1387

01:40:23,750 --> 01:40:26,420

forward plans that you have over the next coming years.

1388

01:40:26,660 --> 01:40:31,490

I would like to say thank you once again and to please be expecting an email reaching out

1389

01:40:31,490 --> 01:40:35,420

to me to see how that I can work with you and your organization moving forward.

1390

01:40:35,450 --> 01:40:35,900

Thank you.

1391

01:40:36,350 --> 01:40:38,250

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Anthony.

I really appreciate that.

1392

01:40:38,250 --> 01:40:42,200

I was trying when I mentioned the general iron letter, I was like, we just did

1393

01:40:42,200 --> 01:40:44,660

one in Michigan, but I couldn't remember the facility name.

1394

01:40:44,660 --> 01:40:50,330

That's another great example, hopefully of really showing on paper and in

1395

01:40:50,330 --> 01:40:53,720

action that the Administrator isn't fooling around.

1396

01:40:54,290 --> 01:40:58,670

The Administrator is serious about figuring out disproportionate impacts.

1397

01:40:59,270 --> 01:41:04,220

The Administrator is serious about us figuring out how the EJ program and the external

1398

01:41:04,220 --> 01:41:08,900

civil rights compliance office can work together not just in the ways we already

1399

01:41:08,900 --> 01:41:11,420

are inside of the agency, which is great,

1400

01:41:11,720 --> 01:41:16,250

it's great having such close colleagues, but

actually, bringing it to bear in

1401

01:41:16,250 --> 01:41:20,840

the business of the agency so that

Ajax letter, I think, is another

1402

01:41:20,840 --> 01:41:22,220

great example of that.

1403

01:41:22,760 --> 01:41:29,060

I'm sure our staff who is

staffing the chat is trying to find that

1404

01:41:29,060 --> 01:41:31,480

letter so they can put

a link in chat for everyone.

1405

01:41:32,510 --> 01:41:35,090

Edith, were you able to get your mute figured out?

1406

01:41:37,050 --> 01:41:40,140

Oh, my gosh, she's been sitting there for so long she can't figure unmuting.

1407

01:41:40,380 --> 01:41:43,890

Victoria Robinson: We're going to go ahead, and I'll allow Eric [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

1408

01:41:46,070 --> 01:41:47,720

to go ahead and ask his question.

1409

01:41:49,850 --> 01:41:53,330

Eric: My name is Eric [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

1410

01:41:53,330 --> 01:41:56,430

I want to weigh in on what Anthony just said.

1411

01:41:56,450 --> 01:41:59,900

The letter you guys sent was great and we

are grateful.

1412

01:42:00,230 --> 01:42:07,190

But my question is if EGLE ignores that letter and goes ahead and grants the permit,

1413

01:42:07,190 --> 01:42:12,770

which is what EGLE is trying to do right now, what is the next step

1414

01:42:13,130 --> 01:42:15,470

EPA is going to take to make sure that...

1415

01:42:18,000 --> 01:42:26,100

to make sure that agencies like EGLE is able to respect

1416

01:42:27,180 --> 01:42:31,650

the objective that you have laid out, like objective 2.3.

1417

01:42:34,520 --> 01:42:41,270

Matthew Tejada: Thank you, Eric. I'm not going to

obviously project into the future and make a

1418

01:42:41,270 --> 01:42:42,950

decision that's not mine to make.

1419

01:42:43,640 --> 01:42:52,880

I will say, though, that these letters  
and the positions the agency is taking are...

1420

01:42:54,550 --> 01:42:58,960

there is a lot of involvement and there is a  
lot of thoughtfulness that goes into them,

1421

01:42:58,960 --> 01:43:06,070

and they are absolutely in response to the  
direction of the Administrator, and where he

1422

01:43:06,070 --> 01:43:12,130

wants to take this agency and the  
priorities he wants to project out into the

1423

01:43:12,130 --> 01:43:19,600

United States to really deliver on what he

again says repeatedly, centering the mission

1424

01:43:19,600 --> 01:43:25,030

of the Agency on environmental justice,  
ensuring clean air, clean land, clean water

1425

01:43:25,030 --> 01:43:30,250

for everyone in this country, which means,  
doing so for the communities that

1426

01:43:30,250 --> 01:43:31,630

have not received it.

1427

01:43:33,370 --> 01:43:39,610

I think the position of the agency was  
very thoughtfully crafted and very

1428

01:43:39,610 --> 01:43:42,120

clearly communicated in the Ajax letter.

1429

01:43:47,500 --> 01:43:50,500

Still, no, Edith. Well, maybe,  
Victoria, we need to go over to some

1430

01:43:50,500 --> 01:43:52,030

questions from the Q&A pod.

1431

01:43:52,520 --> 01:43:53,770

Victoria Robinson: Yes, let me go ahead and do that.

1432

01:43:53,770 --> 01:43:55,800

Christina, do you have any questions cued up?

1433

01:43:56,350 --> 01:43:58,740

Christina: Absolutely.

1434

01:43:58,990 --> 01:44:00,220

Matthew Tejada: Before you start. Hold on.

1435

01:44:00,340 --> 01:44:02,240

I know that there was already one.

1436

01:44:02,260 --> 01:44:03,970

Somebody in the chat...

1437

01:44:04,480 --> 01:44:10,450

I had the same reaction the first time  
I encountered this term of Indian country.

1438

01:44:10,450 --> 01:44:18,850

I was like, What? Is that how we refer to tribal  
lands? Indian country? Especially, of course, with

1439

01:44:18,850 --> 01:44:20,890

yesterday being Indigenous Peoples Day,

1440

01:44:21,010 --> 01:44:28,120

It is a term of ART, and we use that term  
very purposefully because it is the clearest,

1441

01:44:28,120 --> 01:44:33,190

the most clearly defined and all  
encompassing term that the U.S.

1442

01:44:33,190 --> 01:44:35,890

government, not just EPA, that the U.S.

