

1

00:00:04,560 --> 00:00:06,680

Victoria Robinson: I'd like to
welcome everybody to the

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00:00:06,680 --> 00:00:12,120

EPA Environmental Justice National
Community Engagement Call.

3

00:00:12,270 --> 00:00:18,060

It's been two weeks and a lot of things that
are going on, a lot of busy things happening.

4

00:00:18,230 --> 00:00:24,500

Before we get started on the call, I want to
go ahead and begin to go through some

5

00:00:24,500 --> 00:00:26,420

housekeeping items.

6

00:00:26,660 --> 00:00:28,250

The first thing is,

7

00:00:30,580 --> 00:00:34,030

Hold on, my screen is not properly
sharing, I apologize.

8

00:00:36,220 --> 00:00:37,750

Not sharing properly.

9

00:00:39,460 --> 00:00:42,700

Matt, I'm going to go ahead and have you
get started while I try to get the screen to

10

00:00:42,700 --> 00:00:45,580

share properly with the controls
like it's supposed to.

11

00:00:46,180 --> 00:00:46,630

Matthew Tejada: Okay.

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00:00:47,760 --> 00:00:51,780

Hey, everyone. While we're sorting out some technical difficulties, I also want to thank

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00:00:51,780 --> 00:00:57,390

you all for joining us today for our national community engagement call.

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00:00:57,720 --> 00:01:02,910

We are doing these biweekly right now, so every two weeks we are having these calls

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00:01:03,240 --> 00:01:10,590

because there is an unprecedented level of EJ, and equity, and civil rights activity

16

00:01:11,070 --> 00:01:15,690

across all of the federal government and especially at EPA.

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00:01:16,110 --> 00:01:21,210

Given EPA's long history of leadership across the federal government in the United

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00:01:21,210 --> 00:01:23,640

States on environmental justice issues,

19

00:01:24,450 --> 00:01:30,360

we've got a lot to talk about and we have heard back from some of the folks who have

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00:01:30,360 --> 00:01:37,860

been attending these calls that, wow,
this is a lot, a meeting every two

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00:01:37,860 --> 00:01:38,880
weeks, is a lot.

22

00:01:39,240 --> 00:01:41,820
We agree. It is a lot on our side as well.

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00:01:41,820 --> 00:01:47,640
It is a pretty big investment on top
of the implementation of multiple executive

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00:01:47,640 --> 00:01:52,230
orders and working on multiple budgets and
just everything else happening with the

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00:01:52,230 --> 00:01:57,450
leadership of Administrator Regan and
President Biden and Vice President Harris

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00:01:58,170 --> 00:02:03,150
having a multi-hour community
engagement call every two weeks is a lot.

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00:02:03,900 --> 00:02:08,370
We feel like though, especially right now,
especially through the fall,

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00:02:08,820 --> 00:02:17,910
having a regular every two week call is
actually trying to minimize everyone's time

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00:02:17,910 --> 00:02:20,430
required and attention required.

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00:02:20,430 --> 00:02:25,080

Not so much on the EPA side internally, but thinking mostly about all of you, all on the

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00:02:25,080 --> 00:02:32,400

community side because of the mandate that we have from this administration.

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00:02:33,030 --> 00:02:40,410

Every single mandate includes requirements, explicit requirements to engage on the

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00:02:40,410 --> 00:02:43,890

implementation of the executive orders and on the other things going on.

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00:02:44,670 --> 00:02:51,180

By holding these every two weeks, we're trying to create a regular cadence and a

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00:02:51,180 --> 00:02:59,040

manageable commitment, or at least opportunity for everyone to check in every

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00:02:59,040 --> 00:03:02,880

two weeks and get the latest, get the best information.

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00:03:02,880 --> 00:03:08,760

Give us the feedback that we need in order to make sure we're grounding our thinking.

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00:03:08,760 --> 00:03:15,900

We're grounding our decisions in the realities of you all, of communities

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00:03:15,990 --> 00:03:19,440

facing environmental justice challenges
across the United States.

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00:03:19,530 --> 00:03:24,930

We don't intend to keep these up on an every
two week basis forever.

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00:03:25,380 --> 00:03:32,370

We're hoping that hopefully by some point
this winter, maybe in January, February, as

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00:03:32,370 --> 00:03:37,260

some of these things really start to get
some legs under them and start to gain some

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00:03:37,260 --> 00:03:43,710

forward momentum that we can ease off a bit
and maybe do things monthly or bi-monthly,

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00:03:43,710 --> 00:03:49,680

We'll see. It's going to be a balance
between what we hear from communities in

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00:03:49,680 --> 00:03:55,860

terms of wanting information and wanting
opportunities to engage, what we hear from our

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00:03:55,860 --> 00:04:02,130

colleagues inside of EPA in terms of their
desire to engage and trying to coordinate

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00:04:02,130 --> 00:04:08,100

that, in a way that is reasonable and
manageable by our community partners.

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00:04:08,640 --> 00:04:14,070

Then, of course, also wanting to not

overextend all of you, all on the community

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00:04:14,070 --> 00:04:20,490

side. We're trying to find that balance, and we know that bi-weekly is a lot.

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00:04:21,060 --> 00:04:25,320

But frankly, we think without these bi-weekly meetings, there would be

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00:04:25,320 --> 00:04:27,630

opportunities on almost a daily basis.

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00:04:27,630 --> 00:04:32,310

I don't think anybody wants to try to make a meeting almost every single day

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00:04:32,310 --> 00:04:33,510

on a different issue.

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00:04:33,660 --> 00:04:37,080

We've tried to bring them all together for these bi-weekly meetings.

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00:04:37,770 --> 00:04:45,630

But if you have thoughts on that, if you have suggestions, if we get an

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00:04:45,630 --> 00:04:51,540

overwhelming response of it's just too much, you need to go to monthly or whatever else,

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00:04:51,570 --> 00:04:54,660

we'll do that. If we get an overwhelming response that it's not enough,

58

00:04:54,660 --> 00:04:56,400
we need to hear you every single Monday,

59
00:04:57,300 --> 00:05:00,320
we'll try to do that too, although that's a lot.

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00:05:01,140 --> 00:05:05,850
But please continue to let us know how
you're finding these.

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00:05:06,300 --> 00:05:09,510
We'll have time today, of course, for folks
to give us some input.

62
00:05:09,600 --> 00:05:15,930
We've had folks reach out to us via email
between today and the one we did two weeks

63
00:05:15,930 --> 00:05:18,420
ago. I'm going to stop there.

64
00:05:18,420 --> 00:05:20,910
I have some information I'm going to share
here in a minute.

65
00:05:20,910 --> 00:05:25,290
I'm going to pass it back to Victoria to do
our housekeeping stuff and then we'll

66
00:05:25,290 --> 00:05:26,100
keep it going.

67
00:05:26,730 --> 00:05:30,030
Victoria Robinson: Thank you very much, Matt.
Yes, I finally got the screen to work properly.

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00:05:32,190 --> 00:05:33,900

To do some housekeeping before you progress,

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00:05:33,900 --> 00:05:37,500

and those of you who've been on these calls
have already heard me say this many times,

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00:05:37,500 --> 00:05:40,590

but it does bear repeating to make it easier
for everybody.

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00:05:40,620 --> 00:05:45,780

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

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00:05:45,810 --> 00:05:51,870

One, it allows us to have a space for more
people to join us on the call because we do

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00:05:51,870 --> 00:05:53,130

have a maximum limit.

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00:05:53,700 --> 00:05:55,950

But it also helps with feedback.

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00:05:57,060 --> 00:06:01,830

Everybody is on mute and we're
asking you to enter any

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00:06:01,830 --> 00:06:03,990

comments into the Q&A pod.

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00:06:04,020 --> 00:06:08,940

We'll be using that to help drive the
discussion, but we will also have an

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00:06:08,940 --> 00:06:13,020
opportunity for people to actually ask the
questions out loud.

79
00:06:13,020 --> 00:06:18,780
Don't be afraid, we will be
providing time for that on the agenda.

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00:06:19,140 --> 00:06:24,600
If you are selected during the actual
listening session in dialogue, we're going to

81
00:06:24,600 --> 00:06:29,640
ask if you could limit your comment or
question to one minute so that allow time

82
00:06:29,640 --> 00:06:35,070
for an answer, as well as for more comments
to be addressed and answered during the

83
00:06:35,070 --> 00:06:39,690
actual call. Just so that you know, this
recording and transcript will be available

84
00:06:39,690 --> 00:06:41,280
online in the near future.

85
00:06:42,450 --> 00:06:45,880
The recording, we will be able to be posted
relatively quickly.

86
00:06:45,900 --> 00:06:49,890
Transcript takes a little longer because we
will also be translating it into Spanish.

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00:06:52,230 --> 00:06:58,570
I also want to let you know that that

Spanish language interpretation is available

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00:06:58,570 --> 00:07:01,000

for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

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00:07:01,150 --> 00:07:04,390

Basically how to switch to Spanish
language audio channel, you see that little

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00:07:04,390 --> 00:07:07,870

globe? That's its interpretation, it should show
up on your toolbar.

91

00:07:08,620 --> 00:07:12,880

If you press that, it'll ask you if you want
to do English or Spanish, and you click that

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00:07:12,880 --> 00:07:19,170

and then you get put into an audio channel
where you'll hear Spanish and you'll hear

93

00:07:19,380 --> 00:07:21,280

the commentary in Spanish.

94

00:07:21,820 --> 00:07:26,920

You have the option when doing so if you
want to keep the English on a lower volume in

95

00:07:26,920 --> 00:07:29,240

the background or to go
completely into Spanish.

96

00:07:29,950 --> 00:07:33,520

We're also asking if you want to refer to
ask questions in Spanish,

97

00:07:33,850 --> 00:07:36,520
in the Q&A pod, please feel free to.

98
00:07:36,550 --> 00:07:39,010
It's going to be a little longer for us to
be able to respond to.

99
00:07:39,010 --> 00:07:42,970
Some of those questions, our person is
not available for the meeting that normally

100
00:07:42,970 --> 00:07:47,650
handles that, but we will do our best to be
able to respond to you in Spanish, and let you

101
00:07:47,650 --> 00:07:51,160
know that our meeting materials will be made
available in Spanish where possible.

102
00:07:51,550 --> 00:07:55,900
I want to answer the question from
Katie Hanson.

103
00:07:55,900 --> 00:08:01,210
Yes, these meetings are usually almost
always Tuesday at 2 PM.

104
00:08:01,630 --> 00:08:05,020
to 4 PM Eastern Time.
That's how we're doing that.

105
00:08:05,020 --> 00:08:08,260
But we are going to be looking for input
from individuals to see if that's something,

106
00:08:08,260 --> 00:08:12,020
if there's a better time or day of the week,

that works better for everybody.

107

00:08:12,040 --> 00:08:15,640

But right now, we're scheduled for every other Tuesday, from 2:00 PM

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00:08:15,640 --> 00:08:17,740

to 4:00 PM on Eastern Standard Time.

109

00:08:18,010 --> 00:08:19,690

All right, Matt, I'm going to switch it over to you.

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00:08:20,440 --> 00:08:21,550

Matthew Tejada: Ok, thanks.

111

00:08:21,760 --> 00:08:28,120

Thanks, Victoria. just real briefly, what we have today is I'm going to go over

112

00:08:28,630 --> 00:08:35,530

some EJ program updates, just broadly laying out everything we have going on, why we think it

113

00:08:35,530 --> 00:08:37,330

is so needed.

114

00:08:37,570 --> 00:08:41,740

We've heard that it's needed to have these every couple of weeks because there's a

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00:08:41,740 --> 00:08:48,340

lot going on. I just want to set that field for everyone because especially

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00:08:48,340 --> 00:08:52,450

the next two or three of these, a lot of things are going to happen all at the same

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00:08:52,450 --> 00:08:58,780

time. Again, there are going to be some pretty big things that we need to communicate

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00:08:58,780 --> 00:09:03,190

out to make sure everyone has the information, knows what the state of play is

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00:09:03,190 --> 00:09:08,470

and then receive feedback on those things pretty quickly because this administration is

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00:09:08,470 --> 00:09:15,160

really pushing hard to move things along, to make progress, to get decisions made, to get

121

00:09:15,160 --> 00:09:17,140

resources out on the ground.

122

00:09:17,740 --> 00:09:22,750

That means we have to operate a little quicker clip than what we're used to in the

123

00:09:22,750 --> 00:09:27,400

government. Still, of course, not as quick as the communities need.

124

00:09:27,670 --> 00:09:33,910

The communities needed help yesterday, but this administration has definitely heard that

125

00:09:33,910 --> 00:09:41,020

message, heard the needs from communities, and is doing everything it can to push the

126

00:09:41,020 --> 00:09:45,310

business of government along to try to get these things out.

127

00:09:45,310 --> 00:09:46,840

I'm going to cover a little bit of that.

128

00:09:47,380 --> 00:09:49,960

We're going to talk a little bit about Justice 40 as well.

129

00:09:49,960 --> 00:09:55,930

That's really been the big regular cadence we've had over this fall, is needing

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00:09:55,930 --> 00:09:57,360

some engagement on Justice 40.

131

00:09:57,370 --> 00:10:00,460

We're going to have some more dedicated stuff on that in the next couple of meetings

132

00:10:00,460 --> 00:10:05,530

coming up. Then we just want to open it up for some dialogue.

133

00:10:06,130 --> 00:10:08,440

I'm going to try to move through my stuff fairly quickly.

134

00:10:08,440 --> 00:10:11,960

I managed to double book myself and I don't think I even introduced myself.

135

00:10:11,980 --> 00:10:13,170

My name is Matthew Tejada.

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00:10:13,180 --> 00:10:15,350

I'm the Director of the EJ program at EPA.

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00:10:15,370 --> 00:10:21,300

I'm a senior career civil servant, so I've been here in this role since 2013.

138

00:10:22,120 --> 00:10:26,440

Very happy to be with you. When I slip out at three o'clock to go do another

139

00:10:26,440 --> 00:10:32,410

speaking engagement, you'll be joined by both OEJ's Deputy Director Sheila Lewis and

140

00:10:32,410 --> 00:10:38,170

our Assistant Director Chitra Kumar, who will both fill in for me to answer your

141

00:10:38,170 --> 00:10:41,650

questions and engage with you throughout the remainder of our session today.

142

00:10:42,070 --> 00:10:46,900

Then anything we don't get to today or anything we don't have time for today,

143

00:10:47,650 --> 00:10:53,350

we will catch up with you in two weeks and we'll make sure to be

144

00:10:53,530 --> 00:10:57,510

responsive and to be accountable and transparent what we're doing.

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00:10:57,520 --> 00:11:00,370

We do not want these to just be extractive.

146

00:11:00,520 --> 00:11:02,490

We want these to be real dialogues.

147

00:11:02,500 --> 00:11:04,420

We want to share information, hear your feedback.

148

00:11:05,320 --> 00:11:07,420

Get your opinion on stuff.

149

00:11:07,420 --> 00:11:09,010

Come back in a couple of weeks.

150

00:11:09,020 --> 00:11:11,290

Show you where things have moved to in that time.

151

00:11:11,290 --> 00:11:12,820

Show you where things are going.

152

00:11:12,850 --> 00:11:17,710

We want these to be a real, vibrant, ongoing conversation with community members,

153

00:11:17,710 --> 00:11:21,070

community leaders and other partners across the United States on EJ.

154

00:11:21,370 --> 00:11:29,200

I see already Adrian Wren has a question about the expected release of the request

155

00:11:29,200 --> 00:11:34,600
for proposals for our colleagues and our air
shop for their community air monitoring

156
00:11:34,600 --> 00:11:40,930
program. I believe they're planning for that
around the beginning of the calendar year is

157
00:11:40,930 --> 00:11:43,740
the plan. I think it's around January.

158
00:11:43,750 --> 00:11:47,680
If any of our air colleagues are on, listening,

159
00:11:47,680 --> 00:11:51,760
I know you can't. You can either put
an answer in the form of a question,

160
00:11:51,800 --> 00:11:53,710
play jeopardy for a minute
and you can put it in

161
00:11:53,820 --> 00:11:58,350
there, and I'll see it, or if any of our air
colleagues, if you were on Microsoft Teams,

162
00:11:58,350 --> 00:12:02,550
you can just chat at me and Teams and I'll
see it, and I can correct that if that wasn't

163
00:12:02,550 --> 00:12:05,000
the right answer, but to
Adrian's first question,

164
00:12:05,490 --> 00:12:09,030
we think that RFP for the community air
monitoring program will be around the

165

00:12:09,030 --> 00:12:14,250

beginning of the calendar year, and I'm going to speak a little bit more about

166

00:12:14,250 --> 00:12:17,340

where we are with American Rescue Plan funding here in a minute.

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00:12:17,490 --> 00:12:20,080

Victoria Robinson: Matthew, just real quick, I wanted to add that

168

00:12:20,080 --> 00:12:21,990

if somebody is here from the air

169

00:12:21,990 --> 00:12:27,340

program that would like to help us answer the question, if you raise your hand,

170

00:12:27,360 --> 00:12:32,310

you'll come up to the top of my list and I'll be able to see you and then be able

171

00:12:32,310 --> 00:12:33,340

to raise it.

172

00:12:33,340 --> 00:12:37,960

But ideally, I like putting it into the Q&A pod in the form of a question.

173

00:12:38,870 --> 00:12:39,990

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Victoria.

174

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:41,740

I'm going to start sharing my screen, Victoria.

175

00:12:41,800 --> 00:12:48,820

If you can pull down.

There we go.

176

00:12:49,300 --> 00:12:54,370

I just wanted to go through a few things
just to make sure that folks on the call

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00:12:54,370 --> 00:13:00,050

today are aware of everything that we have
going on at EPA on environmental justice.

178

00:13:00,070 --> 00:13:01,660

A lot of stuff has happened.

179

00:13:02,290 --> 00:13:05,020

I've put very clearly in
a number of places now.

180

00:13:05,020 --> 00:13:11,680

It is an unprecedented, a historic level of
activity on equity and justice at EPA today.

181

00:13:12,340 --> 00:13:14,950

I don't think that is in any
way an exaggeration.

182

00:13:14,950 --> 00:13:19,900

I think we're in an unprecedented and
historic time for advancing equity and

183

00:13:19,900 --> 00:13:23,350

justice because of the leadership of the
President and Vice President, because of the

184

00:13:23,350 --> 00:13:27,370
leadership of other secretaries such as
Administrator Regan.