1443

01:44:35,890 --> 01:44:43,990

government uses to refer to indigenous  
lands, including reservation lands, including

1444

01:44:43,990 --> 01:44:45,940

lands in places like Alaska.

1445

01:44:46,780 --> 01:44:51,670

I found it abrupt when I  
first started using it, but it is a

1446

01:44:51,670 --> 01:44:57,280

term of ART. We're not just saying Indian  
country thoughtlessly, it means

1447

01:44:57,280 --> 01:45:03,330

something very specific legally and in  
government speak.

1448

01:45:03,340 --> 01:45:07,180

It is the most encompassing word  
that we can use for that.

1449

01:45:07,180 --> 01:45:09,340

I just wanted to say that first,

I'm sorry, Christina.

1450

01:45:09,910 --> 01:45:11,320

Christina: No, not at all.

Thank you very much.

1451

01:45:11,320 --> 01:45:16,360

Appreciate it. The next question we have is

how was the date

1452

01:45:16,360 --> 01:45:22,150

of September 30th, 2026

chosen for many of these LTPGAs?

1453

01:45:22,150 --> 01:45:24,920

Matthew Tejada: This is a

multi-year strategic plan.

1454

01:45:25,210 --> 01:45:30,000

It's the next four years.

We just started... four fiscal years,

1455

01:45:30,010 --> 01:45:36,490

Sorry, and the federal fiscal year ends  
on September 30th every year.

1456

01:45:36,490 --> 01:45:40,180

So this is for the next four FY-22,  
which is right now.

1457

01:45:40,180 --> 01:45:43,270

Remember a few weeks ago, like the  
government was maybe going to shut down, yada

1458

01:45:43,270 --> 01:45:45,400

yada yada, continuing resolution.

1459

01:45:45,490 --> 01:45:51,220

That's because September 30th into October  
1st is when we flip over into a new budget

1460

01:45:51,220 --> 01:45:52,890

year, a new fiscal year.

1461

01:45:52,930 --> 01:45:56,050

That's when we need to have a budget or else  
we shut down.

1462

01:45:56,680 --> 01:46:01,790

This is the strategic plan that will take  
us through the next four fiscal years, ending

1463

01:46:01,790 --> 01:46:03,890

on September 30th. 2026.

1464

01:46:06,930 --> 01:46:08,310

Christina: Great, thank you.

1465

01:46:09,300 --> 01:46:14,370

The next question we have is how do the  
goals of EPA transfer to state departments of

1466

01:46:14,370 --> 01:46:15,690

Environmental Quality?

1467

01:46:17,560 --> 01:46:18,790

Matthew Tejada: That's what we're  
going to figure out.

1468

01:46:19,940 --> 01:46:23,120

It's a big one to me, it's a big one to a  
lot of us at EPA.

1469

01:46:23,990 --> 01:46:29,570

I've said many times when  
I was in Houston, running that

1470

01:46:29,570 --> 01:46:34,940

organization, I hardly ever thought about  
EPA, but I thought about the state and I

1471

01:46:34,940 --> 01:46:39,500

thought about the city, and the county, and  
the port, and the hospital district, all day

1472

01:46:39,500 --> 01:46:46,520

long. That's why to me personally, but  
also to the EPA, we know that this

1473

01:46:46,520 --> 01:46:55,740

this issue of... The fact that the vast majority  
of the environmental regulatory endeavor is

1474

01:46:55,740 --> 01:46:57,390

not implemented by EPA.

1475

01:46:57,430 --> 01:47:01,260

That's not how this whole thing was  
set up from the very beginning.

1476

01:47:01,260 --> 01:47:07,670

Back in the 1970s, it was set up for EPA to  
be this big and for states and everyone else,

1477

01:47:07,680 --> 01:47:10,950

cumulatively to be this big and  
actually be doing the work.

1478

01:47:10,950 --> 01:47:15,870

We work in partnership with states, and  
with local governments, and with tribal

1479

01:47:15,870 --> 01:47:17,690

governments when they hold our authority.

1480

01:47:17,700 --> 01:47:21,450

Otherwise, we work with them in a nation  
to nation or we also work with them in a

1481

01:47:21,480 --> 01:47:22,980

nation-nation capacity.

1482

01:47:23,550 --> 01:47:27,150

But we have got to start figuring out what  
that relationship means in terms of

1483

01:47:27,150 --> 01:47:28,440

environmental justice.

1484

01:47:28,830 --> 01:47:33,930

This is one of those areas where  
we need to figure out the interplay

1485

01:47:34,080 --> 01:47:38,130

between the environmental justice and the

external civil rights compliance office

1486

01:47:38,250 --> 01:47:40,800

because we don't have an EJ law.

1487

01:47:41,010 --> 01:47:45,180

Although I would argue the Clean Air Act  
doesn't say it's okay to poison 10% of

1488

01:47:45,180 --> 01:47:49,200

the population, but we need to  
figure that out just what EJ

1489

01:47:49,200 --> 01:47:52,500

means in our regular environmental statutes.

1490

01:47:52,920 --> 01:47:55,650

But the Civil Rights Act is a law.

1491

01:47:55,650 --> 01:47:57,390

What is the interplay between EJ

1492

01:47:57,390 --> 01:48:00,480

and civil rights, and what does that  
interplay going to look like in black and

1493

01:48:00,480 --> 01:48:04,800

white, in an actual written agreement, with  
another level of government that is

1494

01:48:04,800 --> 01:48:06,280

implementing our authorities?

1495

01:48:06,300 --> 01:48:08,850

That's what the  
strategic plan is saying.

1496

01:48:08,850 --> 01:48:10,140

We're going to figure this out.

1497

01:48:13,870 --> 01:48:17,020

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matt. We  
do have a person, Anita Cunningham.

1498

01:48:17,020 --> 01:48:18,820

She has her hand raised.

1499

01:48:21,340 --> 01:48:22,800

Anita Cunningham: Hi, can you hear me?