185
00:13:27,850 --> 00:13:31,540
I just wanted to make sure folks were
aware of what all these pieces are because

186
00:13:31,540 --> 00:13:36,820
several of these pieces are going to hit in
October and through the rest of the fall and

187
00:13:36,820 --> 00:13:40,450
are specifically the things that we're going
to need to hear back from everybody on.

188
00:13:41,050 --> 00:13:46,240
First of all, I just want to point out
that Administrator Regan, his first message

189
00:13:46,240 --> 00:13:52,390
to EPA after he was confirmed as the
Administrator was his commitment on

190
00:13:52,390 --> 00:13:53,680
environmental justice.

191
00:13:53,920 --> 00:13:55,720
It's not something that came out in his
first year.

192
00:13:55,720 --> 00:13:57,430
It's the first thing.

193
00:13:57,460 --> 00:14:01,270
The first communication that he
sent to all of EPA.

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00:14:01,270 --> 00:14:05,890

A tailored communication was his commitment on environmental justice, where he pointed to

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00:14:05,890 --> 00:14:09,190

some of the executive orders that the President had already signed.

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00:14:09,220 --> 00:14:14,440

He pointed to priority areas that were obvious from community leaders and

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00:14:14,440 --> 00:14:20,000

organizations across the United States about high priority things such as our enforcement

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00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:26,540

efforts out of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, about our need to really

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00:14:26,540 --> 00:14:32,060

make sure that we are operating in a nation to nation basis with our tribal partners,

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00:14:33,350 --> 00:14:38,660

that we're engaging disproportionately impacted communities and everything that we

201

00:14:38,660 --> 00:14:44,030

do. Just want to point out if that was really... to me, that was the

202

00:14:44,030 --> 00:14:50,390

Administrator on about as close to day one as you can get, signaling to EPA, signaling to

203

00:14:50,390 --> 00:14:51,940
everyone at the agency,

204

00:14:51,950 --> 00:14:58,430
environmental justice is back and we're
centering the achievement of EPA's mission on

205

00:14:58,430 --> 00:15:00,350
achieving environmental justice.

206

00:15:00,380 --> 00:15:05,300
I'm really looking at where are those
communities that are not protected, that don't

207

00:15:05,300 --> 00:15:10,160
have clean air, clean water, clean land,
access to a clean environment?

208

00:15:10,310 --> 00:15:14,210
Where are those communities and what are we
going to do about it in this time, in this

209

00:15:14,210 --> 00:15:19,040
administration to finally deliver EPA's
mission to those communities?

210

00:15:19,400 --> 00:15:22,550
I think that's just a really nice
starting off point to ground

211

00:15:22,550 --> 00:15:31,610
everything we're doing at EPA right now, are
very much the central focus on paper, in

212

00:15:31,610 --> 00:15:33,260
writing of this Administrator.

213

00:15:33,920 --> 00:15:38,450

There are two different executive orders, and we're mainly talking about the one I'm going

214

00:15:38,450 --> 00:15:43,580

to talk about next and a lot of these community engagement calls, that has the

215

00:15:43,580 --> 00:15:45,200

Justice 40 mandate in it.

216

00:15:45,200 --> 00:15:49,010

But there was actually another executive order that the President signed on his first

217

00:15:49,010 --> 00:15:53,830

day in office. Executive order 13985.

218

00:15:53,840 --> 00:15:56,590

I think I got that right, 13985.

219

00:15:56,630 --> 00:15:59,320

It's the executive order on advancing racial equity.

220

00:15:59,990 --> 00:16:01,240

What it did?

221

00:16:01,240 --> 00:16:07,970

One, it's one of the places where this administration has really put as a baseline,

222

00:16:07,970 --> 00:16:13,790

put as a floor that advancing equity and justice across the United States takes an all

223

00:16:13,790 --> 00:16:18,890

of government approach, not just all of the federal government, but all of government,

224

00:16:18,890 --> 00:16:25,010

It is everyone's responsibility across the United States to advance equity.

225

00:16:25,670 --> 00:16:30,140

What it mandated for the executive branch of the federal government is that

226

00:16:30,140 --> 00:16:34,790

every department and agency would look across all of its business practices and

227

00:16:34,790 --> 00:16:41,060

figure out what are the barriers to being equitable in how we govern and how we

228

00:16:41,060 --> 00:16:44,490

actually affect the business of government in the United States.

229

00:16:44,510 --> 00:16:48,110

What are we going to do to punch through those barriers?

230

00:16:48,680 --> 00:16:56,750

At EPA, we developed six work groups to try to break down the big business streams of

231

00:16:56,750 --> 00:17:05,390

the agency, everything from procurement and grants and contracts, to data, to research.

232

00:17:05,780 --> 00:17:09,280

How do we engage with communities and other stakeholders?

233

00:17:09,350 --> 00:17:16,010

Then what are the barriers to equity in our policy, and rules, and permits, and

234

00:17:16,010 --> 00:17:21,140

licensing, right into things where we actually come in the EPA and think for a year

235

00:17:21,140 --> 00:17:24,530

or two, or 10, about the actual policy?

236

00:17:24,710 --> 00:17:26,900

How do we do equity in those places?

237

00:17:27,470 --> 00:17:31,670

We've already turned in our first piece of work for this executive order.

238

00:17:31,670 --> 00:17:34,490

We had a barrier's report that we had to develop.

239

00:17:34,490 --> 00:17:39,170

All agencies and departments had to develop a barrier's report that was all turned into

240

00:17:39,170 --> 00:17:40,760

the White House in August.

241

00:17:41,500 --> 00:17:43,030

We haven't released those.

242

00:17:43,030 --> 00:17:46,460

That's all going to be up to the White House, what they do with those over

243

00:17:46,520 --> 00:17:52,030

time, but all those barrier reports have been presented to the White House.

244

00:17:52,300 --> 00:17:55,780

Right now, we're starting to work through the next phase, which is OK, we've

245

00:17:55,780 --> 00:17:57,670

identified all these barriers,

246

00:17:57,700 --> 00:18:02,520

what is our action plan at EJ agency, including EPA?

247

00:18:02,530 --> 00:18:07,180

What is our action plan to try to punch through those barriers?

248

00:18:07,180 --> 00:18:12,460

To try to actually finally start centering, whether it's our procurement, how we award

249

00:18:12,460 --> 00:18:16,570

grants, what sort of data we're looking at, what do we consider when we're issuing a

250

00:18:16,570 --> 00:18:18,520

permit or writing a rule?

251

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:22,330

How do we really make sure that we're

including equity?

252

00:18:22,330 --> 00:18:28,120

We're acting equitably and thinking equitably in all of those different ways of

253

00:18:28,120 --> 00:18:33,070

doing business and all those different pieces of governing at EPA and all the other

254

00:18:33,220 --> 00:18:35,860

other departments and agencies are right there with us.

255

00:18:35,870 --> 00:18:37,870

They're in the exact same stage.

256

00:18:38,350 --> 00:18:41,410

I think this is going to be one of the things that here over the next couple of

257

00:18:41,410 --> 00:18:48,610

months, there's going to be some things for folks to see and hopefully give us

258

00:18:48,610 --> 00:18:52,210

some feedback on or at least some conversations that are convened here in the

259

00:18:52,210 --> 00:18:56,800

next couple of months to start thinking about what are these barriers and what sort

260

00:18:56,800 --> 00:19:02,980

of strategies or tactics does EPA need to adopt to break through those barriers?

261

00:19:03,820 --> 00:19:08,530

Obviously, the next executive order that was signed on his first week in office on the

262

00:19:08,530 --> 00:19:12,710

27th of January was executive order 14008.

263

00:19:12,730 --> 00:19:17,110

I know a lot of folks in the EJ space are much more aware of this executive order because it

264

00:19:17,110 --> 00:19:19,600

has the Justice 40 mandate in it.

265

00:19:19,600 --> 00:19:24,400

That's the mandate that 40% of the resources of certain programs go to benefit

266

00:19:24,400 --> 00:19:25,870

disadvantaged communities.

267

00:19:26,170 --> 00:19:31,060

This is one that we've really especially recently been spending a lot of time

268

00:19:31,060 --> 00:19:35,020

working through the steps of implementing this Justice 40 mandate.

269

00:19:35,060 --> 00:19:40,750

It's really the driving reason why we stepped up these calls from happening

270

00:19:40,750 --> 00:19:46,510

every few months to every two weeks because we have a lot of programs across EPA that are

271

00:19:46,510 --> 00:19:49,580

now implicated in this Justice 40 initiative.

272

00:19:49,750 --> 00:19:55,330

Obviously, there are six programs at EPA that are in a pilot, so they are already in the

273

00:19:55,330 --> 00:19:58,450

throes of implementing this mandate.

274

00:19:58,960 --> 00:20:04,000

That's our two state revolving funds for clean water and for drinking water, as

275

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:07,780

well as a grant program for eliminating lead in drinking water.

276

00:20:07,870 --> 00:20:12,640

It's our Diesel Emission Reduction Act program out of our Air office that provides

277

00:20:12,640 --> 00:20:18,880

resources to clean up or remove diesel engines from across the United States.

278

00:20:19,480 --> 00:20:25,750

It's our Superfund remedial program and also our brownfields program are the pilots.

279

00:20:25,750 --> 00:20:30,100

In the next couple of sessions, we're going to have some more colleagues come in.

280

00:20:30,280 --> 00:20:31,750

We have brownfields.

281

00:20:31,750 --> 00:20:36,130

I know talked to you all a couple of weeks ago,
we're going to have some more of those

282

00:20:36,130 --> 00:20:41,920

programs. Join us specifically in the next
two or three of these to start talking about

283

00:20:41,920 --> 00:20:46,150

what those programs are thinking of and
already starting to do in terms of

284

00:20:46,150 --> 00:20:52,000

implementing Justice 40, since they're part
of that pilot group. In the background,

285

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:56,530

while these six programs have been
developing these pilots and starting to

286

00:20:56,530 --> 00:21:03,040

figure out how to implement Justice 40, we
have also been working on what are the other,

287

00:21:03,400 --> 00:21:06,640

what dozens of other programs at EPA,

288

00:21:06,970 --> 00:21:11,590

once we get beyond the pilot,
we'll also then be a part of Justice 40.

289

00:21:12,130 --> 00:21:16,990

We're in the middle of that process right
now with OMB, Office of

290

00:21:16,990 --> 00:21:21,220

Management and Budget at the White House and
with the Council on Environmental Quality at

291

00:21:21,220 --> 00:21:25,480

the White House. They're really on the lead
in implementing Justice 40.

292

00:21:25,900 --> 00:21:30,730

We've been talking to them a lot, coming
up with what are the other dozens

293

00:21:30,730 --> 00:21:32,590

of programs across EPA?

294

00:21:33,520 --> 00:21:38,380

We're not at liberty to share that
information right now because OMB, Office of

295

00:21:38,380 --> 00:21:42,940

Management and Budget and CEQ, Council on
Environmental Quality, they're both in the

296

00:21:42,940 --> 00:21:47,280

lead on this. It's going to be up to them
to start to share out information on it

297

00:21:47,700 --> 00:21:56,890

But there is a huge effort touching
basically every program at EPA involving how

298

00:21:56,890 --> 00:21:59,320

do we implement this Justice 40 mandate?

299

00:21:59,770 --> 00:22:03,540

Obviously, there's a couple other pieces to

this still yet to come out.

300

00:22:03,550 --> 00:22:06,910

There's the Climate and Economic Justice screening tool.

301

00:22:06,940 --> 00:22:13,390

I know a lot of folks are waiting for, asking about EPA's not in charge of that, we

302

00:22:13,390 --> 00:22:15,460

really don't have any answers to that.

303

00:22:15,640 --> 00:22:19,000

That is being led again by OMB and CEQ.

304

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:21,340

I'm going to stop telling you what those acronyms are.

305

00:22:21,880 --> 00:22:26,830

OMB and CEQ are in charge of that climate and economic justice screening tool.

306

00:22:27,190 --> 00:22:31,990

There's also a scorecard that's going to be a part of this that scores every agency in

307

00:22:31,990 --> 00:22:36,220

the department across the federal government on implementing this executive order and

308

00:22:36,220 --> 00:22:37,390

Justice 40.

309

00:22:37,480 --> 00:22:44,470

Again, we're providing a lot of support
for CEQ and OMB to try to work through

310

00:22:44,470 --> 00:22:46,920

these things, to try to think
through these things.

311

00:22:47,300 --> 00:22:52,760

But EPA is no longer in this leadership
position on EJ and equity.

312

00:22:53,120 --> 00:22:57,760

The previous executive order and this one,
they're very clearly centered

313

00:22:58,050 --> 00:23:01,920

government efforts on equity
and justice at the White House

314

00:23:01,920 --> 00:23:04,680

and at the different offices of the White House.

315

00:23:05,210 --> 00:23:09,650

They're looking to EPA to provide a lot
of support, obviously, because we've been

316

00:23:09,650 --> 00:23:11,900

leading these sorts of things for decades.

317

00:23:12,230 --> 00:23:17,120

But very appropriately it's a weird thing
for one agency to be leading

318

00:23:17,120 --> 00:23:19,940

all the other agencies. That doesn't
actually happen very often.

319

00:23:19,940 --> 00:23:24,170

It's an awkward position to be in when you're in a specific agency.

320

00:23:24,650 --> 00:23:31,310

The center of this, the leadership for it is up at CEQ and OMB.

321

00:23:31,310 --> 00:23:35,060

We're in the same position as a lot of folks, of feeding information in.

322

00:23:35,060 --> 00:23:36,950

But we're not making the decisions.

323

00:23:36,950 --> 00:23:40,760

We don't know exactly where stuff is at present.

324

00:23:41,420 --> 00:23:47,360

Now I wanted to talk about this for a moment because the next couple of calls, including

325

00:23:47,870 --> 00:23:53,000

we'll talk about some of these Justice 40 pilots specifically for the next couple of

326

00:23:53,000 --> 00:23:58,340

calls, but we're also going to spend some time talking about the next EPA multi-year

327

00:23:58,340 --> 00:23:59,540

strategic plan.

328

00:24:00,020 --> 00:24:05,290

It's not something that we would have talked

about in the past, because in the past, EJ

329

00:24:05,390 --> 00:24:10,640

shows up like maybe in a couple of sentences
in our multi-year strategic plan, and then we

330

00:24:10,640 --> 00:24:17,300

would have a separate strategy for EJ
specifically, that's what Plan EJ 2014 was.

331

00:24:17,450 --> 00:24:20,110

That's what the EJ 2020 action
agenda was.

332

00:24:20,120 --> 00:24:22,100

We had these separate EJ

333

00:24:22,100 --> 00:24:28,040

strategies because we weren't included in
the actual multi-year strategic plan of the

334

00:24:28,040 --> 00:24:33,140

agency. This administration made the very
clear choice looking back to the

335

00:24:33,140 --> 00:24:36,020

administration's original commitment to EJ

336

00:24:36,440 --> 00:24:41,540

that in order for environmental justice
really to be a driving force across the

337

00:24:41,540 --> 00:24:46,940

agency and for us to center our mission
achievement on advancing justice, we had to

338

00:24:46,940 --> 00:24:49,220
be in the agency's multi-year strategic plan.

339
00:24:49,520 --> 00:24:54,610
They've done that, environmental justice
and our external civil rights compliance,

340
00:24:54,620 --> 00:24:59,750
we're now a core goal of the agency's
multi-year strategic plan.

341
00:24:59,990 --> 00:25:04,400
We've been working really hard for the last
few months, coming up with a bunch of stuff

342
00:25:04,400 --> 00:25:06,800
in the specific area.

343
00:25:07,160 --> 00:25:10,970
It's the second goal in the EPA strategic plan.

344
00:25:10,970 --> 00:25:12,700
The first goal is on climate change.

345
00:25:12,710 --> 00:25:16,340
The second goal is on EJ and civil rights.

346
00:25:16,610 --> 00:25:23,200
Then we have another five goals that are
specific to air, water, land revitalization,

347
00:25:23,210 --> 00:25:25,220
research, enforcement and compliance,

348
00:25:25,220 --> 00:25:33,440
the traditional big programs of EPA each have

their own place in the EPA strategic plan.

349

00:25:33,530 --> 00:25:37,190

But EJ and civil rights are goal two.

350

00:25:37,760 --> 00:25:40,550

The plan is here pretty soon.

351

00:25:40,910 --> 00:25:45,740

EPA is going to release a draft of that strategic plan or some information about that

352

00:25:45,740 --> 00:25:46,850

strategic plan.

353

00:25:46,940 --> 00:25:51,740

Then we're going to receive public feedback on it in October into November.

354

00:25:52,160 --> 00:25:56,990

We're going to use this call in the next couple of weeks and a couple of weeks after

355

00:25:56,990 --> 00:26:02,510

that, the two national engagement calls in October, we're going to spend some

356

00:26:02,510 --> 00:26:06,480

time unpacking what is in goal two of the strategic plan

357

00:26:06,800 --> 00:26:09,560

and wanting to hear feedback from folks live.

358

00:26:09,590 --> 00:26:13,400

Tell us what you think, but also just to

make sure as part of that

359

00:26:13,400 --> 00:26:18,110

formal feedback process, you all
have an opportunity to ask us

360

00:26:18,110 --> 00:26:23,480

questions, to hear directly from us, to help
inform and support your ability out there in

361

00:26:23,480 --> 00:26:29,690

the communities to really give good feedback
into this next multi-year strategic plan.

362

00:26:29,780 --> 00:26:33,040

It's something that's really wonky
and bureaucratic, I know.

363

00:26:33,700 --> 00:26:37,790

When I used to work down in Houston
running a community based organization, I

364

00:26:37,790 --> 00:26:39,920

never cared about the EJ strategic plan.

365

00:26:40,490 --> 00:26:45,680

Having been here now for eight
and a half years, these strategic plans

366

00:26:45,680 --> 00:26:47,510

determine what happens.

367

00:26:47,660 --> 00:26:51,110

They determine what goes into people's
performance evaluations.

368

00:26:51,110 --> 00:26:53,580

They determine what we ask for in the budget.

369

00:26:53,780 --> 00:26:56,560

They determine what we report to Congress.

370

00:26:56,840 --> 00:27:02,210

These strategic plans, they
guide the work of the agency.

371

00:27:02,240 --> 00:27:08,030

To me, it's a huge sign and also a huge
relief that we are now included in the

372

00:27:08,030 --> 00:27:09,410

multi-year strategic plan.