1500

01:48:22,800 --> 01:48:23,900

Victoria Robinson: Yes.

1501

01:48:23,900 --> 01:48:26,920

Anita Cunningham: Thank you  
so much for your presentation.

1502

01:48:27,520 --> 01:48:33,610

I asked the question about how does  
that transfer to states because I am in

1503

01:48:33,610 --> 01:48:39,580

eastern North Carolina and environmental  
justice communities are continuously

1504

01:48:39,580 --> 01:48:46,780

overburdened by dirty industries,  
wood pellet and bio-gas, and biomass,

1505

01:48:46,900 --> 01:48:53,200

and it seems that the Department of  
Environmental Quality,

1506

01:48:53,240 --> 01:49:02,440

their interests or more profits over people,  
and continue to allow the permitting of these

1507

01:49:02,710 --> 01:49:08,290

industries that scientifically have  
been proven that are harming these

1508

01:49:08,290 --> 01:49:13,600

communities, and they're primarily in black  
and brown and underserved

1509

01:49:14,170 --> 01:49:19,060

communities. It's extremely frustrating  
going and being at a public hearing and

1510

01:49:19,060 --> 01:49:23,530

having all of these people, lawyers, and

scientists, and community leaders, and

1511

01:49:23,530 --> 01:49:26,110

community members, talk about the impacts.

1512

01:49:26,110 --> 01:49:31,750

Then the next thing you see, the permit  
was issued anyway, and they're talking about

1513

01:49:32,020 --> 01:49:37,390

giving so many jobs to the communities,  
, when in fact, it may be 50 jobs that

1514

01:49:37,390 --> 01:49:43,150

aren't very high paying jobs,  
but at the same time, they're

1515

01:49:43,150 --> 01:49:46,780

they're cutting our forests,  
our trees that we need.

1516

01:49:46,780 --> 01:49:52,240

It's just a lot of assault

on our communities.

1517

01:49:52,240 --> 01:49:59,020

And quite frankly, it doesn't appear  
that it has gotten any better.

1518

01:49:59,140 --> 01:50:06,220

I just wanted to know what kind  
of interactions can I take as

1519

01:50:06,220 --> 01:50:11,500

a community organizer  
to have some kind of

1520

01:50:12,290 --> 01:50:19,540

meaningful discussion around the  
things that we talk about when we talk

1521

01:50:19,540 --> 01:50:21,700

about environmental injustices.

1522

01:50:22,940 --> 01:50:24,200

Matthew Tejada: Thank you for that, Anita.

1523

01:50:24,230 --> 01:50:28,190

I would say, just like you're  
doing right now, by speaking up

1524

01:50:28,190 --> 01:50:29,660

and speaking out about it.

1525

01:50:31,150 --> 01:50:36,250

Again, going back to Houston, it was  
something that I had gotten really jaded

1526

01:50:36,250 --> 01:50:42,760

about doing in Texas there at the end,  
primarily talking to EPA, like I wouldn't go

1527

01:50:42,760 --> 01:50:45,280

to Dallas again unless somebody  
bought me a plane ticket.

1528

01:50:46,420 --> 01:50:50,680

I was not driving four hours to Dallas just  
to sit in the hearing room one more time.

1529

01:50:51,430 --> 01:50:58,780

I will tell you, though, from... a couple of things I'll tell you. One, the the voice is

1530

01:50:58,780 --> 01:51:05,200

just like yours, even though I know it's exhausting to have to do it over and over

1531

01:51:05,200 --> 01:51:06,820

again, year over year.

1532

01:51:07,480 --> 01:51:13,330

It is absolutely critical that in every opportunity, at every juncture and every

1533

01:51:13,330 --> 01:51:17,500

venue, that we hear from folks like you and not just me,

1534

01:51:17,500 --> 01:51:20,470

but the rest of the leadership, the rest of the programs.

1535

01:51:20,500 --> 01:51:25,750

Again, that's one of the things that in  
this strategic plan trying to push

1536

01:51:25,750 --> 01:51:30,610

out there, the agency to engage with  
communities more proactively, to try to

1537

01:51:30,610 --> 01:51:35,350

support communities, to be able to lift  
their voices more clearly back to us.

1538

01:51:35,540 --> 01:51:42,790

We're trying to push the agency, to lead the  
agency, to help the agency into that place of

1539

01:51:42,790 --> 01:51:46,270

of more effectively and meaningfully  
engaging with communities and being

1540

01:51:46,270 --> 01:51:50,440

responsive to the sorts of issues like the

wood pellet issue that we're hearing tons of

1541

01:51:50,440 --> 01:51:51,520

or biomass.

1542

01:51:51,670 --> 01:51:53,560

Those are big issues that we better wrap  
our head around.

1543

01:51:53,590 --> 01:51:58,720

I see in the chat and Naomi is bringing up  
LNGs, great big issue for us to figure out

1544

01:51:58,720 --> 01:52:01,270

A little bit of dissonance there.

1545

01:52:03,010 --> 01:52:05,650

That's one thing that I want to say.

1546

01:52:05,650 --> 01:52:14,420

Also I don't know of a state  
right now, and I don't know, maybe I'll lose

1547

01:52:14,420 --> 01:52:16,070

a bit of credibility if I say this,

1548

01:52:16,220 --> 01:52:19,310

I don't know of a state that's just saying,

Hell, no, we don't want to work on EJ,

1549

01:52:19,520 --> 01:52:25,250

even if publicly they're like, we're

not going to say EJ, but all right, we get it.

1550

01:52:25,250 --> 01:52:27,560

There are communities that are

disproportionately impacted.

1551

01:52:27,560 --> 01:52:28,940

What can we do about that?

1552

01:52:29,540 --> 01:52:33,230

The arc is bending in this direction.

1553

01:52:33,800 --> 01:52:37,310

Some states are leading the way.

1554

01:52:37,340 --> 01:52:42,440

I see EPA's role as bringing along  
the other states that aren't leading

1555

01:52:42,440 --> 01:52:47,030

the way, and providing some support,  
and providing some guidance, and

1556

01:52:47,030 --> 01:52:50,310

providing some mandate, to go out there and  
figure this out.

1557

01:52:50,330 --> 01:52:53,240

Continuing to raise those issues to us.

1558

01:52:53,490 --> 01:52:58,250

If you can put in some comments in  
this public comment period, we need the

1559

01:52:58,250 --> 01:53:01,760

public. We need the public to tell EPA,

1560

01:53:02,960 --> 01:53:07,000

We need you to do this, we need you to take these commitments seriously, we need you to

1561

01:53:07,000 --> 01:53:10,520

be even more ambitious than what you had in the paper, if that's what you think.

1562

01:53:10,730 --> 01:53:12,380

We need that.

1563

01:53:12,400 --> 01:53:18,520

We need to hear directly from you all to make sure that this strategic plan is going

1564

01:53:18,520 --> 01:53:22,330

to get at the issues that matter to you, that are going to get at the problems

1565

01:53:22,330 --> 01:53:23,740

affecting your lives.

1566

01:53:24,220 --> 01:53:25,450

So please take any...

1567

01:53:25,480 --> 01:53:26,530

Hey, it's Melanie Oldham.

1568

01:53:26,530 --> 01:53:32,560

There's a voice. Please take every  
opportunity you can to lift up your voice

1569

01:53:32,560 --> 01:53:36,550

so that we hear it. I'd love to hear  
Melanie Oldham's voice real quickly, Victoria.

1570

01:53:37,590 --> 01:53:39,750

Victoria Robinson: I've asked  
her to unmute herself.

1571

01:53:40,080 --> 01:53:41,430

Matthew Tejada: There she is. Hey, Melanie.

1572

01:53:44,020 --> 01:53:44,440

Melanie Oldham: Hello.

1573

01:53:45,430 --> 01:53:47,410

Matthew Tejada: There you are.

I'm fine, how are you?

1574

01:53:49,630 --> 01:53:55,780

Melanie Oldham: Pretty good, I'm actually seeing a patient, but as you know, I live in Freeport, Texas,

1575

01:53:55,780 --> 01:54:02,080

on the Texas Gulf, and as you know, Freeport, Texas, which you used to come visit is an environmental

1576

01:54:02,080 --> 01:54:03,580

justice community.

1577

01:54:04,060 --> 01:54:09,130

As you know, I just got on the call about 30 minutes ago, but I've

1578

01:54:09,130 --> 01:54:15,220

been taking notes and listening, and I think

this is really great, the strategic plan that

1579

01:54:15,220 --> 01:54:21,940

we are putting together as a  
group of people in EJ communities.

1580

01:54:21,940 --> 01:54:27,880

Anyway, I'm very excited  
along with a lot of people that are in my

1581

01:54:27,880 --> 01:54:31,990

little group Citizens for Clean Air, Clean  
Water in Brazoria County.

1582

01:54:32,470 --> 01:54:40,270

Anyway, I would like to participate any  
way I can and thank you all so much for what

1583

01:54:40,270 --> 01:54:44,950

you're doing and for working on the  
strategic plan, which will help all of us.

1584

01:54:45,790 --> 01:54:47,000

Matthew Tejada: Thank you, Melanie.

1585

01:54:47,020 --> 01:54:50,800

We don't do this without folks out  
there like you who are actually on the

1586

01:54:50,800 --> 01:54:53,290

front lines fighting for  
justice for your community.

1587

01:54:53,290 --> 01:54:58,720

It's great to hear your voice and I'm  
glad you're still out there doing the work.

1588

01:54:59,870 --> 01:55:00,800

Melanie Oldham: Thank you, sir.

1589

01:55:00,800 --> 01:55:02,090

Matthew Tejada: We look forward  
to hearing from you.

1590

01:55:02,700 --> 01:55:09,920

Melanie Oldham: I'm going to try to participate or

be prepared more on the 26 meeting, but

1591

01:55:10,010 --> 01:55:15,980

again, we have so many issues as you're aware of Port, Freeport and anyway, all of our

1592

01:55:15,980 --> 01:55:20,690

issues we have here. But anyway, thank you for listening to us and helping.

1593

01:55:21,770 --> 01:55:22,370

Matthew Tejada: Thank you.

1594

01:55:23,170 --> 01:55:23,840

Melanie Oldham: Bye.

1595

01:55:25,600 --> 01:55:30,680

Victoria Robinson: Christina, do you have any other questions in in the chat?

1596

01:55:31,120 --> 01:55:32,290

Christina: Yes, absolutely.

1597

01:55:33,640 --> 01:55:38,530

The next one is how do we know the status of state and local agencies with respect to

1598

01:55:38,530 --> 01:55:41,560

having foundational civil rights programs?

1599

01:55:41,590 --> 01:55:45,850

What percent of agencies have mature civil rights programs?

1600

01:55:48,840 --> 01:55:50,790

Matthew Tejada: If Kurt is still on, there you go, Kurt.

1601

01:55:50,940 --> 01:55:59,970

Kurt Temple: I can say that EPA has a lot of federal funding recipients beyond just the

1602

01:55:59,970 --> 01:56:05,160

states, number one; but we know for a fact that not all of them do.

1603

01:56:05,760 --> 01:56:10,920

Which was really the push for  
the initiative in the last few years.

1604

01:56:11,040 --> 01:56:15,440

One of our strategic goals, of  
course, is to get all those in place.

1605

01:56:15,450 --> 01:56:21,540

But where we've asked states to put this  
information is on their websites, but not

1606

01:56:21,540 --> 01:56:25,980

only on websites, because not everybody  
has the internet and whatnot, but to ensure

1607

01:56:25,980 --> 01:56:27,780

that it's in their publications and things.