373

00:27:09,410 --> 00:27:14,330

It gives us a real opportunity to drive
forward progress on equity, and justice, and

374

00:27:14,330 --> 00:27:16,010

civil rights in this administration.

375

00:27:16,010 --> 00:27:22,340

I'm really looking forward to October and
November when we get to open this up and we

376

00:27:22,340 --> 00:27:25,200

get to have some feedback from
folks on the outside.

377

00:27:25,800 --> 00:27:30,770

Also want to say another thing we'll probably
use these calls for, not now, but into the

378

00:27:30,770 --> 00:27:37,550
future, as I said, this is a historic,
unprecedented time for EJ, and I don't know

379
00:27:37,550 --> 00:27:39,380
if there's any better proof of that

380
00:27:39,380 --> 00:27:45,260
than the request that President Biden made
to Congress for our next fiscal year budget.

381
00:27:45,260 --> 00:27:46,760
or FY-22 budget.

382
00:27:47,020 --> 00:27:51,190
I know folks have been watching the news,
there's talk of a government shutdown, we

383
00:27:51,190 --> 00:27:54,280
have no idea about that. That's all being
decided up on the hill.

384
00:27:54,310 --> 00:27:58,660
But what they're trying to figure out is the
next fiscal year budget, because that starts

385
00:27:58,660 --> 00:27:59,980
on October 1st.

386
00:28:00,160 --> 00:28:06,640
And the President has already made a request
to go from typically about \$10 million a year

387
00:28:06,640 --> 00:28:10,660
in funding for EJ to close to a billion
dollars in funding for EJ.

388

00:28:10,690 --> 00:28:11,750

It's a little short of that.

389

00:28:12,090 --> 00:28:18,370

There's about \$600 million requested by President Biden for EJ efforts across EPA,

390

00:28:18,610 --> 00:28:22,720

for the Superfund Program, for Water Infrastructure, for our enforcement

391

00:28:22,720 --> 00:28:28,150

colleagues, it would spread about \$600 million across all of EPA's efforts on

392

00:28:28,150 --> 00:28:29,560

environmental justice.

393

00:28:30,040 --> 00:28:31,240

But then it would save,

394

00:28:31,240 --> 00:28:35,600

it would dedicate about 300, a little short of 300, but pretty close

395

00:28:35,600 --> 00:28:39,520

to \$300 million just for the EJ program,

396

00:28:39,520 --> 00:28:44,470

just for our grants, just for our personnel that we really have the folks in

397

00:28:44,470 --> 00:28:50,500

the regions, at headquarters that are able to really pursue supporting environmental

398

00:28:50,500 --> 00:28:56,110

justice at EPA, providing that support for other federal partners, providing that

399

00:28:56,110 --> 00:29:00,400

support for states and for our tribal partners and for local governments.

400

00:29:00,410 --> 00:29:05,740

Really bringing a robust level of support beyond just grants to communities on the

401

00:29:05,740 --> 00:29:11,020

ground. It makes a significant investment in environmental justice and an unprecedented

402

00:29:11,020 --> 00:29:13,060

request for environmental justice.

403

00:29:13,090 --> 00:29:18,430

It also requests that the Office of Environmental Justice actually go from being

404

00:29:18,430 --> 00:29:21,370

just an office into a national program.

405

00:29:21,430 --> 00:29:27,220

We would stand shoulder to shoulder in the EJ program alongside the air program, and the

406

00:29:27,220 --> 00:29:29,230

waste program, and the water program.

407

00:29:29,650 --> 00:29:32,500

Again, all of this is in Congress's court right now.

408

00:29:32,500 --> 00:29:37,090

Of course, they appropriate budgets,
they appropriate tax dollars,

409

00:29:37,090 --> 00:29:38,770

they make those sorts of decisions.

410

00:29:39,160 --> 00:29:44,710

We are all waiting as well as many other
folks across the country to see what happens

411

00:29:44,710 --> 00:29:47,320

up on Capitol Hill in terms of the next budget.

412

00:29:47,950 --> 00:29:53,740

We did already, though, receive somewhat of
a down payment on that in the American Rescue

413

00:29:53,740 --> 00:29:57,280

Plan Act, which of course
came out long before the

414

00:29:57,280 --> 00:30:03,670

President made his budget request for FY 22,
but the American Rescue Plan was the

415

00:30:03,670 --> 00:30:09,080

Biden-Harris bill for COVID relief early on
in this administration, and there were

416

00:30:09,080 --> 00:30:12,970

\$50 million in there specifically for
environmental justice.

417

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:18,220

There were also \$50 million in there specifically for our air colleagues to

418

00:30:18,220 --> 00:30:23,140

provide a bunch more support for air quality monitoring across the United States.

419

00:30:23,140 --> 00:30:25,240

That was the first question I answered.

420

00:30:25,540 --> 00:30:31,420

There's going to be a big grant program using a big chunk of that \$50 million for air

421

00:30:31,900 --> 00:30:34,030

that's going to come out in a grant program.

422

00:30:34,180 --> 00:30:37,600

I don't know if somebody provided a better answer than mine, but sometime early in

423

00:30:37,600 --> 00:30:42,250

calendar year 2022. For the \$50 million for EJ funding,

424

00:30:42,430 --> 00:30:48,720

I want to make sure folks understand it's not just \$50 million like a big pot of \$50 million,

425

00:30:48,720 --> 00:30:52,210

and we'll get to do whatever we want with it or communities can come and ask

426

00:30:52,210 --> 00:30:53,290

for pieces of it.

427

00:30:53,530 --> 00:30:55,450
Unfortunately, that's not how it works.

428
00:30:56,280 --> 00:31:00,450
We don't have a statute for environmental justice at the federal level.

429
00:31:00,630 --> 00:31:05,370
We don't even have a specific authorization anywhere in statute.

430
00:31:05,670 --> 00:31:12,450
The EJ program actually uses the statutes for all of our other colleague programs. Clean

431
00:31:12,450 --> 00:31:18,780
Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, FIFRA, don't ask me, fungicide

432
00:31:18,780 --> 00:31:24,300
insecticide or something, the one that with all the pesticide stuff. We use everyone

433
00:31:24,300 --> 00:31:30,450
else's statutory authorities to do our work and to provide grants that we regularly

434
00:31:30,450 --> 00:31:36,500
provide. This \$50 million, it didn't even use all of the statutes we typically do.

435
00:31:36,510 --> 00:31:43,140
We typically will use about a dozen of statutes that EPA has, generally speaking in

436
00:31:43,140 --> 00:31:48,300
the American Rescue Plan because it was

passed through this reconciliation process

437

00:31:48,300 --> 00:31:51,150

that I know a lot of folks are hearing about right now.

438

00:31:51,900 --> 00:31:57,390

At the end of that reconciliation process, the American Rescue Plan only gave us four

439

00:31:57,480 --> 00:32:01,080

statutes, and it didn't even give us the whole statute,

440

00:32:01,080 --> 00:32:04,940

it gave us specific sections of four statutes.

441

00:32:05,100 --> 00:32:10,290

One of those specific sections was the DERA program, the Diesel Emission Reduction Act

442

00:32:10,290 --> 00:32:15,990

program. Out of this \$50 million, a big chunk of it has gone over to our colleagues

443

00:32:15,990 --> 00:32:18,750

in the DERA program and they are working,

444

00:32:18,750 --> 00:32:23,700

I think fairly soon, maybe before the end of this calendar year, they're going to

445

00:32:23,700 --> 00:32:27,120

put out... Actually, I think they've already put out some information.

446

00:32:27,150 --> 00:32:33,750

They're going to launch a pilot of a rebate program through DERA to support

447

00:32:33,750 --> 00:32:37,380

purchasing electric school buses in low income areas.

448

00:32:37,830 --> 00:32:39,090

Because that's going to be a challenge,

449

00:32:39,090 --> 00:32:45,480

we don't exactly know how, especially schools or school districts in low income

450

00:32:45,480 --> 00:32:49,200

areas, how they're going to make electric school buses work.

451

00:32:49,230 --> 00:32:54,330

We're going to use this American Rescue Plan funding not just to get the school buses

452

00:32:54,330 --> 00:32:59,670

out to those places, which is great, but hopefully really to figure out how can we

453

00:32:59,670 --> 00:33:03,900

we do even more of that in the future as more money comes through, whether

454

00:33:03,900 --> 00:33:08,130

it's the American Jobs Plan or other things, the Build Back Better agenda.

455

00:33:08,610 --> 00:33:13,380

We're going to use this American Rescue Plan funding to figure out electric school

456

00:33:13,380 --> 00:33:15,660

buses for low income communities.

457

00:33:16,320 --> 00:33:22,080

Another section of the American Rescue Plan Act was specific to our Brownfields program,

458

00:33:22,080 --> 00:33:25,200

It was specific to one part of our Brownfields program.

459

00:33:25,380 --> 00:33:29,850

Because of other parts of that statute that weren't included in the American Rescue

460

00:33:29,850 --> 00:33:35,370

Plan, we could only give \$4 million to the Brownfields program for some of their

461

00:33:35,370 --> 00:33:38,000

technical assistance and job training activities.

462

00:33:38,400 --> 00:33:43,770

We gave them \$4 million that is being moved into the Brownfields program to support

463

00:33:43,770 --> 00:33:48,600

more Brownfields efforts, more Brownfields technical assistance and training

464

00:33:48,990 --> 00:33:52,230

in communities with EJ concerns across the United States.

465

00:33:52,620 --> 00:33:56,100

That's two of the statutes that were in the American Rescue Plan.

466

00:33:56,640 --> 00:34:01,560

The other two that were included were a specific section of the Clean Air Act and a

467

00:34:01,560 --> 00:34:04,440

specific section of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

468

00:34:04,710 --> 00:34:09,510

That means all we could do with that is Clean Air Act Projects and Safe Drinking

469

00:34:09,510 --> 00:34:14,010

Water Act projects. We can't do clean water projects, we can't do surface water stuff.

470

00:34:14,010 --> 00:34:18,630

We couldn't do anything with waste projects, like solid waste.

471

00:34:18,660 --> 00:34:20,580

We couldn't do anything with pesticides.

472

00:34:20,580 --> 00:34:22,830

It wasn't in the statute.

473

00:34:23,520 --> 00:34:30,450

We have pulled a big chunk of this money, though, for our EJ grant programs anticipating

474

00:34:30,450 --> 00:34:36,630

this is why in previous years, we had only completed either the EJ small grant or

475

00:34:36,630 --> 00:34:41,220

the EJ collaborative problem solving grant on an every other year basis because we would

476

00:34:41,220 --> 00:34:43,950

only have a little over a million dollars.

477

00:34:43,950 --> 00:34:49,740

We'd only do one program at a time knowing that we were going to get this or hoping that

478

00:34:49,740 --> 00:34:52,080

we were going to get this American Rescue Plan money.

479

00:34:52,110 --> 00:34:55,500

We actually competed both of those programs over the spring.

480

00:34:56,100 --> 00:35:01,350

Right now, we're going through the process of figuring out which of those

481

00:35:01,350 --> 00:35:07,290

grants that we received that scored well, qualify for American Rescue Plan

482

00:35:07,290 --> 00:35:11,730

funding because we want to use as much of this American Rescue Plan funding as we can

483

00:35:11,760 --> 00:35:17,520

to get it out directly to community based organizations and tribal and indigenous

484

00:35:17,520 --> 00:35:23,070

organizations. What we're doing right now is basically looking at all of the grants

485

00:35:23,070 --> 00:35:29,610

that scored at a decent score and any of them that are... and looking at how many of those

486

00:35:29,610 --> 00:35:35,160

can we fund that are specific to the Clean Air Act and this one section of the

487

00:35:35,160 --> 00:35:36,420

Safe Drinking Water Act?

488

00:35:36,900 --> 00:35:41,010

Then we're going to look at how much other money we have, which is still way more

489

00:35:41,010 --> 00:35:42,540

than we've had in the past.

490

00:35:42,600 --> 00:35:44,520

We would typically have a million dollars.

491

00:35:44,520 --> 00:35:47,370

We have way more than that in our base budget this year.

492

00:35:48,420 --> 00:35:53,250

We're going to we're going to maximize all of these dollars and the American Rescue Plan

493

00:35:53,250 --> 00:35:55,170

is going to be a huge investment.

494

00:35:55,260 --> 00:36:01,100

A huge uplift for us in terms of the volume of grants and the volume of support we

495

00:36:01,100 --> 00:36:06,890

can push out. Hopefully in October, maybe the second half of October, we're going to

496

00:36:06,890 --> 00:36:12,980

start announcing which grants have been selected as part of all of this.

497

00:36:14,030 --> 00:36:18,440

But it's just been a tremendously rewarding effort.

498

00:36:18,440 --> 00:36:24,050

It's been again, a lot of work for us, but this is the good work we do. This year,

499

00:36:24,050 --> 00:36:30,620

in 2021, we're likely going to award more EJ grant dollars this year than we

500

00:36:30,620 --> 00:36:32,000

have in the previous decade.

501

00:36:32,480 --> 00:36:36,680

All right. We're doing a decade's worth of grant making just in these few months.

502

00:36:36,890 --> 00:36:41,990

It's been a tremendous effort, but there's a lot of really cool grants we've

503

00:36:41,990 --> 00:36:47,660
received. I'm really excited that we're
going to get a chance to fund as many of them

504
00:36:47,660 --> 00:36:50,200
as we can. Every dollar that we're going to
squeeze together,

505
00:36:50,210 --> 00:36:54,290
we're going to try to buy as many of
those grants as we can for community

506
00:36:54,290 --> 00:36:57,680
organizations and tribal
indigenous organizations.

507
00:36:58,160 --> 00:37:00,800
That was the update
I wanted to share with folks.

508
00:37:00,800 --> 00:37:06,830
I'm going to stop sharing now and we will go
to some question and answer

509
00:37:06,830 --> 00:37:08,720
and dialogue now, right Victoria?

510
00:37:11,380 --> 00:37:14,480
Victoria Robinson: Correct, I'm going
to do a little bit of housekeeping

511
00:37:14,480 --> 00:37:18,520
around the listening session and dialogue.
Let me just share my screen right now.

512
00:37:21,850 --> 00:37:26,530
All right, as we prepare to do our

listening session and dialogue, a couple of

513

00:37:26,530 --> 00:37:30,280

things to keep in mind. As you guys have already been doing, you've been asking some

514

00:37:30,280 --> 00:37:36,010

wonderful questions in the Q&A pod, our question and answer pod.

515

00:37:36,010 --> 00:37:39,580

We asked you to continue posting your comments and questions there.

516

00:37:40,270 --> 00:37:44,500

However, we also recognize that there's going to be... we want to be able to hear from

517

00:37:44,500 --> 00:37:48,120

you, literally hear from you, when you ask the question.

518

00:37:48,130 --> 00:37:55,240

After we read a few questions from the actual Q&A pod, we are going to ask you to...

519

00:37:55,270 --> 00:38:01,600

for those who would like to ask a question to raise your hand literally in your

520

00:38:01,600 --> 00:38:04,120

Zoom app, you should be able to, under reaction,

521

00:38:04,120 --> 00:38:06,190

you should be able to click raise your hand.

522

00:38:06,340 --> 00:38:09,550

For those of you who are on the phone, I think there's about 16 of you.

523

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:14,560

You can press *9 to raise your hand and it will show up in the system that you

524

00:38:14,560 --> 00:38:18,580

raised your hand. I will call you out based on the last three or four digits of

525

00:38:18,580 --> 00:38:22,390

your phone number and ask you to unmute your call, unmute your line.

526

00:38:23,470 --> 00:38:28,780

Also, as I mentioned earlier, please limit your questions or comments to one minute and

527

00:38:28,780 --> 00:38:30,490

let me just see if there is anything else?

528

00:38:30,490 --> 00:38:31,810

No, that should be it.

529

00:38:33,160 --> 00:38:38,290

Christina, I'm going to have you start with asking some of the questions

530

00:38:38,290 --> 00:38:42,460

for Matthew and few others to be able to answer live, that'd be great.

531

00:38:42,880 --> 00:38:51,250

But I think that we had [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

from OAQPS, who I think raised her hand earlier,

532

00:38:51,280 --> 00:38:58,720

who might be able to answer the question that was raised by Adrian earlier about the

533

00:38:58,720 --> 00:39:00,010

air monitoring program.

534

00:39:00,100 --> 00:39:04,180

Is it possible to ask her to raise her hand and we can see if that was what she was

535

00:39:04,180 --> 00:39:06,550

wanting to answer? Oh, I think she has.

536

00:39:06,580 --> 00:39:09,780

Hold on a second.

537

00:39:09,810 --> 00:39:16,560

I'm going to allow you to talk and I'm going to ask you to unmute.

538

00:39:16,560 --> 00:39:17,560

Matthew Tejada: There she is.

539

00:39:19,670 --> 00:39:21,590

[CROSSTALK]

540

00:39:21,990 --> 00:39:22,370

Hey.

541

00:39:24,140 --> 00:39:29,030

Lina: I know someone mentioned was trying to figure out when the grant would actually go out?

542

00:39:29,060 --> 00:39:37,220

Actually, there is going to be an overview of the grant process webinar coming up this

543

00:39:37,220 --> 00:39:39,800

week and they are going to go over that.

544

00:39:41,120 --> 00:39:46,640

Hopefully, you registered when the announcement came out, but I think they are

545

00:39:46,640 --> 00:39:51,200

looking at the fall for that announcement to go out.

546

00:39:52,370 --> 00:40:00,410

Not sure exactly what date yet, but it will go out through the EJ listserv once the

547

00:40:00,410 --> 00:40:01,580

announcement goes out.

548

00:40:02,120 --> 00:40:04,600

Matthew Tejada: Thank you. Do we have any more information that you can

549

00:40:04,600 --> 00:40:06,230

shoot to us that we can put in

550

00:40:06,230 --> 00:40:10,880

the chat or in the question and answer for folks about the session this week?

551

00:40:10,880 --> 00:40:13,040

That's going to be kind of an informational session.

552

00:40:13,580 --> 00:40:16,610

Lina: Yeah, I'll send you that information.

553

00:40:16,640 --> 00:40:20,240

Matthew Tejada: We'll get that up for folks as soon as we can.

554

00:40:20,390 --> 00:40:23,360

Also I want to remind everyone we do

555

00:40:23,360 --> 00:40:28,160

finally, I know it doesn't seem like that ground shaking on the outside,

556

00:40:28,160 --> 00:40:34,120

but inside it shook the ground that we got our own Twitter handle in the EJ program.

557

00:40:34,310 --> 00:40:38,540

It is at @EPAEnvJustice.

558

00:40:38,690 --> 00:40:45,080

If I didn't get that right, somebody better quote. No, it's @EPAEnvJustice,

559

00:40:45,080 --> 00:40:51,050

is our Twitter handle in the EJ program, we'll also... when this sort of stuff comes out,

560

00:40:51,500 --> 00:40:56,860

follow us on Twitter or sign up for our listserv and we'll give

561

00:40:56,870 --> 00:40:58,920

the instructions for that at the end of this.

562

00:40:59,030 --> 00:41:06,930

You basically just send a blank email, though, to Join-EPA-EJ@lists.EPA.gov.

563

00:41:06,980 --> 00:41:08,940

I know that was a lot. We're going to put it up in the chat.

564

00:41:08,960 --> 00:41:10,840

We'll have it up on screen here in a little bit.

565

00:41:11,450 --> 00:41:14,000

Follow us on Twitter.

566

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:15,140

Join the listserv.

567

00:41:15,170 --> 00:41:16,970

It's not just self-promoting.

568

00:41:17,150 --> 00:41:19,340

We use those forms.

569

00:41:19,340 --> 00:41:23,660

We use those venues to get exactly this sort of information out to folks,

570

00:41:24,410 --> 00:41:27,800

Victoria Robinson: Wait, before we have Vicki step away,

571

00:41:29,420 --> 00:41:31,850

Adrian Wren had a follow up question.

572

00:41:32,300 --> 00:41:37,010
She asked, Is the air monitoring program
part of the 50 million you just mentioned

573
00:41:37,010 --> 00:41:42,350
likely to fund community organizing/
education or just placement of equipment?

574
00:41:42,710 --> 00:41:43,910
Matthew Tejada: No, it is actually...

575
00:41:43,910 --> 00:41:49,340
there's going to be and I'm not sure
exactly how much information the air program

576
00:41:49,340 --> 00:41:52,580
is shared, but there's going to be a large
pot of money.

577
00:41:52,610 --> 00:41:54,980
I think a bigger pot than we've ever had.

578
00:41:55,220 --> 00:42:00,740
Inside of that pot of money, there's
going to be a set aside, a certain amount of

579
00:42:00,740 --> 00:42:05,180
money that goes to community organizations,
a certain amount of money that goes to states

580
00:42:05,180 --> 00:42:10,490
and local government, and a certain amount
of money that goes to tribal governments for

581
00:42:10,490 --> 00:42:13,190
their air quality monitoring needs.

582

00:42:13,190 --> 00:42:17,000

It's not us determining
where the air quality monitors go.

583

00:42:17,030 --> 00:42:18,890

It's going to be a grant program.

584

00:42:18,890 --> 00:42:26,900

Please do. For other folks, Adrian found the
Eventbrite, she put that link in a

585

00:42:26,900 --> 00:42:30,800

question if we can promote that or whatever
we do that everyone can see it in the

586

00:42:30,800 --> 00:42:33,110

question and answer, I really appreciate
that, Adrian.

587

00:42:34,130 --> 00:42:38,300

That information about the call,
it's actually tomorrow.

588

00:42:38,300 --> 00:42:44,780

It's on the 29th, you can get more
information and start preparing for how to

589

00:42:44,780 --> 00:42:46,160

apply to that grant.

590

00:42:46,190 --> 00:42:51,920

We are going to use some other of that money,
the \$50 million that the air program received,

591

00:42:51,920 --> 00:42:57,980

in addition to this grant program, that will

be determined by the grant proposals.

592

00:42:58,700 --> 00:43:05,810

We're going to use about the same amount of money, primarily for, there's a lot of PM2.5

593

00:43:05,810 --> 00:43:12,980

monitors across the United States that still use the filter samples, which, one, that means

594

00:43:12,980 --> 00:43:17,990

somebody has to go, collect the filter, and analyze it, and post the information up there,

595

00:43:18,260 --> 00:43:21,410

which for communities isn't super helpful.

596

00:43:21,740 --> 00:43:25,940

Especially one of the things that we're concerned about with the increase in

597

00:43:25,940 --> 00:43:33,260

wildfires and the increasing awareness of the impacts on health from wildfires,

598

00:43:34,010 --> 00:43:39,830

we need the continuous PM2.5 monitors out there so that communities can actually get

599

00:43:39,830 --> 00:43:44,540

the information in real time and make a choice to protect their public health.

600

00:43:45,230 --> 00:43:49,130

We're going to use another big chunk of that money primarily for doing that.

601

00:43:49,280 --> 00:43:54,290

Then we're going to do some other things
where we're looking at buying some more

602

00:43:54,530 --> 00:43:57,830

equipment just
for our regions. Our regions,

603

00:43:57,830 --> 00:44:02,990

as many of you all know, we get a lot of
requests from communities across the United

604

00:44:02,990 --> 00:44:06,110

States to come out and do air monitoring on
the ground.

605

00:44:06,110 --> 00:44:10,190

One of our biggest limitations is we
just don't have enough equipment to get

606

00:44:10,190 --> 00:44:14,300

everywhere. We're going to use a smaller
piece of this money, not as

607

00:44:14,300 --> 00:44:18,560

much as we're giving out, but we are going
to be planning on using a small chunk of the

608

00:44:18,560 --> 00:44:24,170

money to get some more toys for our
regions to go out there,

609

00:44:24,320 --> 00:44:29,630

when people and communities ask
us to get out on the ground to help monitor

610

00:44:29,630 --> 00:44:30,650
in their communities.

611
00:44:33,810 --> 00:44:35,940
All right, I'm done talking, I think Vicki's
done talking too.

612
00:44:35,970 --> 00:44:37,530
Thank you, Vicki, you much for popping on.

613
00:44:40,080 --> 00:44:40,890
Victoria Robinson: Go ahead, Christina.

614
00:44:42,150 --> 00:44:45,690
Christina: Hey, great, thanks. I just want
to reiterate, I'm dropping information into the

615
00:44:45,690 --> 00:44:47,700
chat about our listserv.

616
00:44:48,090 --> 00:44:53,070
The webinar tomorrow happening for the air
monitoring grant funding has gone out through

617
00:44:53,070 --> 00:44:57,660
our listserv, but also you can always check
back through on our Twitter feed, and I also

618
00:44:57,660 --> 00:45:01,140
put in information about how to subscribe
for our listserv. If you ever have any

619
00:45:01,140 --> 00:45:04,260
questions, My email address is also in the chat.

620
00:45:04,260 --> 00:45:06,660

Always feel free to reach out to me as well.

621

00:45:07,050 --> 00:45:09,720

Hi everyone. I'm Christina, the communications lead for the Office of

622

00:45:09,720 --> 00:45:13,680

Environmental Justice, and I will start reading some of the questions from the Q&A

623

00:45:13,680 --> 00:45:20,490

pod. The first one we have to be answered aloud is from John Sherrell.

624

00:45:21,120 --> 00:45:25,890

He says I'm coming from a State Department of Transportation perspective.

625

00:45:26,130 --> 00:45:29,810

Does US EPA still have a four part focus?

626

00:45:29,850 --> 00:45:36,240

The effects of pollution on EJ communities due to 1- Lead, 2- Drinking Water,

627

00:45:36,460 --> 00:45:39,810

3- Air Quality, and 4- Hazardous Waste Sites.

628

00:45:40,650 --> 00:45:44,820

Of these four parts, it appears that air quality is the primary issue that is

629

00:45:44,820 --> 00:45:46,320

transportation related.

630

00:45:48,050 --> 00:45:49,160

Matthew Tejada: Thanks for that, John.

631

00:45:49,210 --> 00:45:54,440

I'm not aware of us having a
four part focus on EJ

632

00:45:54,650 --> 00:45:57,320

ever since I've been here at the agency.

633

00:45:58,250 --> 00:46:04,730

I think we have typically thought about and
tried to communicate and educate our

634

00:46:04,730 --> 00:46:11,450

colleagues and partners that environmental
justice really requires a holistic view of

635

00:46:11,450 --> 00:46:17,000

the challenges facing a community that
includes those four things you had there, air

636

00:46:17,000 --> 00:46:18,920

and water, and waste.

637

00:46:19,310 --> 00:46:20,870

But it includes other things as well.

638

00:46:20,870 --> 00:46:23,500

It includes just access to a clean environment.

639

00:46:23,540 --> 00:46:25,130

Access to benefits.

640

00:46:25,730 --> 00:46:30,050

That's a huge part, and I really see it as...

641

00:46:31,340 --> 00:46:36,050

Well, I think too many people look at environmental justice and they primarily

642

00:46:36,050 --> 00:46:38,330

focus on reducing the bad stuff.

643

00:46:39,020 --> 00:46:43,730

I see it as an equal part of reducing the bad stuff and increasing the good stuff,

644

00:46:43,730 --> 00:46:47,960

increasing the access to things, increasing the access to a clean environment, to green

645

00:46:47,960 --> 00:46:54,410

space, to clean fish, and clean food, and health services, and transportation

646

00:46:54,410 --> 00:47:01,670

options. We really see environmental justice as looking in that holistic view and

647

00:47:01,670 --> 00:47:07,520

really trying to center our point of view through the eyes of the community.

648

00:47:07,520 --> 00:47:13,160

What the community sees, what the community says, is a priority. What the community says is

649

00:47:13,160 --> 00:47:14,180

a challenge.

650

00:47:14,210 --> 00:47:19,790

Then looking not just at EPA's

authorities, but really looking at our

651

00:47:19,790 --> 00:47:26,060

authorities, our resources, and our
partnerships with states, and not just state

652

00:47:26,060 --> 00:47:29,660

environmental agencies, but state
transportation agencies, everyone.

653

00:47:29,900 --> 00:47:35,960

We really see that it takes a collaborative
effort to focus on the problems that have

654

00:47:35,960 --> 00:47:41,180

been identified by the community and then
focus on supporting that community to come up

655

00:47:41,180 --> 00:47:46,190

with what it sees as the solution to those
problems and how everybody involved in that

656

00:47:46,190 --> 00:47:51,880

collaboration needs to play a role in achieving
that vision that the community lays out.

657

00:47:56,780 --> 00:47:58,600

That's all I have for that one, Christina.

658

00:47:58,690 --> 00:48:00,700

Christina: Great. Thank you much, Matt.

659

00:48:01,180 --> 00:48:06,970

The second question we have is, Is the EPA
considering strengthening partnerships with

660

00:48:06,970 --> 00:48:11,120
ENGOS to advise and
deploy environmental programs?

661
00:48:12,700 --> 00:48:17,680
Matthew Tejada: Yes, I think that's been a big part
of a lot that is happening at EPA today.

662
00:48:17,680 --> 00:48:23,350
I think there is a lot of
engagement with non-governmental

663
00:48:23,350 --> 00:48:25,470
organizations, and by ENGOS,

664
00:48:25,480 --> 00:48:29,180
I'm thinking that you're referring to
environmental non-government organizations.

665
00:48:29,180 --> 00:48:36,490
kind of the big enviro groups like Sierra
Club or NRDC or EarthJustice or

666
00:48:36,490 --> 00:48:39,010
one of the other big
environmental outfits.

667
00:48:39,370 --> 00:48:43,900
There are certainly plenty of
those engagements going on.

668
00:48:44,860 --> 00:48:48,160
We're not in the middle of those.

669
00:48:48,340 --> 00:48:50,140
We're definitely part of them.

670

00:48:50,320 --> 00:48:54,400

Our Office of Public Engagement, I know, has been having a lot of meetings and just our

671

00:48:54,400 --> 00:49:01,360

other programs are having a lot of meetings as is typical with environmental groups as

672

00:49:01,360 --> 00:49:05,740

well as with others, with states and local governments, with tribal governments.

673

00:49:06,100 --> 00:49:10,180

One of the things I'm leaving early for today is to engage with our national tribal

674

00:49:10,180 --> 00:49:11,440

caucus this afternoon.

675

00:49:12,510 --> 00:49:14,890

There is a real...

676

00:49:16,480 --> 00:49:20,450

Not even just a return to engaging with all of these partners,

677

00:49:20,870 --> 00:49:27,500

but again, I see us engaging a lot more actively and a lot more robustly with

678

00:49:27,500 --> 00:49:32,060

everyone, with community organizations, EJ organizations, environmental groups.

679

00:49:32,870 --> 00:49:39,560

I think as the strategic plan comes

out and as the implementation of these

680

00:49:39,560 --> 00:49:44,120

executive orders finally shifts into places
where folks on the outside will see it.

681

00:49:44,330 --> 00:49:48,020

I know for a lot of folks, that
has been frustrating over these several

682

00:49:48,020 --> 00:49:52,880

months that so much of what is happening
with these executive orders is buried inside

683

00:49:52,880 --> 00:49:56,840

of the government because we're trying to
figure them out and implement them and start

684

00:49:56,840 --> 00:49:58,520

putting plans in place.

685

00:49:58,610 --> 00:50:00,400

That takes us a minute.

686

00:50:00,400 --> 00:50:01,780

In government time,

687

00:50:01,780 --> 00:50:06,880

it's still happening almost at warp speed,
but never quick enough to actually get

688

00:50:06,900 --> 00:50:08,120

communities out there.

689

00:50:08,170 --> 00:50:11,780

That's why I'm excited for folks to see the

strategic plan, to see the things we're

690

00:50:11,780 --> 00:50:15,620

actually committing ourselves to do and
hopefully very clear terms, very

691

00:50:15,620 --> 00:50:17,600

crystal clear black and white terms.

692

00:50:18,550 --> 00:50:22,520

I'm looking forward to more of that
information getting out there soon so that

693

00:50:22,520 --> 00:50:26,120

people can see the things that we're
actually committing to and find those

694

00:50:26,120 --> 00:50:28,130

opportunities to plug into that work.

695

00:50:32,360 --> 00:50:34,880

Christina: Great. Thank you much.

696

00:50:35,810 --> 00:50:38,460

The next question is from Carolyn Burt.

697

00:50:38,480 --> 00:50:44,690

It says I saw an announcement for
nominations to an equity commission at USDA.

698

00:50:44,870 --> 00:50:49,190

Is there going to be something similar at
EPA or other federal agencies?

699

00:50:49,400 --> 00:50:50,520

Matthew Tejada: Hey, that's great, Carolyn.

700

00:50:50,540 --> 00:50:53,730

I didn't know that USDA had put out an equity commission.

701

00:50:53,730 --> 00:50:55,270

I'm not sure exactly what that is.

702

00:50:55,290 --> 00:50:59,550

I'm guessing it's probably a federal advisory committee focused on equity.

703

00:50:59,760 --> 00:51:03,000

If that's the case, then yes, we already have one of those.

704

00:51:03,000 --> 00:51:07,200

We have the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, or the NEJAC.

705

00:51:07,620 --> 00:51:11,820

It has been around for 28-29 years.

706

00:51:11,820 --> 00:51:19,140

I think it was 1993 that the NEJAC was founded somewhere around there.

707

00:51:19,200 --> 00:51:25,010

It's been around for almost three decades and we will be having a meeting of NEJAC

708

00:51:25,020 --> 00:51:30,240

in early November to get input from the NEJAC on a lot of the stuff that we're sharing

709

00:51:30,240 --> 00:51:35,070

in this meeting, in the next couple of meetings, on Justice 40, on the next

710

00:51:35,070 --> 00:51:40,830

multi-year strategic plan, if we have a budget by then, our thinking about how to best

711

00:51:40,830 --> 00:51:44,840

use those huge new resources coming in.

712

00:51:45,420 --> 00:51:48,360

We regularly engage the NEJAC.

713

00:51:48,390 --> 00:51:53,280

I would think, I'm guessing this equity commission is something similar.

714

00:51:53,550 --> 00:51:58,350

Yes, there is a lot of conversation across the federal government about the need

715

00:51:58,530 --> 00:52:04,980

to stand up those sorts of formal bodies on equity and justice to help advise different

716

00:52:04,980 --> 00:52:07,680

agencies on their equity and justice efforts.

717

00:52:13,690 --> 00:52:14,860

Christina: Great, thank you, Matt.

718

00:52:16,900 --> 00:52:21,240

The next one we have is from an anonymous submitter.

719

00:52:21,490 --> 00:52:26,830

Where can we see the reports or plans or actions coming out of any of the executive

720

00:52:26,830 --> 00:52:29,680

orders? Where is the EJ scorecard?

721

00:52:29,830 --> 00:52:33,250

Can you post the links to the six programs that have been developed?

722

00:52:34,090 --> 00:52:36,700

Assuming this, EPA community engagement is one of the six.

723

00:52:36,700 --> 00:52:41,440

There are many required elements within six months or 90 days of these to put out in

724

00:52:41,440 --> 00:52:42,730

January, 2021.

725

00:52:43,300 --> 00:52:49,060

Matthew Tejada: That's part of the overall framing of these executive orders and

726

00:52:49,060 --> 00:52:54,310

executive order 14008 specifically, we're not in charge of those

727

00:52:54,310 --> 00:52:56,960

anymore. We're hitting our deadlines.

728

00:52:57,130 --> 00:53:04,120

We're working really hard to hit our deadlines for those executive orders and we

729

00:53:04,120 --> 00:53:08,230
have so far, we're still getting some
information for the last deadline, which was

730
00:53:08,230 --> 00:53:09,610
a little over a week ago.

731
00:53:09,700 --> 00:53:15,910
But we're in terms of Justice 40 and agency
equity efforts, but we're not going to be the

732
00:53:15,910 --> 00:53:19,660
ones that release that information because
we're not in charge of them any more,

733
00:53:19,990 --> 00:53:21,620
including the EJ scorecard.

734
00:53:21,640 --> 00:53:26,300
All of that is being led by the White House.

735
00:53:26,320 --> 00:53:31,570
The Office of Management and Budget and
the Council on Environmental Quality, they're

736
00:53:31,570 --> 00:53:37,740
really leading. Those two White House offices
together are leading executive order 14008.

737
00:53:38,000 --> 00:53:41,590
That's the executive order that has
the scorecard and Justice 40.

738
00:53:41,620 --> 00:53:45,760
They're going to be in charge of whatever
information comes out is going to be their

739

00:53:45,760 --> 00:53:47,460
call at the White House.