1608

01:56:27,790 --> 01:56:32,190

One of the triggers, of course, is if you  
see a non-discrimination statement on

1609

01:56:32,190 --> 01:56:38,970

publications and things, or if you go to  
state DEQ's web page and you see a link for

1610

01:56:38,970 --> 01:56:40,770

discrimination information.

1611

01:56:40,890 --> 01:56:45,960

We've been very instrumental in helping the  
states figure out how to do that, but to set

1612

01:56:45,960 --> 01:56:52,170

up a civil rights page where they can access  
the information about the coordinator

1613

01:56:52,170 --> 01:56:53,510

and grievance procedures.

1614

01:56:53,520 --> 01:56:58,890

Maybe instead of filing a complaint with  
EPA, you can file a complaint with the state

1615

01:56:58,890 --> 01:57:00,870

and see how they respond to that complaint.

1616

01:57:01,440 --> 01:57:07,950

That's how you can see if your particular  
state agency has has those

1617

01:57:07,950 --> 01:57:09,000

things in place.

1618

01:57:09,540 --> 01:57:14,730

Certainly, we continue to work on that and  
we are actively engaged right now in a number

1619

01:57:14,730 --> 01:57:16,830

of initiatives with different states.

1620

01:57:18,920 --> 01:57:20,800

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Kurt.

1621

01:57:23,370 --> 01:57:24,720

Victoria Robinson: Christina,  
do you have any question?

1622

01:57:25,410 --> 01:57:28,230

Christina: Yes, I actually really like this one.

1623

01:57:29,010 --> 01:57:33,690

Couldn't all EPA programs that are operating  
in communities be community driven rather

1624

01:57:33,690 --> 01:57:34,770

than a lower percentage?

1625

01:57:34,770 --> 01:57:36,990

How do you define community driven?

1626

01:57:37,500 --> 01:57:40,000

Matthew Tejada: Community driven,

1627

01:57:40,000 --> 01:57:45,810

a lot of what is happening right now is  
that since this is the first time we're

1628

01:57:45,810 --> 01:57:52,140

able to play in this space that we have a  
big chunk of the strategic plan real estate

1629

01:57:52,770 --> 01:57:54,150

to try to figure out.

1630

01:57:54,390 --> 01:57:56,390

That's part of the thing we got to figure out.

1631

01:57:56,640 --> 01:57:58,800

How are we going to define community driven?

1632

01:57:58,950 --> 01:58:04,320

As we're still receiving input from the  
public and fine tuning the strategic

1633

01:58:04,320 --> 01:58:09,270

plan and making changes, there's a lot of  
pieces in here that we've got to define,

1634

01:58:09,280 --> 01:58:11,710

We just have to scope out  
or we have to baseline.

1635

01:58:11,730 --> 01:58:13,170

One of them is community driven.

1636

01:58:13,170 --> 01:58:15,080

What are we going to  
define as community driven?

1637

01:58:15,300 --> 01:58:21,570

One of the other commitments  
about providing capacity support to

1638

01:58:21,570 --> 01:58:25,050

communities, if we're engaging them,  
what do we define as capacity support?

1639

01:58:25,380 --> 01:58:30,210

Is that probably a range of stuff from  
making sure we have flyers in different

1640

01:58:30,210 --> 01:58:34,950

languages available all the way up to a  
grant program and not every program that EPA

1641

01:58:34,950 --> 01:58:39,780

would need to do all those things, but  
there's got to be some right sizing within

1642

01:58:39,780 --> 01:58:44,580

that definition. What do we mean by  
significant actions with EJ

1643

01:58:44,580 --> 01:58:47,220

implications? That isn't defined.

1644

01:58:47,220 --> 01:58:52,740

That's an idea. Which formal agreements with  
states and tribe and local government like we

1645

01:58:52,740 --> 01:58:55,380

put in there, I think performance  
partnership grants.

1646

01:58:55,590 --> 01:58:58,230

But what other formal agreements should we  
maybe look at?

1647

01:58:58,260 --> 01:59:02,580

That's exactly the sort of stuff that we want to hear back from you all on.

1648

01:59:03,210 --> 01:59:07,950

I think it is completely reasonable to say that the goal should be 100%.

1649

01:59:07,950 --> 01:59:11,160

If a program is working with communities, they should be doing so in a

1650

01:59:11,160 --> 01:59:15,540

community driven way. I think 100% to me, to Matthew Tejada is a

1651

01:59:15,540 --> 01:59:21,800

completely reasonable goal to put on there, but we'd like to hear from you.

1652

01:59:21,810 --> 01:59:24,240

all what do you think the goal should be?

1653

01:59:24,540 --> 01:59:31,950

Again, we need to hear from you  
because we're going to go back inside the

1654

01:59:31,950 --> 01:59:36,080

agency over the winter and keep working on this.

1655

01:59:36,780 --> 01:59:42,510

We need to have your thoughts to help us  
continue to push forward in this part of the

1656

01:59:42,510 --> 01:59:43,280

strategic plan.

1657

01:59:51,720 --> 01:59:52,560

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matt.

1658

01:59:52,560 --> 01:59:55,980

It's almost four o'clock, do  
you want to go over a little longer?

1659

01:59:56,100 --> 01:59:59,340

Matthew Tejada: I can go over. Yeah, I know that we talked for a while today, so.

1660

01:59:59,700 --> 02:00:00,030

Victoria Robinson: Okay.

1661

02:00:01,130 --> 02:00:04,400

Christina, are there any more questions in the chat in the pod?

1662

02:00:04,580 --> 02:00:06,950

Christina: Yes, there are; one very quick one.

1663

02:00:07,430 --> 02:00:11,300

I know that we were referencing a letter earlier and someone was asking if we could

1664

02:00:11,300 --> 02:00:12,990

provide a link to that letter.

1665

02:00:13,010 --> 02:00:14,180

I don't have that.

1666

02:00:14,180 --> 02:00:17,480

If someone could get that  
to me or is that available?