740

00:53:47,470 --> 00:53:51,370
Then on all the other stuff, the
13985, the executive order on

741

00:53:51,370 --> 00:53:56,380
advancing racial equity, that's being led by
another office at the White House by the

742

00:53:56,380 --> 00:53:58,090
Domestic Policy Council.

743

00:53:58,450 --> 00:54:04,450
Again, anything that comes out regarding
what our efforts there is going to be coming

744

00:54:04,450 --> 00:54:06,310
out through the Domestic Policy Council.

745

00:54:06,520 --> 00:54:08,050
We don't have the authority.

746

00:54:08,060 --> 00:54:10,780
We're not in a position
to just share that information.

747

00:54:10,780 --> 00:54:13,510
Our job is to send that information to the
White House.

748

00:54:17,150 --> 00:54:21,770
I could probably do one more before I
have to slip out and hand it over to Chitra

749

00:54:21,770 --> 00:54:24,050
and Sheila, Christina.

750

00:54:24,350 --> 00:54:25,610
Christina: Absolutely.

751

00:54:26,720 --> 00:54:30,560
Has there been any discussion around
addressing socioeconomic status and

752

00:54:30,560 --> 00:54:35,090
messaging? I am concerned that poor white
communities may feel left behind

753

00:54:35,210 --> 00:54:39,230
unless we specifically address the impacts
to their communities, as well as BIPOC

754

00:54:39,230 --> 00:54:42,880
communities, mining and oil production
communities or agriculture areas

755

00:54:42,880 --> 00:54:47,900
benefit from jobs but suffer disproportionate
health effect impacts. We can't forget them.

756

00:54:48,890 --> 00:54:50,210
Matthew Tejada: Yeah, absolutely.

757

00:54:50,210 --> 00:55:00,410
In the EJ program at EPA, we still very much stick
to the core of what environmental justice in

758

00:55:00,410 --> 00:55:06,110
its earliest days including and what's going
to be 30 years since the first people of

759

00:55:06,110 --> 00:55:08,480

color summit next month.

760

00:55:09,050 --> 00:55:13,970

That environmental justice, although,
I feel like the beating heart of

761

00:55:13,970 --> 00:55:18,590

environmental justice is tied to our
country's history of environmental racism and

762

00:55:18,590 --> 00:55:22,760

how people of color have historically and
continue to be treated in this country.

763

00:55:23,090 --> 00:55:28,730

The EJ movement very clearly said,
in addition to people of color and

764

00:55:28,730 --> 00:55:33,050

indigenous communities, environmental
justice is an issue just for low income

765

00:55:33,050 --> 00:55:35,400

communities, just low income white communities.

766

00:55:35,870 --> 00:55:43,460

We very much at EPA very purposefully
continue to focus on communities of color,

767

00:55:43,490 --> 00:55:47,450

low income communities and indigenous
communities for everything we do in

768

00:55:47,450 --> 00:55:48,500

environmental justice.

769

00:55:48,500 --> 00:55:51,440

I hope our messaging has always been consistent on that.

770

00:55:51,590 --> 00:55:56,390

If folks think that it is strayed from that, please let us know because we are very

771

00:55:56,390 --> 00:56:01,100

focused on those. Again as part of some of these executive orders,

772

00:56:02,390 --> 00:56:07,520

both the EJ movement, which is very much a lot of EJ organizations and leaders, have been

773

00:56:07,520 --> 00:56:11,300

very engaged with the White House with CEQ and OMB.

774

00:56:11,840 --> 00:56:17,320

There is consideration of revising the original executive order 12898,

775

00:56:17,320 --> 00:56:20,930

which was signed by Bill Clinton, President Clinton back in 1994.

776

00:56:21,590 --> 00:56:24,680

They're working on that right now over at the White House.

777

00:56:24,680 --> 00:56:31,040

I think what a lot of folks have asked for and what I think has been a conversation

778

00:56:31,310 --> 00:56:35,510

in the EJ movement and in forums such as
the White House Environmental Justice

779

00:56:35,510 --> 00:56:41,330

Advisory Council is potentially expanding
that definition of which communities are

780

00:56:41,330 --> 00:56:42,890

included in environmental justice.

781

00:56:42,890 --> 00:56:48,230

Like everyone else, we'll be waiting
to see what comes out of the White House,

782

00:56:48,230 --> 00:56:53,600

what comes out of CEQ and OMB, and ultimately,
the President's desk in terms of the

783

00:56:53,600 --> 00:56:57,620

defining the future of how we look at that.

784

00:56:57,620 --> 00:57:01,970

But I think it's very clear from these
executive orders and other executive orders

785

00:57:02,270 --> 00:57:07,250

that low income white communities
particularly blue collar working

786

00:57:07,250 --> 00:57:13,940

communities that are really suffering as we
transition away from a carbon based energy

787

00:57:13,940 --> 00:57:19,100

economy to a clean energy economy that those communities don't get left behind, that those

788

00:57:19,100 --> 00:57:23,480

working communities, regardless of their color, that they don't get left behind.

789

00:57:24,260 --> 00:57:29,240

I think that has very clearly been made by President Biden and Vice President Harris.

790

00:57:29,250 --> 00:57:31,100

I think it's already reflected in the paper.

791

00:57:31,110 --> 00:57:37,040

I don't see the government moving away from continuing to include low income

792

00:57:37,040 --> 00:57:38,660

white communities as part of this.

793

00:57:38,990 --> 00:57:44,120

With that, I thank everyone again so much for joining us today.

794

00:57:44,300 --> 00:57:48,680

Chitra and Sheila will be joining you now, and I'm going to slip out the back door.

795

00:57:49,190 --> 00:57:53,210

Again, just thank you much for your time and for your questions today.

796

00:57:56,900 --> 00:57:57,920

Chitra Kumar: Thank you, Max.

797

00:58:00,480 --> 00:58:02,620
Victoria Robinson: Chitra, this is Victoria.

798
00:58:02,640 --> 00:58:07,350
what are we going to do is go ahead and
take one more question from Christina that

799
00:58:07,350 --> 00:58:13,530
she reads, and then we'll open it up for
people to actually ask comments verbally.

800
00:58:14,010 --> 00:58:18,450
I'll go ahead and ask people to start
raising their hands so that we can call on

801
00:58:18,450 --> 00:58:21,080
them to actually ask their question in person.

802
00:58:21,120 --> 00:58:22,920
Christina, are you going to ask one more question?

803
00:58:22,920 --> 00:58:24,300
Read one more question from the thing?

804
00:58:24,420 --> 00:58:24,870
Christina: Yes.

805
00:58:25,380 --> 00:58:27,360
All right. This is from Denise Bennet.

806
00:58:27,840 --> 00:58:34,730
Will the 50 million for EJ include competitive
grants that state agencies can apply for,

807
00:58:34,730 --> 00:58:38,070
or are the grants for community groups

and indigenous tribes only?

808

00:58:40,360 --> 00:58:42,760

Sheila Lewis: Thank you for that question.

809

00:58:43,390 --> 00:58:51,100

We were, in fact, able to use
a part of that 50 million of EJ

810

00:58:52,390 --> 00:58:55,720

ARP money to support states.

811

00:58:55,900 --> 00:59:01,840

We had a competitive state Environmental
Justice Cooperative Agreement program that

812

00:59:02,170 --> 00:59:06,790

was the act, the solicitation
was actually run last year.

813

00:59:06,800 --> 00:59:12,370

Because of the proximity and time, we
were able to reach back and to fund some of

814

00:59:12,370 --> 00:59:15,070

those grants, cooperative agreements.

815

00:59:15,070 --> 00:59:20,170

There will be approximately 23
of those cooperative agreements.

816

00:59:20,260 --> 00:59:26,890

Some of those awards have already hit the
street and the remainder are in process.

817

00:59:27,190 --> 00:59:37,120

We were fortunate enough to include states and our local municipalities in this

818

00:59:37,120 --> 00:59:41,800
funding opportunity, along with tribes and nonprofits.

819

00:59:46,970 --> 00:59:47,760
Thank you.

820

00:59:47,760 --> 00:59:49,760
Christina: Great, thank you.

821

00:59:49,760 --> 00:59:55,620
All right, Victoria, I think we can move to questions from the raised hands.

822

00:59:55,650 --> 00:59:57,270
Victoria Robinson: Wonderful, thank you very much.

823

00:59:57,300 --> 01:00:02,460
The first person who has waited patiently is Roxanne O'Brien.

824

01:00:02,460 --> 01:00:09,510
I'm going to ask you to unmute your line so that you can go ahead and ask your

825

01:00:09,510 --> 01:00:13,590
question. Roxanne, are you able to unmute your line?

826

01:00:13,620 --> 01:00:14,430
Yep, there you are.

827

01:00:14,820 --> 01:00:16,200
Roxxane O'Brien: Yes. Can you hear me?

828
01:00:16,890 --> 01:00:17,720
Victoria Robinson: Yes, we can.

829
01:00:18,080 --> 01:00:19,410
Okay, thank you.

830
01:00:19,410 --> 01:00:22,170
I had put the question in the
comments, but real quick.

831
01:00:22,380 --> 01:00:24,940
Thank you, you all for having these meetings.

832
01:00:25,980 --> 01:00:29,850
I'm an environmental justice advocate and
organizer in North Minneapolis.

833
01:00:30,270 --> 01:00:33,720
I represent community members for
environmental justice, and I'll just read it

834
01:00:33,720 --> 01:00:36,630
as people who live in these
overburdened EJ communities.

835
01:00:36,810 --> 01:00:41,850
We battle multiple harms and toxins and also
challenges on a daily

836
01:00:41,880 --> 01:00:46,680
while we do this hard work, we aren't funded
as larger national groups are.

837

01:00:47,310 --> 01:00:50,070
Part of that is because we weren't really
good at writing these grants.

838
01:00:50,070 --> 01:00:52,470
These grants are hard when you're
working with the government.

839
01:00:52,890 --> 01:00:55,660
We need some grace
and we need some support.

840
01:00:56,340 --> 01:01:02,310
But we also are exploited, our stories
and our struggles, new groups coming out who

841
01:01:02,310 --> 01:01:07,410
are finding out about all this money that's
coming while we've been doing the work for

842
01:01:08,340 --> 01:01:11,640
like over a decade without funding.

843
01:01:12,000 --> 01:01:15,480
They're coming in, they're taking
advantage of this money.

844
01:01:15,510 --> 01:01:20,400
I'm hoping or I'm asking how we prioritize
funding allocation?

845
01:01:20,430 --> 01:01:23,790
Is there going to be some kind of a
checklist on what people are going

846
01:01:23,790 --> 01:01:26,190
through as they're also organizing doing

this work?

847

01:01:26,850 --> 01:01:31,170

Because we went through a pandemic, fires
from metal shutters like Northern Metals EMR,

848

01:01:31,170 --> 01:01:33,090

which also other parts of the country

849

01:01:33,090 --> 01:01:38,940

on the same day, went through this type
of stuff with the same company, EMR, Northern

850

01:01:38,940 --> 01:01:44,030

Metals. We've got police brutality,
uprisings, gun violence, a homeless epidemic.

851

01:01:44,040 --> 01:01:48,120

We stay doing the work also in the face of
inequitable developments.

852

01:01:48,790 --> 01:01:52,500

But we have Upper Harbor terminal as the
last piece of undeveloped land on the

853

01:01:52,500 --> 01:01:53,640

Mississippi River.

854

01:01:53,670 --> 01:01:58,140

We all know that many people are going to
move to the Midwest as climate changes.

855

01:01:58,680 --> 01:02:04,170

Mississippi River is our drinking water
and we're fighting with politics and

856

01:02:04,170 --> 01:02:10,920
our communities and corporations who have
gotten the land for as less as a dollar in

857
01:02:10,920 --> 01:02:12,440
the north Minneapolis, south Minneapolis.

858
01:02:12,450 --> 01:02:17,160
We need EPA support and we need to be
prioritized for grant funding to pay black

859
01:02:17,160 --> 01:02:20,200
women and other women of color who are on
the front lines daily.

860
01:02:20,240 --> 01:02:21,000
Thank you.

861
01:02:23,820 --> 01:02:25,110
Victoria Robinson: Thank you
very much, Roxanne.

862
01:02:25,470 --> 01:02:29,600
Any comments to that, Chitra or Sheila?

863
01:02:29,640 --> 01:02:32,340
Sheila Lewis: Thank you, Roxanne,
for those comments.

864
01:02:32,430 --> 01:02:39,780
Thank you for being out there
in the community doing the hard work.

865
01:02:40,020 --> 01:02:46,560
We recognize all of the challenges
that you have just eloquently

866

01:02:46,560 --> 01:02:54,810
stated. I will say, with respect to our
grant program, we do want to look at how we

867

01:02:54,810 --> 01:03:00,510
can make sure our funding gets to you, your
organizations and the like.

868

01:03:00,750 --> 01:03:09,210
Just this past round of funding, we
had a set aside actually of funding available

869

01:03:09,210 --> 01:03:17,190
for these really small community
organizations of 10 members or less, because

870

01:03:17,190 --> 01:03:22,500
we know the challenge is putting together
and writing these proposals and then

871

01:03:22,500 --> 01:03:23,910
competing with larger.

872

01:03:24,360 --> 01:03:30,960
In that way, when we have a set aside,
then you are in competition with your peers

873

01:03:31,140 --> 01:03:37,740
and to make sure that you all can get an
equitable allocation of the grant funding

874

01:03:37,740 --> 01:03:45,180
available. We also know that the actual
regional folks, our regional counterparts,

875

01:03:45,180 --> 01:03:54,510

often put together grant workshops to help with offering some skills and

876

01:03:54,510 --> 01:04:01,330

expertise and some information that would be helpful to organizations such as yours and

877

01:04:01,330 --> 01:04:07,740

then working on pulling together a successful proposal.

878

01:04:08,130 --> 01:04:14,340

Then also each route, each solicitation cycle,

879

01:04:14,520 --> 01:04:21,630

what we do is we take a look at and are familiar with the issues that many of the

880

01:04:21,630 --> 01:04:26,850

communities are facing in this environmental justice issues.

881

01:04:27,240 --> 01:04:35,010

We will have focus areas in our grant solicitations so that we can reach down to

882

01:04:35,010 --> 01:04:40,560

help communities deal with some of the issues you have just stated.

883

01:04:40,560 --> 01:04:47,970

Those are some ways that we are looking to focus our funding to reach your

884

01:04:47,970 --> 01:04:54,090

organizations and your peers, to help to support you in the issues you're

885

01:04:54,090 --> 01:04:55,470

working to address.

886

01:04:55,620 --> 01:05:05,220

We also always welcome feedback to help us as we start to put together the next

887

01:05:05,220 --> 01:05:13,200

solicitation. This information is helpful and will help us and inform us as

888

01:05:13,200 --> 01:05:15,570

we put together our next solicitation.

889

01:05:15,580 --> 01:05:18,030

Thank you so much for your comments.

890

01:05:18,690 --> 01:05:19,740

Roxxane O'Brien: Thank you, Victoria.

891

01:05:20,960 --> 01:05:22,190

Victoria Robinson: Thank you. All right.

892

01:05:22,220 --> 01:05:24,860

Next is Diana [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

893

01:05:24,890 --> 01:05:29,480

I do hope I'm pronouncing that correctly, and if I'm not, I apologize.

894

01:05:30,020 --> 01:05:33,590

Let's see. Are you able to unmute your line?

895

01:05:33,590 --> 01:05:34,360

Diane?

896

01:05:34,360 --> 01:05:35,440

Diana: Yeah, I do.

897

01:05:35,450 --> 01:05:36,830

Are you able to hear me okay?

898

01:05:37,160 --> 01:05:38,150

Victoria Robinson: Yes, we are. Thank you.

899

01:05:38,180 --> 01:05:39,650

Diana: Okay, great. Thank you much.

900

01:05:40,010 --> 01:05:44,000

Again, I second what others said, and I appreciate you.

901

01:05:44,870 --> 01:05:50,000

Making this space, I have a question which I don't

902

01:05:50,000 --> 01:05:56,090

anticipate I may know the answer today, but I would really like somehow to make sure that

903

01:05:56,450 --> 01:06:02,300

that this doesn't get dropped especially as you look through the strategic

904

01:06:02,300 --> 01:06:08,210

plan and look for ways to make sure that other agencies in the federal government are

905

01:06:08,210 --> 01:06:09,920

just not leaving communities behind.

906

01:06:11,270 --> 01:06:17,120

I'll just read the question as I posted it, and the question is, how is the EPA

907

01:06:17,120 --> 01:06:26,480

engaging the FCC and the FAA to ensure that this space race that has been making quite

908

01:06:26,480 --> 01:06:34,840

headlines, which is bringing in an enormous amount of satellite

909

01:06:34,840 --> 01:06:43,930

constellations, is building at a fast speed, no spaceports, bigger rocker ships,

910

01:06:45,310 --> 01:06:48,610

that they just will end up creating new sacrifice zones,

911

01:06:49,000 --> 01:06:55,000

in our search for space and I would invite you to look at what's

912

01:06:55,000 --> 01:06:56,790

happening in Brownsville, Texas.

913

01:06:56,800 --> 01:06:59,600

In fact, I'll be hosting, hopefully in a few days.

914

01:07:00,880 --> 01:07:09,130

I talk with the front line communities that are being affected by what SpaceX is doing

915

01:07:09,130 --> 01:07:12,740

there, but we have those issues happening in

Cape Canaveral.

916

01:07:12,760 --> 01:07:13,870

I live in Florida.

917

01:07:14,650 --> 01:07:18,040

Georgia is also going through those issues.

918

01:07:19,720 --> 01:07:29,470

FCC right now categorically excludes,
they're okay of basically this swarm of

919

01:07:29,470 --> 01:07:35,080

constellations to bring
broadband to rural areas.

920

01:07:35,830 --> 01:07:42,280

In the process it's creating a lot of
different threats to our atmosphere.

921

01:07:43,360 --> 01:07:45,880

Threats to astronomy and so forth.

922

01:07:46,690 --> 01:07:53,890

On the Q&A, I dropped an article that
NRDC put together that explains

923

01:07:53,890 --> 01:07:55,630

that particular issue.

924

01:07:57,020 --> 01:08:02,710

I will drop one more link, which is a
report that came out a couple of months ago

925

01:08:02,710 --> 01:08:07,560

from the United Nations, also urging issues in.

926

01:08:08,740 --> 01:08:09,920

It is a really big deal.

927

01:08:09,940 --> 01:08:14,440

I just hope to God that we don't ignore this issue the way that

928

01:08:15,890 --> 01:08:23,630

governments ignore climate scientists a hundred years ago. Thank you.

929

01:08:27,950 --> 01:08:31,410

Chitra Kumar: Thank you so much for raising our awareness about this issue.

930

01:08:31,430 --> 01:08:35,900

I have to be quite honest, this is a new one for that

931

01:08:36,140 --> 01:08:41,210

our office, or at least to my knowledge, we have not done a lot with.

932

01:08:43,060 --> 01:08:48,130

We could by having these engagement opportunities, by you all sharing

933

01:08:48,130 --> 01:08:54,310

what you're seeing on the ground, that is how we're trying to increase... that to wake, and

934

01:08:54,310 --> 01:08:58,810

conversation and communication with those of you who are doing the hard work.

935

01:08:58,840 --> 01:09:07,480

All I can say right now at this moment is
thank you and we'll look into this.

936

01:09:08,440 --> 01:09:16,600

If there's a specific response you'd like to
see from us, we can let you know, we

937

01:09:16,600 --> 01:09:18,480

can get your information and let you know.

938

01:09:18,480 --> 01:09:23,680

Otherwise, I think this is...
know that we are looking into it.

939

01:09:24,280 --> 01:09:27,310

I'll just ask and see if Sheila has
anything else to add.

940

01:09:29,360 --> 01:09:33,800

Sheila Lewis: No, thank you, Chitra.
I will echo those sentiments.

941

01:09:33,950 --> 01:09:43,370

We always want to make sure when there's
opportunities to offer our

942

01:09:43,370 --> 01:09:51,950

voice with respect to the issues that are
affecting our community that we want to do

943

01:09:51,950 --> 01:09:56,530

so. We thank you for bringing this up and
pointing us in this direction.

944

01:09:56,540 --> 01:09:57,140

Thank you.

945

01:09:59,250 --> 01:10:00,120

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Diana.

946

01:10:00,120 --> 01:10:05,070

I'll also add that what we normally do with the question that

947

01:10:05,070 --> 01:10:11,700

are posed in the Q&A pod is that we will try to forward those questions to the appropriate

948

01:10:11,700 --> 01:10:14,940

offices within the agency and we reach out to them.

949

01:10:14,940 --> 01:10:19,230

We also try to follow up and see if they respond to individuals.

950

01:10:19,230 --> 01:10:23,820

If you do not get a response from the people, that we refer you

951

01:10:23,820 --> 01:10:29,010

to, or we don't know if there's a response, reach out to me.

952

01:10:29,820 --> 01:10:34,410

Robinson.Victoria@EPA.gov and then we will try to follow up.

953

01:10:34,440 --> 01:10:40,470

We will update once we publish the Q&A pod, summary of the

954

01:10:40,470 --> 01:10:46,860
Q&A pod on the website and
as part of the meeting materials,

955
01:10:46,860 --> 01:10:51,610
we will be updating or revising those as
we get additional answers to questions as

956
01:10:51,610 --> 01:10:57,190
time goes on. But feel free to reach out to
me at Robinson.Victoria@EPA.gov

957
01:10:57,190 --> 01:10:59,010
we'll see what we can try to do on this.

958
01:10:59,020 --> 01:11:06,040
Thank you, Diana.
Next up is La Shella Sims.

959
01:11:07,360 --> 01:11:11,290
Are you able to unmute your line?

960
01:11:11,290 --> 01:11:12,460
Thank you very much, La Shella.

961
01:11:14,530 --> 01:11:15,100
Go ahead, speak.

962
01:11:22,690 --> 01:11:25,660
La Shella, you're unmuted, do you
want to go ahead and speak?

963
01:11:26,140 --> 01:11:26,890
Ask your question.

964
01:11:31,880 --> 01:11:32,600

La Shella: Hello.

965

01:11:32,600 --> 01:11:34,600

All right, go ahead La Shella.

966

01:11:34,670 --> 01:11:40,700

All right. This is La Shella Simms by way of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's

967

01:11:40,940 --> 01:11:42,680

Environmental Justice Group.

968

01:11:42,860 --> 01:11:49,280

My comment to you all is that do you realize that you are,

969

01:11:49,280 --> 01:11:58,580

the EPA is going to have to fight various battles to reach us directly, boots on the

970

01:11:58,580 --> 01:12:01,970

ground, people and rocks and question.

971

01:12:02,210 --> 01:12:09,590

Your response to her is what I'm particularly speaking of.

972

01:12:09,740 --> 01:12:17,630

Unless you all find a way of directly circumventing the usual various agencies that

973

01:12:17,780 --> 01:12:26,120

boots on the ground people are normally battling for a better word than your contact

974

01:12:26,120 --> 01:12:32,120

with us, and what you're trying to do is going to be limited because you need to think

975

01:12:32,120 --> 01:12:38,060

about that these particular agencies that are out there and using mine as an example,

976

01:12:38,090 --> 01:12:45,350

they themselves are set up through and continue doing business in their usual

977

01:12:45,350 --> 01:12:53,690

manner, possibly per say, even if there are ones within the department that I get it now

978

01:12:53,720 --> 01:12:55,370

that we are to be included.

979

01:12:55,640 --> 01:12:57,230

Not all staff.

980

01:12:57,710 --> 01:13:04,070

They may be internally battling their own staff that this is the right thing to do.

981

01:13:04,130 --> 01:13:12,200

I suggest that and I put my contact information in the chat that the EPA needs to

982

01:13:12,200 --> 01:13:21,170

develop and implement some process of reaching us directly with boots on the

983

01:13:21,170 --> 01:13:29,990

ground because the of various entities we're already battling as lost and getting new

984

01:13:32,000 --> 01:13:40,490

information, and a lot of times in reaching us directly, you will be able to develop some

985

01:13:40,490 --> 01:13:49,460

way to fund us directly without us having to go through the competitive

986

01:13:49,460 --> 01:13:53,540

exclusionary grant process.

987

01:13:53,630 --> 01:14:03,440

Now maybe you will consider setting up some scouting units like the board's people

988

01:14:03,440 --> 01:14:09,260

do in terms of if you find someone out there directly that's hitting the marks that you

989

01:14:09,400 --> 01:14:13,700

want to see, the LFA contact us directly.

990

01:14:13,730 --> 01:14:19,220

A lot of times in contacting us directly, we don't always need money.

991

01:14:19,610 --> 01:14:26,900

Sometimes it's asking for somebody to support us to get agency's feet off our necks

992

01:14:26,900 --> 01:14:32,240

in terms of making whoever we're battling, battling accountable to the executive orders,

993

01:14:32,240 --> 01:14:33,650

et cetera, et cetera.

994

01:14:33,830 --> 01:14:40,880

I left my contact information so I
could rather connect with someone because I

995

01:14:40,880 --> 01:14:42,260

don't want to take anybody's time.

996

01:14:42,470 --> 01:14:43,640

Thank you.

997

01:14:52,030 --> 01:14:55,720

Sheila Lewis: Thank you so much
for your contact information.

998

01:14:56,170 --> 01:15:03,100

We will definitely take that and use that. I
will share with you that we realize that it

999

01:15:03,100 --> 01:15:07,630

is important to reach the people
on the ground and we work...

1000

01:15:07,720 --> 01:15:13,240

We have environmental justice coordinators
in each region who have relationships with

1001

01:15:13,270 --> 01:15:16,720

many community based
organizations on the ground.

1002

01:15:16,780 --> 01:15:24,790

They have relationships with many of their
local, state, and county, and city partners.

1003

01:15:25,480 --> 01:15:35,440

But yes, always a challenge for us to be able to reach those communities and contacts on the

1004

01:15:35,440 --> 01:15:42,220

ground in the various areas that have issues, the more contact information, the

1005

01:15:42,220 --> 01:15:46,470

better. We thank you so much for your information.

1006

01:15:47,350 --> 01:15:49,400

Chitra, do you have anything else you want to add.

1007

01:15:50,720 --> 01:15:59,390

Chitra Kumar: I guess I will add only that what you've raised is something that is

1008

01:15:59,390 --> 01:16:04,740

being discussed more now than I think we've ever really seen.

1009

01:16:04,760 --> 01:16:10,760

You heard Matt say, there's a historic focus on environmental justice and the kinds

1010

01:16:10,760 --> 01:16:13,400

of issues you're raising are things that we're considering

1011

01:16:13,550 --> 01:16:17,480

whether it's through this strategic plan or the interagency

1012

01:16:17,480 --> 01:16:25,370

processes, we are hearing that there need to

be more ways to get technical assistance and

1013

01:16:25,370 --> 01:16:26,900

support for communities,

1014

01:16:26,900 --> 01:16:34,430

suggestions or ways that you've seen
work are always helpful.

1015

01:16:40,760 --> 01:16:42,440

Victoria Robinson: All right,
thank you very much.

1016

01:16:44,710 --> 01:16:47,470

Next up is Jeri Fry.

1017

01:16:48,440 --> 01:16:52,930

I'm asking you to unmute, and if you can unmute
your line, all right, go ahead, you're unmuted.

1018

01:16:52,930 --> 01:16:53,640

Ask you to. Gerri, are you able to
I'm asking you to unmute, and if you can unmute
your line, all right, go ahead, you're unmuted.

1019

01:16:53,640 --> 01:17:02,650

Ask you to. Gerri, are you able to

1020

01:17:10,680 --> 01:17:11,430

Okay.

1021

01:17:11,820 --> 01:17:14,460

Maybe Jeri's having some audio issues.

1022

01:17:14,490 --> 01:17:22,110

I'm going to go on to Louise Kitamura and

I'll come back to Jeri after we have Louise

1023

01:17:22,140 --> 01:17:25,830

Kitamura to ask her question.

1024

01:17:26,620 --> 01:17:28,060

Go ahead, Louise.

1025

01:17:28,360 --> 01:17:32,950

Louise Kitamura: Victoria, I am so sorry,
I didn't realize I had raised my hand.

1026

01:17:34,960 --> 01:17:36,230

I lower it.

1027

01:17:36,260 --> 01:17:37,630

I apologize.

1028

01:17:37,660 --> 01:17:38,280

Thank you.

1029

01:17:38,460 --> 01:17:39,860

Victoria Robinson: No worries.

1030

01:17:43,260 --> 01:17:48,030

Jeri, are you still able to unmute
your line to speak?

1031

01:17:48,060 --> 01:17:55,090

Ask your question? Ok, I'm going to go
ahead, and I see you've muted again.

1032

01:17:55,240 --> 01:17:59,200

Ok, I'm going to move on to Jesse Deer.

1033

01:17:59,200 --> 01:18:04,460
Jesse, are you able to unmute your line?

1034
01:18:06,460 --> 01:18:12,350
Jesse Deer In Water: Yes, I am.
Jesse Deer in Water is my name.

1035
01:18:12,800 --> 01:18:14,560
Victoria Robinson: Oh, my apologies.

1036
01:18:14,560 --> 01:18:16,190
Jesse Deer In Water: I thought it was on chat, too.

1037
01:18:16,210 --> 01:18:18,010
Sorry.

1038
01:18:18,790 --> 01:18:24,550
My name is Jesse Deer In Water, member
of Citizen's Resistance at Fermi two.

1039
01:18:25,030 --> 01:18:29,420
We oppose the operation of the Fermi two
nuclear reactor in Monroe, Michigan.

1040
01:18:29,440 --> 01:18:33,310
We'd like to see it closed and the energy
produced by it, be produced by renewable

1041
01:18:33,310 --> 01:18:39,460
resources, preferably rooftop solar,
potentially microgrid, community ownership,

1042
01:18:39,460 --> 01:18:46,180
however that looks. But along
that process and in that realm, I

1043

01:18:46,180 --> 01:18:51,430
do a lot of work and am a survivor of what
is now Superfund site, was a uranium

1044
01:18:51,430 --> 01:18:58,300
processing plant. I do a lot of work,
in the nuclear, and against nuclear,

1045
01:18:58,300 --> 01:19:01,630
I guess you might ask, and some of the

1046
01:19:03,080 --> 01:19:07,930
some of the stuff to me,
what I'm seeing here is

1047
01:19:08,600 --> 01:19:15,290
interesting, of course, but I'm also
wondering why the... if this agency like...

1048
01:19:15,290 --> 01:19:23,000
currently the NRC is reviewing their
executive order in their policy statement on

1049
01:19:23,750 --> 01:19:25,970
environmental justice from like 2004.

1050
01:19:26,510 --> 01:19:29,990
They're doing basically what you got.

1051
01:19:30,020 --> 01:19:31,060
Well, what's going on here?

1052
01:19:31,070 --> 01:19:37,310
The same thing. It just seems
like it's taking a lot of energy away from

1053

01:19:37,310 --> 01:19:42,200
the people on the ground who are involved
with multiple agencies to do this.

1054
01:19:42,200 --> 01:19:45,180
I don't think I'm probably the...

1055
01:19:45,200 --> 01:19:50,120
I doubt I'm the only one here who's dealing
with the multiple agencies on different

1056
01:19:50,120 --> 01:19:52,520
levels and especially on this EJ thing.

1057
01:19:54,200 --> 01:20:01,110
I'm just wondering what kind of work is
going to be happening between the

1058
01:20:01,130 --> 01:20:03,830
agencies in order to...

1059
01:20:05,900 --> 01:20:09,800
for each to be held accountable for things
that are across the board.

1060
01:20:13,590 --> 01:20:21,600
whether it be uranium cleanups
or litigating environmental

1061
01:20:21,600 --> 01:20:27,000
justice, and before, the Atomic Safety, Safety
and Licensing Board submitting contentions

1062
01:20:27,000 --> 01:20:33,390
that surround environmental justice,
how are the agencies going to be holding

1063

01:20:33,390 --> 01:20:36,900

each other accountable for these things,
especially whenever they cross over into

1064

01:20:36,900 --> 01:20:41,440

multiple turfs or whatever you want to call it?

1065

01:20:42,580 --> 01:20:46,660

Even though it should be under all one wing,
there should be a central EJ thing

1066

01:20:46,660 --> 01:20:51,670

that applies to all of you in the government
agencies, not all of you, but I mean all of

1067

01:20:51,670 --> 01:20:53,230

the government agencies.

1068

01:20:54,970 --> 01:20:59,510

That's not the only question I have
right now, I'm new to you guys'

1069

01:20:59,510 --> 01:21:04,670

process and things that are going on, I
haven't been involved as much in this

1070

01:21:04,670 --> 01:21:11,030

EPA process, so I don't have as much input
or specific questions to ask, but that's the

1071

01:21:11,030 --> 01:21:13,190

general one I'd like to ask to start with.

1072

01:21:15,680 --> 01:21:16,320

Victoria Robinson: Chitra?

1073

01:21:16,320 --> 01:21:21,070

Chitra Kumar: I can share a couple of thoughts with regard to your point.

1074

01:21:21,370 --> 01:21:26,740

I mean, first, just want to thank you for your comment and acknowledge that working

1075

01:21:26,740 --> 01:21:29,720

across agencies is a challenge.

1076

01:21:29,770 --> 01:21:35,590

I mean, federal government is quite large and has a lot of different statutory

1077

01:21:35,680 --> 01:21:37,440

requirements that we have to follow.

1078

01:21:37,450 --> 01:21:40,960

A lot of it is based on what Congress has told us to do.

1079

01:21:41,650 --> 01:21:47,920

Oftentimes, like with the executive orders the President Biden put

1080

01:21:47,920 --> 01:21:53,380

forward, with all these interagency working groups, including on Justice 40, which you

1081

01:21:53,380 --> 01:21:54,640

heard about earlier.

1082

01:21:54,960 --> 01:22:00,880

Those are platforms for us to talk across agencies, also just setting the tone

1083

01:22:00,880 --> 01:22:04,600

for what their expectations are, and priorities are, helps the conversation move

1084

01:22:04,600 --> 01:22:13,540

forward, and get agency heads or department heads to focus in on the kinds of things that

1085

01:22:13,540 --> 01:22:15,220

you're asking for.

1086

01:22:15,670 --> 01:22:20,950

That said, there are always these regulatory or statutory requirements that we struggle

1087

01:22:20,950 --> 01:22:28,870

with as career folks who are trying to make it so, and meet the needs that communities are

1088

01:22:28,870 --> 01:22:30,520

bringing forward to us.

1089

01:22:30,550 --> 01:22:38,500

The important thing, I think, is you all playing the outside game and sharing as

1090

01:22:38,500 --> 01:22:45,100

many places as you can, raising the questions and concerns you have

1091

01:22:45,940 --> 01:22:48,200

because the squeaky wheel does get the grease.

1092

01:22:48,550 --> 01:22:49,830

More than anything else.

1093

01:22:49,840 --> 01:22:55,150

Probably will get in trouble for
saying that out loud here in a

1094

01:22:55,150 --> 01:22:56,640

recorded setting.

1095

01:22:56,640 --> 01:22:58,560

[LAUGHTER]

1096

01:22:58,560 --> 01:23:02,350

But just thank you for
your thoughts and comments.

1097

01:23:04,540 --> 01:23:10,560

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Chitra.

Up next is David Lloyd,

1098

01:23:10,840 --> 01:23:12,740

are you able to unmute your line, David?

1099

01:23:23,680 --> 01:23:24,360

Go ahead, David.

1100

01:23:24,360 --> 01:23:25,510

David Lloyd: Does that work?

1101

01:23:25,510 --> 01:23:26,410

Victoria Robinson: Yes, it does.

1102

01:23:26,440 --> 01:23:28,060

David Lloyd: Okay, well,
thank you very much.

1103

01:23:28,060 --> 01:23:29,860

Thanks for the call.

1104

01:23:29,920 --> 01:23:35,200

I had just a point of clarification I wanted to be clear on, and Chitra can carry this

1105

01:23:35,200 --> 01:23:38,260

back to Matt. I put it in the chat as well.

1106

01:23:38,590 --> 01:23:46,180

Under the ARP, Matt had just suggested that [INAUDIBLE] had given us \$4 million.

1107

01:23:46,420 --> 01:23:52,690

Actually, we were appropriating \$5 million, but it's limited to, as Matt said, technical

1108

01:23:52,690 --> 01:23:56,590

assistance, but the reason I wanted to bring this comment up, as the

1109

01:23:56,590 --> 01:24:02,350

previous caller just a few minutes ago, was frustrated that money doesn't come

1110

01:24:02,350 --> 01:24:06,190

directly to, that resources have to go through multiple filters.