1667

02:00:18,710 --> 02:00:23,000

Matthew Tejada: Kurt, do you know  
if we've published the Ajax letter anywhere

1668

02:00:23,000 --> 02:00:25,400

publicly so that we  
can put a link in the chat?

1669

02:00:26,630 --> 02:00:28,310

Kurt Temple: I don't, but I can check.

1670

02:00:28,550 --> 02:00:29,840

Matthew Tejada: Kurt will check real quick.

1671

02:00:30,050 --> 02:00:30,600

Thank you.

1672

02:00:30,600 --> 02:00:31,700

Christina: Okay, great.

1673

02:00:31,700 --> 02:00:36,380

If we aren't able to get that before  
the it closes, that will be

1674

02:00:36,380 --> 02:00:40,820

provided in the follow up Q&A meeting  
materials for people to be able to grab at a

1675

02:00:40,820 --> 02:00:49,760

later date. The next question is for  
the strategic plan.

1676

02:00:49,760 --> 02:00:54,180

What about offering a review of the plan in  
sections that allows for verbal comment from

1677

02:00:54,180 --> 02:00:58,500

attendees? This may take some of the burden  
off the communities to type and organize

1678

02:00:58,500 --> 02:01:02,820

their comments. This is a meet them where they are at provide support to EJ folks and

1679

02:01:02,820 --> 02:01:04,230

[UNINTELLIGIBLE] folks approach.

1680

02:01:04,440 --> 02:01:07,140

Matthew Tejada: That's what we're doing right now.

1681

02:01:10,460 --> 02:01:12,750

We're going to repeat this and probably do

1682

02:01:12,750 --> 02:01:17,300

a little less presenting and a little more dialogue on the call on the 26th.

1683

02:01:17,310 --> 02:01:18,690

So two weeks from now.

1684

02:01:18,780 --> 02:01:21,600

We have one more call after that in November.

1685

02:01:21,600 --> 02:01:23,160

I think it's November 8th.

1686

02:01:23,400 --> 02:01:24,870

We have another one of these calls.

1687

02:01:24,870 --> 02:01:30,600

If we want to just go straight up, dialogue,  
unpacking of this goal two in that call, we

1688

02:01:30,600 --> 02:01:35,760

can do that too. I don't know that we  
have that November 8 call programmed yet.

1689

02:01:36,600 --> 02:01:40,680

That's why I wanted to do these.

1690

02:01:40,680 --> 02:01:45,720

That's why I wanted to use these  
biweekly calls for this because again,

1691

02:01:45,720 --> 02:01:49,140

if I was back in Houston, I might have  
time to read this thing and write up some

1692

02:01:49,140 --> 02:01:55,080

comments, but I sure should rather just get  
on and share some thoughts if I could.

1693

02:01:55,770 --> 02:02:00,870

We still need folks to give us some  
written comments, please.

1694

02:02:00,900 --> 02:02:07,320

They will be helpful for us over the winter  
as we finalize this plan, absolutely,

1695

02:02:07,340 --> 02:02:09,600

We're doing it for goal two.

1696

02:02:09,600 --> 02:02:14,520

Again, there's a couple more of these  
happening in October for anything to do

1697

02:02:14,520 --> 02:02:19,440

with tribal or indigenous issues  
in the strategic plan.

1698

02:02:19,770 --> 02:02:24,930

I don't know. I frankly don't know what  
any other plans there are by other

1699

02:02:24,930 --> 02:02:31,320

parts of the agency on goals specific to  
their parts of the agency, but at least for

1700

02:02:31,320 --> 02:02:34,170

at least for the EJ and civil  
rights one, we wanted to do.

1701

02:02:34,170 --> 02:02:37,710

I hope, I think exactly what you're  
suggesting, trying to have some dedicated

1702

02:02:37,710 --> 02:02:41,670

time to unpack this and gauge dialogue, get  
some feedback.

1703

02:02:42,030 --> 02:02:45,300

That's exactly what we're trying to accomplish here and we will continue to do

1704

02:02:45,300 --> 02:02:46,890

during the public comment period.

1705

02:02:51,250 --> 02:02:52,290

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matthew.

1706

02:02:52,740 --> 02:02:57,690

Matthew Tejada: Christina, I can start scrolling through these.

1707

02:02:59,700 --> 02:03:05,640

Jeff Wolf is asking if we have any tools that would help communities or municipalities

1708

02:03:05,640 --> 02:03:08,700

to create a single comprehensive framework or roadmap?

1709

02:03:09,270 --> 02:03:11,240

He's aware of EJ screen, but another tool,

1710

02:03:11,250 --> 02:03:15,750

I'm not sure what other tool you might have  
heard us say earlier.

1711

02:03:16,110 --> 02:03:18,450

I will say, though, that we do have...

1712

02:03:19,020 --> 02:03:21,520

We have some resources that we are working on.

1713

02:03:21,750 --> 02:03:25,530

We've actually been working on them for a  
little longer than this administration to

1714

02:03:25,950 --> 02:03:32,880

provide tools both to communities in  
terms of training, information,

1715

02:03:32,880 --> 02:03:39,030

capacity building directly to communities,

as well as building some more consistent

1716

02:03:39,060 --> 02:03:42,530

information and tools

for people who practice EJ

1717

02:03:42,540 --> 02:03:47,760

at EPA with the intent of sharing that

publicly for our state partners, for local

1718

02:03:47,760 --> 02:03:49,860

governments, for whoever wants to use it.

1719

02:03:49,890 --> 02:03:56,490

We are working to get those tools

out of EPA's hands so that they're just

1720

02:03:56,490 --> 02:03:57,720

publicly available.

1721

02:03:58,620 --> 02:04:03,720

I'm not going to try to explain the

bureaucracy of publishing a document that

1722

02:04:03,720 --> 02:04:08,790

literally has almost 2000 pages because one of these tools is a whole curriculum.