1111

01:24:06,670 --> 01:24:11,590

This money on our website, you'll see how to access it.

1112

01:24:12,040 --> 01:24:17,580

The Technical Assistance for Brownfields

program has \$5 million

1113

01:24:18,480 --> 01:24:24,210

committed to it, and any community can access the resources, they need technical

1114

01:24:24,210 --> 01:24:27,740

assistance on helping them get a site assessed, cleaned up,

1115

01:24:28,260 --> 01:24:33,280

help them look at EJ or contamination in an EJ community, etc.

1116

01:24:33,660 --> 01:24:36,570

They can use these providers to help them.

1117

01:24:36,930 --> 01:24:44,480

If you go to the brownfields website, EPA.gov\brownfields, you'll see right up front

1118

01:24:44,670 --> 01:24:48,860

Technical assistance, and under that section,

1119

01:24:49,040 --> 01:24:52,860

it will show you, depending on your geographic location,

1120

01:24:53,070 --> 01:24:57,120

which technical assistance provider you should reach out to and how to get those that

1121

01:24:57,120 --> 01:24:59,400

help. I just wanted to clarify it.

1122

01:24:59,400 --> 01:25:04,590

Not so much because of Matt's earlier comments, because they were definitely

1123

01:25:04,590 --> 01:25:06,600

consistent with the spirit of what Congress did.

1124

01:25:07,110 --> 01:25:12,680

But more from the caller that was frustrated about how to get these resources.

1125

01:25:12,900 --> 01:25:14,020

I just wanted to make that point.

1126

01:25:14,040 --> 01:25:14,580

Thank you.

1127

01:25:14,910 --> 01:25:16,500

Chitra Kumar: Thank you so much, David.

1128

01:25:16,650 --> 01:25:22,620

David is the Director of the Brownfield Land Revitalization Program.

1129

01:25:22,740 --> 01:25:28,110

Thank you for chiming in on that and making that clarification and also reminding

1130

01:25:28,110 --> 01:25:34,050

us to share that Brownfields is one of several pots of money that came through the

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01:25:34,050 --> 01:25:39,120

American Rescue Plan that are similar where we've given the money to a

1132

01:25:39,120 --> 01:25:42,150
program that provides technical assistance
to communities.

1133
01:25:42,150 --> 01:25:49,590
For example, our Office of Compliance has
the compliance assistance program that is

1134
01:25:50,430 --> 01:25:55,170
formally like a circuit rider program to
help with the drinking water issues in mostly

1135
01:25:55,170 --> 01:25:57,170
small communities, rural communities.

1136
01:25:57,180 --> 01:25:59,910
That's another one that's similar.

1137
01:25:59,940 --> 01:26:03,320
The community doesn't need to go through an
application process.

1138
01:26:03,330 --> 01:26:10,920
It's not a competitive grant process in the
way that Sheila was describing before.

1139
01:26:12,120 --> 01:26:18,900
Those are opportunities to access agency
support and resources and essentially through

1140
01:26:18,900 --> 01:26:19,980
an intermediary.

1141
01:26:20,760 --> 01:26:24,300
There are a few others like that within
the ARP.

1142

01:26:24,630 --> 01:26:25,950

Thanks, David.

1143

01:26:28,530 --> 01:26:30,360

Victoria Robinson: All right. Thank you, Chitra.

1144

01:26:30,960 --> 01:26:37,760

Next up is, Leona, I'm
going to ask you to unmute.

1145

01:26:38,670 --> 01:26:40,590

Are you able to unmute your line, Leona?

1146

01:26:40,840 --> 01:26:42,180

There you go, Leona. Go ahead.

1147

01:26:42,900 --> 01:26:48,430

Leona: Thank you. I'm
from the Navajo Nation.

1148

01:26:48,570 --> 01:26:56,340

I am [UNINTELLIGIBLE], right now, there's one
particular issue I want to focus on, but it

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01:26:56,340 --> 01:27:00,690

points to a larger national problem of
abandoned uranium mines.

1150

01:27:01,830 --> 01:27:10,890

Right now in the community where there's
a current license application proposal that's

1151

01:27:11,580 --> 01:27:13,140

going through the NRC,

1152

01:27:13,560 --> 01:27:17,460
this is very much related to the previous
caller to what Jesse was talking about.

1153
01:27:18,460 --> 01:27:26,020
On Navajo, we have cleanup going on, and I'm
a community person, I'm actually an

1154
01:27:26,050 --> 01:27:31,810
activist that doesn't live in the community,
but I am in touch with the community and the

1155
01:27:31,810 --> 01:27:34,560
tribal government, but I
don't represent the government.

1156
01:27:35,050 --> 01:27:41,640
Right now, there are five agencies charged
to do cleanup on the Navajo Nation, and they

1157
01:27:41,640 --> 01:27:44,370
have released a 10 year cleanup plan.

1158
01:27:44,850 --> 01:27:46,140
That's a whole another thing.

1159
01:27:46,140 --> 01:27:47,820
I don't think there's funding there.

1160
01:27:48,000 --> 01:27:53,610
We need funding for all of the abandoned
uranium mines, and this is a larger issue

1161
01:27:54,360 --> 01:27:55,610
that can be discussed.

1162

01:27:55,620 --> 01:28:01,710

But the specific one I want to share is that there's five agencies doing this clean up

1163

01:28:01,710 --> 01:28:07,410

plan overall, for 524 mines. For this one

1164

01:28:07,410 --> 01:28:14,190

particular mine, it's related to a mill site and that's where the NRC comes in because

1165

01:28:14,190 --> 01:28:16,230

they deal with mill sites.

1166

01:28:16,470 --> 01:28:23,490

The community there, they have been working with, I believe an EPA representative

1167

01:28:23,490 --> 01:28:31,020

and others for years, stating the same thing over and over, how the cleanup of the mine is

1168

01:28:31,020 --> 01:28:32,640

going to impact their community.

1169

01:28:32,640 --> 01:28:35,030

This is not the way to go about it.

1170

01:28:35,040 --> 01:28:42,000

The current proposal is to move the mine waste on top of mill waste, where there was a

1171

01:28:42,000 --> 01:28:43,980

big spill back in 1979,

1172

01:28:43,980 --> 01:28:47,760

and that'll impact. There's a larger issue here, but what's going on is

1173

01:28:48,560 --> 01:28:54,020

the Navajo Nation government and the community are trying to work with the NRC

1174

01:28:54,020 --> 01:28:56,780

because they're the one dealing with the license application.

1175

01:28:56,960 --> 01:29:02,780

But at the same time, the Navajo Nation government doesn't have any decision making

1176

01:29:02,780 --> 01:29:07,280

authority when it comes to clean up decisions with the EPA.

1177

01:29:07,310 --> 01:29:08,540

This is region nine.

1178

01:29:08,720 --> 01:29:14,240

I'm wondering, as a community person, I'm not sure the avenues when the community

1179

01:29:14,240 --> 01:29:19,170

itself has already been working, actively engaged for years.

1180

01:29:19,190 --> 01:29:21,230

Here I come in as an advocate.

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01:29:21,230 --> 01:29:24,830

I've been watching this issue also for at least the last eight years.

1182

01:29:25,340 --> 01:29:32,650

This is what's happening now is the NRC is pushing for this proposal and it's

1183

01:29:32,660 --> 01:29:35,320

really bad plan and even the Navajo Nation government

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01:29:35,600 --> 01:29:40,670

I'm sorry, the President of the Navajo Nation has said this is not a good idea. yet.

1185

01:29:40,700 --> 01:29:45,770

What I understand is we are not give... the government to government relationship is one

1186

01:29:45,770 --> 01:29:51,740

thing, and what I'm told is the Navajo Nation is not privy to all of the documents

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01:29:51,740 --> 01:29:57,080

and doesn't have the ability to make engineering decisions because of some of the lack of

1188

01:29:57,080 --> 01:30:02,120

information, so it's really frustrating because I know my own government officials

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01:30:02,120 --> 01:30:05,780

have already been addressing this at their level, and I'm just relaying this

1190

01:30:05,780 --> 01:30:10,310

information again because it has to do with a very large problem.

1191

01:30:10,310 --> 01:30:16,540

This particular situation has a public deadline of October 31st, I believe.

1192

01:30:16,550 --> 01:30:18,830

That's the situation.

1193

01:30:18,830 --> 01:30:22,640

I don't expect a full answer today, but I'm wondering what can be done and how can we

1194

01:30:22,640 --> 01:30:28,370

advocate when we see this problem that's years old and is not being addressed and the

1195

01:30:28,370 --> 01:30:33,320

community is not being listened to every time they input about the plan?

1196

01:30:33,350 --> 01:30:38,000

Then again, on another level, the Navajo Nation government is also not being listened to.

1197

01:30:38,430 --> 01:30:39,020

Thank you.

1198

01:30:42,840 --> 01:30:44,860

Sheila Lewis: Wow. Well, thank you, Leona.

1199

01:30:48,690 --> 01:30:57,930

I think the challenges often in this area

1200

01:30:58,440 --> 01:31:00,720

is often challenging.

1201

01:31:01,170 --> 01:31:08,580

I know that oftentimes perhaps an opportunity to bring all the different

1202

01:31:08,580 --> 01:31:14,730
parties together is helpful in getting understanding about what's going on in this

1203

01:31:14,730 --> 01:31:15,960
particular area.

1204

01:31:16,110 --> 01:31:25,580
Unfortunately, I don't have any specific answers. We can reach out to our region nine

1205

01:31:25,590 --> 01:31:33,330
colleagues to find out if there is an opportunity to get a better understanding of

1206

01:31:33,330 --> 01:31:40,200
what the issues are and indicate that the community has some questions.

1207

01:31:40,200 --> 01:31:44,610
I know that often OEJ

1208

01:31:44,640 --> 01:31:52,080
has offered some assistance and facilitating and bringing together the various

1209

01:31:52,080 --> 01:32:01,290
stakeholders in a space so that everybody can understand what's going on and help

1210

01:32:01,290 --> 01:32:09,960
to get to a place where if there continues to be issues that need

1211

01:32:09,960 --> 01:32:11,640
resolution, we can do that.

1212

01:32:12,930 --> 01:32:19,710
It sounds a little bit maybe we have
an opportunity to have maybe

1213

01:32:20,130 --> 01:32:22,890
work to coordinate some conversations.

1214

01:32:23,430 --> 01:32:27,960
If you could include your contact
information in the chat,

1215

01:32:28,410 --> 01:32:36,690
I'll be happy to connect with our folks in
the region, not only the EJ people, but our

1216

01:32:37,020 --> 01:32:38,310
tribal folks.

1217

01:32:38,640 --> 01:32:43,650
We have a staff in OEJ

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01:32:43,650 --> 01:32:49,390
that works a lot with tribal governments as
well as tribal communities.

1219

01:32:49,500 --> 01:32:58,650
They have to help navigate those spaces
where the community is needing

1220

01:32:58,650 --> 01:33:04,080
additional information from their government
as well as from the federal government.

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01:33:04,920 --> 01:33:12,750

I don't have an answer for you today, but certainly willing to help, work with getting

1222

01:33:12,750 --> 01:33:13,980

you a response.

1223

01:33:14,790 --> 01:33:16,380

Leona: Thank you.

1224

01:33:16,410 --> 01:33:17,940

I put my information in the chat.

1225

01:33:19,170 --> 01:33:20,400

Sheila Lewis: Okay, thank you.

1226

01:33:23,370 --> 01:33:24,780

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Leona.

1227

01:33:24,780 --> 01:33:28,840

I'm going to try
Jeri Fry one more time.

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01:33:28,950 --> 01:33:30,950

I know that she's been having difficulty.

1229

01:33:30,960 --> 01:33:36,150

Apparently she's unmuted on her end, but we don't hear anything.

1230

01:33:36,150 --> 01:33:38,820

Jeri, can you try it again?

1231

01:33:42,760 --> 01:33:46,300

We're not hearing you, so I'm not quite

sure what the issue is.

1232

01:33:48,070 --> 01:33:55,690

You may need to type your question into the Q&A pod and we can have it read out if

1233

01:33:55,690 --> 01:33:57,280

we can't continue to hear you.

1234

01:33:58,180 --> 01:34:04,680

In the meantime, I'm going to move to Maritza.

1235

01:34:06,700 --> 01:34:10,180

Going ahead and have you unmute your line.

1236

01:34:12,460 --> 01:34:14,140

Maritza: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] greetings.

1237

01:34:14,740 --> 01:34:17,360

Thank you, everyone with EPA,

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01:34:17,360 --> 01:34:22,780

for making yourselves available and attempting to increase

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01:34:22,780 --> 01:34:26,710

community engagement through these listening sessions here.

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01:34:27,190 --> 01:34:31,180

I'm with Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples.

1241

01:34:31,210 --> 01:34:36,270

We are an environmental justice organization

based in Tongva

1242

01:34:36,270 --> 01:34:41,590

[UNINTELLIGIBLE] that's unceded Tongva Territory, otherwise known as Los Angeles.

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01:34:42,280 --> 01:34:49,180

The reason that I felt it necessary to share a little bit about our concerns as an

1244

01:34:49,480 --> 01:34:58,330

organization that is framed around indigenous issues, local issues, and

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01:34:58,330 --> 01:35:06,310

specifically with non federally recognized tribes and working with federally

1246

01:35:06,310 --> 01:35:13,550

recognized is that we have the situation here in Los Angeles, where the L.A.

1247

01:35:13,570 --> 01:35:17,230

River is massively concretized.

1248

01:35:18,610 --> 01:35:28,210

Although there are some sincere efforts by the state to engage indigenous folks

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01:35:28,210 --> 01:35:35,880

in improving access to the

1250

01:35:35,880 --> 01:35:44,740

L.A. River through tribal beneficial uses. What is concerning to us is that because this

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01:35:44,740 --> 01:35:52,510
river is so concretized, local indigenous
folks may not have access to certain areas

1252
01:35:52,510 --> 01:35:56,680
for ceremonial use or for maritime use.

1253
01:35:57,370 --> 01:36:06,190
What we're wondering is with the EPA
understanding the leverage that they have

1254
01:36:06,190 --> 01:36:16,060
in expediting processes such as
de-concretizing L.A. river

1255
01:36:16,540 --> 01:36:24,610
or dams, just like is being done with the Yurok
territories of Northern California in 2023.

1256
01:36:24,820 --> 01:36:33,070
How can the EPA assist us in our efforts to
possibly make that happen?

1257
01:36:33,430 --> 01:36:38,020
in areas I know, I understand it's a
lot more complicated because you have

1258
01:36:38,020 --> 01:36:41,050
surrounding communities that
live by the L.A. River,

1259
01:36:41,050 --> 01:36:44,710
and it would require a lot more
discussion and planning.

1260
01:36:44,710 --> 01:36:50,710
But considering that the EPA's roles and

responsibilities are to, in some of the key

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01:36:50,710 --> 01:37:00,700

issues are to ensure that there is clean water and accessible water

1262

01:37:01,000 --> 01:37:05,290

and safe drinking water for communities.

1263

01:37:05,590 --> 01:37:11,140

We feel that as an indigenous organization, we need to have access to clean water once

1264

01:37:11,140 --> 01:37:18,100

again, and in order for that to happen, you have to de-concretize the rivers, free them

1265

01:37:18,100 --> 01:37:21,970

from being encaged due to development.

1266

01:37:22,210 --> 01:37:26,590

That's basically what we're looking at.

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01:37:26,590 --> 01:37:31,420

We're wondering what are some of the ways that you can streamline the process to

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01:37:31,420 --> 01:37:39,910

expedite these actions in protecting our watersheds because we know that water is very

1269

01:37:39,910 --> 01:37:47,830

sacred, but it is also very contaminated and there is a lot less water due to development

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01:37:47,830 --> 01:37:54,310

projects. That's basically what I would like to share on behalf of Sacred Places

1271

01:37:54,310 --> 01:37:56,110
Institute for Indigenous People.

1272

01:37:56,530 --> 01:37:58,400
Thank you, [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

1273

01:38:01,740 --> 01:38:04,050
Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Maritza.
Chitra, Sheila.

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01:38:09,360 --> 01:38:11,790
I'll just say thanks for the comments.

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01:38:12,120 --> 01:38:14,440
It's important to hear those kinds of thoughts.

1276

01:38:15,510 --> 01:38:25,140
The L.A. River, over decades, we've had some various programs that we've fed

1277

01:38:25,140 --> 01:38:29,850
into for addressing environmental justice.

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01:38:29,850 --> 01:38:35,160
I think when you say de-concretizing, it's

1279

01:38:36,230 --> 01:38:44,330
taking out the concrete from the river and making it flow again, I think that's a long

1280

01:38:44,330 --> 01:38:48,290
standing issue that a number of agencies have worked on and then the issue of trying

1281

01:38:48,290 --> 01:38:54,290

to do that in other places as well just are huge lifts and require a ton of coordination

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01:38:54,290 --> 01:38:58,310

between all the agencies, and I hear you, that it's important.

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01:38:58,310 --> 01:39:02,600

I don't have anything more to add on this specifically.

1284

01:39:02,780 --> 01:39:11,840

We can look into this more and see what we can do from there.

1285

01:39:12,740 --> 01:39:13,940

Sheila, anything you want to add?

1286

01:39:16,350 --> 01:39:25,860

Sheila Lewis: I agree with you that it is a very complex situation, and I think to the extent

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01:39:25,860 --> 01:39:33,390

that the community is involved, and make sure that you're involved and aware of what's

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01:39:33,390 --> 01:39:40,680

happening around city planning and any kind of other

1289

01:39:43,920 --> 01:39:49,100

developmental issues that are going on in the city.

1290

01:39:49,460 --> 01:39:59,090
I think it's going to be something
that will be an effort that will

1291
01:39:59,090 --> 01:40:05,340
require involvement by a number of different
partners in this space.

1292
01:40:05,360 --> 01:40:10,460
Not only EPA, but it's going to involve the
city, and county, and state.

1293
01:40:10,460 --> 01:40:16,040
It's important, I think, for the community
to be connected to what's happening

1294
01:40:16,040 --> 01:40:20,180
locally, where they can get involved and
perhaps influence it.

1295
01:40:20,180 --> 01:40:29,960
Then as you do that, perhaps the EPA can
assist with providing you input

1296
01:40:30,170 --> 01:40:37,400
when certain local environmental issues
arise or actions happen to support what

1297
01:40:37,400 --> 01:40:38,720
you're trying to accomplish.