1723

02:04:10,380 --> 02:04:14,250

But we are working through the process of getting these things out on the street.

1724

02:04:14,670 --> 02:04:20,340

And please, please these calls, our website, even though it's a government

1725

02:04:20,340 --> 02:04:22,500

website, it's as good as it's going to get.

1726

02:04:23,240 --> 02:04:24,920

But please do look at those.

1727

02:04:24,930 --> 02:04:29,100

Please do engage with us, either here or send us an email or on Twitter.

1728

02:04:29,400 --> 02:04:34,960

The voice of Christina, who you keep hearing  
is our Twitter goddess.

1729

02:04:34,980 --> 02:04:37,470

She's the one constantly in control of that.

1730

02:04:37,920 --> 02:04:42,690

But please engage back with us, tell us what  
you need, and if we can connect you to

1731

02:04:42,690 --> 02:04:44,970

something that's already available, we will.

1732

02:04:45,000 --> 02:04:49,020

If it's something that we need to think  
about, or it can help us to try to get things

1733

02:04:49,020 --> 02:04:51,690

out of the agency because people are asking  
us for it.

1734

02:04:51,960 --> 02:04:53,010

That really does help us.

1735

02:04:53,010 --> 02:04:56,460

Like if we can turn around, say no, we need to publish this because they are asking for

1736

02:04:56,460 --> 02:04:58,710

it. I feel like, Oh my gosh, all right.

1737

02:04:58,710 --> 02:05:00,180

Well, let's get this out the door.

1738

02:05:04,920 --> 02:05:08,220

And I don't know if that bought us some more time to look for another question, or maybe...

1739

02:05:08,250 --> 02:05:08,490

Christina: Yes.

1740

02:05:08,700 --> 02:05:11,910

There are a few. First of all, I'm very much going to take the term Twitter goddess.

1741

02:05:11,910 --> 02:05:19,980

I love that very much. Another question we had was assuming no civil rights issues are

1742

02:05:19,980 --> 02:05:24,780

identified, will the Civil Rights Reviews under 2.3 of permit action extend

1743

02:05:24,780 --> 02:05:26,190

the permit timeline?

1744

02:05:30,630 --> 02:05:31,900

Matthew Tejada: That is a good question.

1745

02:05:31,920 --> 02:05:34,710

I think that's a question Kurt that we might have to figure out.

1746

02:05:36,590 --> 02:05:40,040

Kurt Temple: I don't have an answer for that.

1747

02:05:41,710 --> 02:05:46,630

We'll have to take that  
back and talk about it.

1748

02:05:47,350 --> 02:05:50,350

I don't know if that's something we worked  
out, but in an event, I did find out that

1749

02:05:50,350 --> 02:05:53,530

the Ajax letter is public and so I'll try to  
get that posted.

1750

02:05:54,160 --> 02:05:55,450

Matthew Tejada: Awesome. Thank you, Kurt.

1751

02:05:55,660 --> 02:06:03,200

That sort of a question coming up  
with clear outcome commitments.

1752

02:06:07,050 --> 02:06:09,520

We've been doing EJ at EPA for 30 years,

1753

02:06:09,520 --> 02:06:14,720

and there's been a lot of progress  
and a lot of advances in a lot of

1754

02:06:14,720 --> 02:06:16,860

different places in  
terms of what that means.

1755

02:06:17,420 --> 02:06:21,140

But then there's other places where we're  
still standing on the threshold of really

1756

02:06:21,140 --> 02:06:23,360

getting down to brass  
tacks and figuring it out.

1757

02:06:24,140 --> 02:06:26,060

And especially in permitting.

1758

02:06:26,390 --> 02:06:30,710

Even back in the Plan EJ 2014 days,  
which I came in on the second half of

1759

02:06:30,710 --> 02:06:36,980

that when I came to the agency, permitting was, I think, the toughest nut to crack.

1760

02:06:37,850 --> 02:06:44,240

But we've got a lot of support and a lot of mandate from leadership

1761

02:06:44,240 --> 02:06:48,440

from the Administrator all the way on down to to get these things figured out finally.

1762

02:06:48,440 --> 02:06:52,220

A a lot of folks are asking, we engage with states and other government

1763

02:06:52,220 --> 02:06:54,940

agencies on an almost daily basis.

1764

02:06:54,950 --> 02:06:56,150

Everyone is asking for it.

1765

02:06:56,180 --> 02:06:58,610

Everyone is looking to us to figure these

things out.

1766

02:06:58,610 --> 02:07:02,000

They are huge priorities for us right now.

1767

02:07:03,680 --> 02:07:07,340

But we're not going to get out there ahead  
of ourselves with answers or with

1768

02:07:07,340 --> 02:07:11,840

solutions that we don't think are really  
going to work and then have been vetted.

1769

02:07:12,200 --> 02:07:14,600

That's just going to take a minute.

1770

02:07:14,780 --> 02:07:18,760

But we're committed to advancing  
these things and figuring them

1771

02:07:18,770 --> 02:07:21,160

out in this administration  
in this strategic plan.

1772

02:07:24,670 --> 02:07:25,720

Christina: Thank you, Matt.

1773

02:07:25,750 --> 02:07:26,890

Do we have time for another?

1774

02:07:27,610 --> 02:07:29,590

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, let me do one more  
and then we'll wrap it up.

1775

02:07:30,130 --> 02:07:31,810

Christina: Okay. All right.

1776

02:07:31,810 --> 02:07:36,040

The next one is, can you update on  
cumulative impacts analysis?

1777

02:07:36,070 --> 02:07:40,090

How are those defined  
and when is a cumulative impact

1778

02:07:40,090 --> 02:07:41,560

analysis required?

1779

02:07:42,910 --> 02:07:45,520

Matthew Tejada: That's a great question;  
going back to my last answer.

1780

02:07:45,610 --> 02:07:49,420

That's exactly one of the things we're  
working to figure out.

1781

02:07:49,420 --> 02:07:53,440

Again, going back to those two  
letters, one of which we're getting

1782

02:07:53,440 --> 02:07:59,800

the link to, the Ajax letter, the  
Administrator has set a very clear marker for

1783

02:07:59,800 --> 02:08:08,440

us to figure out what do things like  
cumulative impacts mean and not doing it

1784

02:08:08,440 --> 02:08:16,120

in a way that helps us to make progress now on operationalizing as much of it as we can,

1785

02:08:16,480 --> 02:08:21,850

while also then identifying where are the science gaps, where are the research

1786

02:08:21,850 --> 02:08:27,310

gaps, where are maybe the policy or legislative gaps, that need filling in for the longer term

1787

02:08:27,310 --> 02:08:32,500

piece. But we're not going to wait until everything is figured out.

1788

02:08:33,160 --> 02:08:37,330

We've got enough experience, we've got enough information, we've got enough data

1789

02:08:38,080 --> 02:08:40,640

that we're starting to bring that together right now.

1790

02:08:40,660 --> 02:08:44,400

It is one of the highest  
priorities in this administration.

1791

02:08:45,190 --> 02:08:50,980

That's why... even though it's not cumulative,  
it's why we have disproportionate impacts on

1792

02:08:50,980 --> 02:08:56,650

twice in goal two. Disproportionate  
impacts is inclusive of cumulative impacts.

1793

02:08:56,650 --> 02:08:58,570

I hope that isn't lost on anyone.

1794

02:08:58,750 --> 02:09:01,630

We are putting on paper that we're going to  
figure this out and we're going to

1795

02:09:01,630 --> 02:09:09,580

operationalize our ability to analyze for  
and respond to in our decisions and in our

1796

02:09:09,580 --> 02:09:14,170

actions the realities on the ground facing communities with EJ concerns.

1797

02:09:14,500 --> 02:09:19,540

Again, any information, any thoughts, any examples people have that they want to

1798

02:09:19,540 --> 02:09:25,000

offer to us, we're going to take all comers right now because we've got a lot of

1799

02:09:25,000 --> 02:09:26,410

work to do to figure this out.

1800

02:09:26,410 --> 02:09:31,510

There are a lot of people and hopefully we'll be getting some more people soon to help

1801

02:09:31,510 --> 02:09:36,970

us figure it out and to really focus on exactly that issue in this administration.

1802

02:09:38,990 --> 02:09:41,290

I think we should probably wrap up.

1803

02:09:41,720 --> 02:09:42,830

Christina and Victoria.

1804

02:09:46,880 --> 02:09:48,330

Victoria Robinson: We've updated this slide.

1805

02:09:48,350 --> 02:09:48,600

Go ahead.

1806

02:09:48,960 --> 02:09:49,940

Matthew Tejada: Okay, thanks.

1807

02:09:49,940 --> 02:09:54,200

Again, our next call is on October 26.

1808

02:09:55,220 --> 02:09:56,530

Please do join us again.

1809

02:09:56,540 --> 02:10:02,180

I actually might not be on that call, but  
we'll have some of our other leadership from

1810

02:10:02,180 --> 02:10:05,840

the Office of Environmental Justice will be  
joining us for that one again.

1811

02:10:05,870 --> 02:10:11,240

I believe colleagues from the Office of  
Water will be sharing same sort

1812

02:10:11,240 --> 02:10:16,160

of information that our colleagues from the  
Office of Transportation Air Quality were

1813

02:10:16,160 --> 02:10:17,270

sharing today.

1814

02:10:17,840 --> 02:10:23,300

Here's more information. To find out  
about anything going on EJ@EPA,

1815

02:10:23,360 --> 02:10:24,620

you can join our listserv.

1816

02:10:24,650 --> 02:10:25,980

There's information right there.

1817

02:10:26,000 --> 02:10:31,340

join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov

1818

02:10:32,330 --> 02:10:35,570

All you have to do is send an email to  
that and you'll get signed up.

1819

02:10:35,660 --> 02:10:40,720

We also have our own Twitter  
account now @EPAEnvJustice

1820

02:10:40,730 --> 02:10:41,820

That's the best we could do.

1821

02:10:41,880 --> 02:10:47,780

Promise, Christina worked really hard to get  
us the best one, and that was @EPAEnvJustice

1822

02:10:47,990 --> 02:10:52,260

Anything we do, any of these sorts of  
sessions, information, news,

1823

02:10:52,290 --> 02:10:56,040

she pushes it out  
through that Twitter handle.

1824

02:10:56,360 --> 02:10:59,210

Then any follow up questions to this,

1825

02:10:59,420 --> 02:11:02,480

you saw individual folks' emails before.

1826

02:11:02,510 --> 02:11:08,530

If there's more general questions you all have,  
please email [Environmental-Justice@EPA.gov](mailto:Environmental-Justice@EPA.gov)

1827

02:11:09,020 --> 02:11:13,940

We don't let a single email slide through  
that account, so please just let us know.

1828

02:11:13,940 --> 02:11:15,800

Reach out to us and we'll be

1829

02:11:15,800 --> 02:11:20,540

we'll be seeing y'all on email in the  
next couple of weeks, and look forward to

1830

02:11:20,540 --> 02:11:22,670

engaging folks again on the 26th.

1831

02:11:25,750 --> 02:11:27,400

All right. Thank you, everybody.

1832

02:11:27,730 --> 02:11:28,330

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matt.

1833

02:11:28,750 --> 02:11:29,620

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Victoria.

1834

02:11:29,620 --> 02:11:31,640

Thanks, team. Thank you, [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

1835

02:11:31,790 --> 02:11:34,660

Thank you all so much for  
interpreting as always today.

1836

02:11:35,380 --> 02:11:37,000

Thank you, everyone that made this another

1837

02:11:37,000 --> 02:11:39,000

successful community engagement call.

1838

02:11:40,510 --> 02:11:41,050

Victoria Robinson: Wonderful.