1298
01:40:39,200 --> 01:40:48,950
Certainly, I would suggest you reach out
to the local EJ coordinator and the EPA

1299
01:40:49,310 --> 01:40:53,960
EJ local coordinator in Region

nine and work with them.

1300

01:40:55,150 --> 01:41:01,300

I think that information is available on our website, and we can certainly offer it in

1301

01:41:01,540 --> 01:41:06,790

the information that we provide as a follow up to our engagement call.

1302

01:41:09,230 --> 01:41:13,800

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Sheila, we'll be putting in the points of contact, EJ

1303

01:41:13,820 --> 01:41:16,040

Coordinator, points of contact for regions.

1304

01:41:16,130 --> 01:41:17,990

You said six and nine, correct?

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01:41:21,550 --> 01:41:25,690

We will go ahead and put those in there before the call is over.

1306

01:41:26,230 --> 01:41:31,260

All right. Let's see, I'm gonna go ahead and give Jeri one more try.

1307

01:41:31,540 --> 01:41:34,980

She has tried to fix it and if not, then she can go ahead and write her question

1308

01:41:34,980 --> 01:41:37,680

in the Q&A pod and we'll read it from there.

1309

01:41:37,680 --> 01:41:40,530

Jeri, are you able to speak now?

1310

01:41:44,960 --> 01:41:46,670

We can't hear you.

1311

01:41:48,380 --> 01:41:50,180

Doesn't look like it.

1312

01:41:50,390 --> 01:41:56,330

All right, we had Carlos Torres.

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01:41:57,350 --> 01:41:58,670

Are you able to unmute your line?

1314

01:42:00,500 --> 01:42:02,060

Carlos Torres: Yes. Good afternoon.

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01:42:02,150 --> 01:42:03,830

Thank you.

1316

01:42:04,730 --> 01:42:08,630

My name is Carlos Torres, I'm the Director
for the Office of Environmental Health and

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01:42:08,630 --> 01:42:11,880

Safety with Los Angeles

Unified School District.

1318

01:42:12,170 --> 01:42:16,520

I just want to talk to you very quickly,
briefly, about an environmental racial

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01:42:16,520 --> 01:42:22,430

injustice issue that's plaguing a school in
the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, which

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01:42:22,430 --> 01:42:26,330

is a lower income, socio-economically challenged community.

1321

01:42:27,350 --> 01:42:32,060

This is really, when it comes down to it, is a historical incompatible use issue.

1322

01:42:32,510 --> 01:42:39,740

What we have is a Atlas Metals as a scrap metal recycler that is fence line with

1323

01:42:39,740 --> 01:42:47,030

Jordan High School, and we've had a history of dangerous conditions posed by that site.

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01:42:47,360 --> 01:42:50,990

The history of dangerous projectiles that have flown over onto the school site.

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01:42:50,990 --> 01:42:55,730

In the last year alone, we've had 25 different projectiles fly over, metal

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01:42:55,730 --> 01:42:58,520

projectiles, some small,

1327

01:43:00,340 --> 01:43:05,770

maybe hurt someone, some that can maybe kill someone over the last year

1328

01:43:05,770 --> 01:43:08,200

or so that we've been looking at this.

1329

01:43:08,290 --> 01:43:14,440

We have documented land impacts to school

grounds, including classrooms, violations of

1330

01:43:14,440 --> 01:43:19,480

hazardous waste management and stormwater
regs, evidence of acceptance of materials

1331

01:43:19,480 --> 01:43:23,310

that have [UNINTELLIGIBLE]
in them. Mostly,

1332

01:43:23,380 --> 01:43:29,050

Most recently, although, may not be EPA
related, but just so you know, they

1333

01:43:29,380 --> 01:43:34,450

put a wall of shipping containers, three
shipping containers high around the facility

1334

01:43:35,560 --> 01:43:39,100

most likely to prevent those projectiles
from coming over.

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01:43:39,130 --> 01:43:44,360

But it's been evaluated by
independent engineers.

1336

01:43:44,360 --> 01:43:47,130

Now, it's a danger if they fall over.

1337

01:43:47,140 --> 01:43:48,520

It can possibly kill.

1338

01:43:48,670 --> 01:43:52,720

It would damage our property or kill somebody
because they're so close to our property

1339

01:43:52,720 --> 01:43:59,440
line. Just to quantify the financial
impact of this dangerous operation, the school

1340
01:43:59,440 --> 01:44:07,360
district has had to take money
that would normally go for education,

1341
01:44:07,360 --> 01:44:12,900
and we've spent millions of dollars doing clean
ups over the years related to this facility.

1342
01:44:13,170 --> 01:44:18,490
I'm also concerned that Atlas could go
out of business and abandon the property with

1343
01:44:18,490 --> 01:44:21,270
the years of unmitigated contamination.

1344
01:44:21,640 --> 01:44:26,340
For the sake of public safety and
avoid what I think will be an inevitable

1345
01:44:26,340 --> 01:44:31,020
Superfund site, the action is really
needed now.

1346
01:44:31,140 --> 01:44:37,710
We've had some limited action from local
and state agencies, even some from...

1347
01:44:37,710 --> 01:44:40,440
a little bit of interest from local
environmental justice groups.

1348
01:44:40,590 --> 01:44:47,130
But I'd really like to know how the EPA could

assist with protecting student and community

1349

01:44:47,130 --> 01:44:49,600

health because this
really is an imminent danger.

1350

01:44:50,280 --> 01:44:56,310

I would appreciate any guidance
I can get on how to access Fed EPA staff

1351

01:44:56,310 --> 01:45:00,840

assistance. I hear a lot of conversations
about grants and other resources.

1352

01:45:01,530 --> 01:45:06,330

We just need some guidance because
in my twenty five years of the district, I've

1353

01:45:06,330 --> 01:45:08,160

dealt with many different issues,

1354

01:45:08,310 --> 01:45:11,900

This is by far the one that keeps me up at night.

1355

01:45:11,940 --> 01:45:16,010

I'm constantly worried about this particular
one, I appreciate your time.

1356

01:45:16,030 --> 01:45:20,280

Appreciate what everyone's doing here on
this call, and I appreciate the assistance

1357

01:45:20,280 --> 01:45:20,940

you can provide.

1358

01:45:25,470 --> 01:45:27,000

Sheila Lewis: Thank you, Carlos.

1359

01:45:27,150 --> 01:45:32,960

Again, I would recommend, and Chitra,
you certainly chime in after,

1360

01:45:32,960 --> 01:45:34,960

I would recommend that you

1361

01:45:35,010 --> 01:45:43,860

contact the EJ coordinator in Region nine,
the EJ coordinators are there as an advocate

1362

01:45:43,860 --> 01:45:52,200

for communities and to EPA, so they
should be there to help get you

1363

01:45:52,200 --> 01:45:57,990

information. I'm not familiar with
the permitting requirements with this

1364

01:45:57,990 --> 01:46:04,590

facility and the delegated authority
between EPA and the state and

1365

01:46:04,590 --> 01:46:06,270

who's responsible for what.

1366

01:46:06,270 --> 01:46:14,190

But however, the dangers, that seem to be the
dangerous situation, that seem to exist there

1367

01:46:14,190 --> 01:46:18,120

from time to time is untenable.

1368

01:46:18,120 --> 01:46:25,830

At the very least, that should be brought to the attention of EPA.

1369

01:46:26,340 --> 01:46:32,490

Then we need to find out what are the remedies, what are the options for any

1370

01:46:32,490 --> 01:46:38,700

remedies? The EJ coordinator should be able to help you with starting

1371

01:46:38,700 --> 01:46:46,620

to identify some of that information so that you can figure out what recourse you

1372

01:46:46,620 --> 01:46:50,640

have. Then perhaps they can also assist with that.

1373

01:46:50,640 --> 01:46:55,350

I would suggest starting with the EJ coordinator in Region nine.

1374

01:46:58,340 --> 01:47:04,280

Victoria Robinson: I'd be adding that information as an answer into the Q&A pod.

1375

01:47:04,280 --> 01:47:06,600

[CROSSTALK]

1376

01:47:06,600 --> 01:47:13,880

Sheila Lewis: Then they can also point to, maybe identify other EPA colleagues

1377

01:47:13,880 --> 01:47:19,400

that would also be able to help with figuring out what needs to happen in this case.

1378

01:47:22,350 --> 01:47:24,070

That would be my suggestion.

1379

01:47:24,730 --> 01:47:25,480

Victoria Robinson: Thank you.

1380

01:47:25,480 --> 01:47:28,080

Anything to add?

Okay, great, Chitra.

1381

01:47:29,320 --> 01:47:33,670

Jeri still wasn't able to speak, but she put in her comment in the Q&A

1382

01:47:33,670 --> 01:47:39,220

pod. She says, I am co-founder of Colorado Citizens Against Toxic Waste,

1383

01:47:39,250 --> 01:47:45,040

established 2002. We brought in EPA to help our community by way of Community Advisory

1384

01:47:45,040 --> 01:47:48,640

Group to address our 37 year old Superfund site.

1385

01:47:48,910 --> 01:47:53,720

We are able to meet with EPA and the CDEHE monthly.

1386

01:47:53,830 --> 01:47:59,620

We also have used the Technical Advisory Grant Tag and the task programs.

1387

01:47:59,830 --> 01:48:04,780

She says these are great tools for

communities, and I think that was

1388

01:48:04,810 --> 01:48:10,990

offered as a way for individuals to understand that there are some of the other

1389

01:48:10,990 --> 01:48:18,250

different options that are available to them within the context use tapping different

1390

01:48:18,250 --> 01:48:20,470

aspects of what the agency has to offer.

1391

01:48:20,860 --> 01:48:23,590

Did you want to add anything to that Chitra or Sheila?

1392

01:48:28,980 --> 01:48:30,880

Chitra Kumar: It's a good comment, thank you.

1393

01:48:31,360 --> 01:48:34,090

Thank you for sharing your experience on how it's worked for you on the outside.

1394

01:48:34,090 --> 01:48:39,730

It's one thing for us to say it from here and offer suggestions, but to hear from

1395

01:48:39,730 --> 01:48:44,320

someone who's actually used the assistance and it's been helpful,

1396

01:48:44,650 --> 01:48:49,420

Sounds like truly helpful to them, that is even better.

1397

01:48:50,350 --> 01:48:51,580

Thanks for that comment.

1398

01:48:53,140 --> 01:48:57,490

Victoria Robinson: She would like to add, and this will be the last comment before we move on to the

1399

01:48:57,490 --> 01:48:59,990

next phase of our meeting, she asked,

1400

01:49:00,010 --> 01:49:04,900

She says if the White House is becoming the clearinghouse with executive order,

1401

01:49:04,930 --> 01:49:10,120

14008, that puts a lot of power in the control of the elected party.

1402

01:49:10,330 --> 01:49:15,580

What checks will there be in the long term to keep environmental justice blind to

1403

01:49:15,580 --> 01:49:18,200

protect the justice from being politically weaponized?

1404

01:49:23,480 --> 01:49:29,540

Chitra Kumar: I'll start, and I welcome Sheila to respond as well, and this is not

1405

01:49:29,540 --> 01:49:31,750

the first time we've had a question like that.

1406

01:49:31,790 --> 01:49:37,550

I think I've heard Matt Tejada respond to one of these is like, we're doing our best to

1407

01:49:37,880 --> 01:49:43,910

take the ideas that are in these executive order and embed them in agency processes like

1408

01:49:43,910 --> 01:49:48,140

the strategic plan. Once they're in a strategic plan,

1409

01:49:48,140 --> 01:49:55,640

once there are established federal employees whose job it is to protect these

1410

01:49:57,020 --> 01:49:58,790

and work on these issues,

1411

01:49:58,790 --> 01:50:05,930

It's much harder to unravel in the same way that an executive order is because we know

1412

01:50:05,930 --> 01:50:12,710

from this pendulum swinging and political parties changing that it's very easy to just

1413

01:50:12,710 --> 01:50:15,320

write a new executive order and undo the progress.

1414

01:50:15,440 --> 01:50:21,530

The other thing that we are mindful of and thinking about is how do we increase the

1415

01:50:21,530 --> 01:50:25,070

transparency of everything we're doing?

1416

01:50:25,070 --> 01:50:31,400

There's more information out to you in
the public to be able to know and hold us

1417

01:50:31,400 --> 01:50:36,320
accountable for the progress that you want
to see made through

1418

01:50:36,320 --> 01:50:38,960
federal government and
through all of these programs.

1419

01:50:40,820 --> 01:50:42,920
Those are a few answers.

1420

01:50:42,920 --> 01:50:48,140
I think as we move forward over the next
few years, I think it's important to keep

1421

01:50:48,140 --> 01:50:49,820
exploring other options.

1422

01:50:50,030 --> 01:50:51,710
I welcome Sheila to chime in.

1423

01:50:52,670 --> 01:50:53,710
Sheila Lewis: Great.

1424

01:50:54,200 --> 01:51:01,130
The only thing I would add along with
that is embedding the environmental justice

1425

01:51:01,820 --> 01:51:09,400
principles into the programmatic work of all
the programs in the agency.

1426

01:51:09,410 --> 01:51:17,090

The hope is with this additional work that other agencies are doing that were

1427

01:51:17,480 --> 01:51:20,960

alluded to earlier that they are doing the same.

1428

01:51:21,110 --> 01:51:27,200

It becomes an integral part of how the agency does its business.

1429

01:51:27,590 --> 01:51:36,920

In addition to being able to identify the environmental

1430

01:51:36,920 --> 01:51:43,520

justice effort going on in the agency and in the government as a whole.

1431

01:51:45,560 --> 01:51:47,720

Victoria Robinson: All right.

Thank you very much.

1432

01:51:47,900 --> 01:51:51,590

We're going to move on to the last portion of our presentation.

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01:51:51,710 --> 01:51:59,630

I want to go ahead and re-share the screen. This portion is an opportunity to talk about

1434

01:51:59,630 --> 01:52:05,060

upcoming opportunities to further engagement of you guys, EJ

1435

01:52:05,060 --> 01:52:11,480

advocates, state and local representatives and tribal government representatives.

1436

01:52:11,570 --> 01:52:15,590

One of the first things that we have is
we do have an EPA Environmental Justice

1437

01:52:15,590 --> 01:52:18,200

webinar series for
tribes and indigenous peoples.

1438

01:52:18,830 --> 01:52:23,490

I believe it's fourth or fifth session
is coming up, scheduled for October 19th.

1439

01:52:23,510 --> 01:52:28,640

It's part two of a traditional knowledge
focused webinar.

1440

01:52:28,670 --> 01:52:32,150

This one is specifically about tribal
governments and indigenous peoples

1441

01:52:32,150 --> 01:52:34,220

experiences with federal agencies.

1442

01:52:34,250 --> 01:52:37,800

It's a webinar on how federal agencies
should appropriately consider traditional

1443

01:52:37,800 --> 01:52:39,750

knowledge and decision making processes.

1444

01:52:39,780 --> 01:52:48,830

We will cut and paste these links into the Q&A
pod so that that will be available.

1445

01:52:50,270 --> 01:52:55,850

The second thing we do is that we every other month we are now doing public office

1446

01:52:55,850 --> 01:53:01,070

hours around using EPA's EJ screen mapping tool.

1447

01:53:01,580 --> 01:53:05,750

This next session is scheduled for October 20th, and it's an open discussion

1448

01:53:05,750 --> 01:53:06,840

open to the public.

1449

01:53:06,860 --> 01:53:09,980

It's an opportunity to learn more about environmental justice, as well as to get any

1450

01:53:09,980 --> 01:53:12,100

questions you may have answered.

1451

01:53:12,110 --> 01:53:14,590

if you have any...

1452

01:53:14,600 --> 01:53:21,050

For more information about EJ screen, you can go to EPA.gov/EJScreen for more information.

1453

01:53:22,270 --> 01:53:23,770

Let's see the next one.

1454

01:53:26,640 --> 01:53:32,340

Another opportunity is that there is the EJ for climate, environmental justice and

1455

01:53:32,340 --> 01:53:34,080

climate resilience grants.

1456

01:53:34,200 --> 01:53:38,610

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation is launching a

1457

01:53:38,610 --> 01:53:42,420

\$2 million grant program called EJ for Climate.

1458

01:53:42,510 --> 01:53:46,350

It's to support environmental justice and climate resilience for underserved,

1459

01:53:46,350 --> 01:53:49,650

vulnerable communities and indigenous communities across North America.

1460

01:53:49,770 --> 01:53:54,480

Now this is an international program commission.

1461

01:53:54,750 --> 01:53:58,980

This is with North America, which is Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

1462

01:53:59,550 --> 01:54:04,320

The program will provide funding directly to indigenous communities and community based

1463

01:54:04,320 --> 01:54:10,720

organizations to prepare for climate related impacts, and applications are due by November 14.

1464

01:54:10,720 --> 01:54:17,930

To learn more, you can go to www.CEC.org/EJ4Climate

1465

01:54:22,720 --> 01:54:25,090

The next opportunity is,

1466

01:54:26,970 --> 01:54:32,160

the brownfields job training grants have applications to do October 5th, that would be

1467

01:54:32,160 --> 01:54:36,780

next week. EPA is soliciting these applications to deliver brownfields job

1468

01:54:36,780 --> 01:54:41,970

training programs that recruit, train and place local, unemployed and underemployed

1469

01:54:41,970 --> 01:54:47,760

residents with the skills needed to secure long time employment across the spectrum of

1470

01:54:47,760 --> 01:54:49,590

brownfields related activities.

1471

01:54:49,980 --> 01:54:53,640

You can learn more about this opportunity and see about available resources

1472

01:54:53,640 --> 01:54:55,160

at the link on the screen, which is

1473

01:54:55,160 --> 01:55:04,710

www.EPA.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-jt-grants

1474

01:55:05,820 --> 01:55:09,960

Last but not least,

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01:55:10,710 --> 01:55:17,610

if you have questions specifically about Justice 40 at EPA, we have some points of

1476

01:55:17,610 --> 01:55:22,320

contact in our office who can help answer questions or direct you to the individuals

1477

01:55:22,320 --> 01:55:24,480

who can better give you the answers that you need.

1478

01:55:24,630 --> 01:55:25,950

[UNINTELLIGIBLE] Matt Tejada.

1479

01:55:27,330 --> 01:55:33,660

Tejada.Matthew@EPA.gov for stakeholder engagement questions

1480

01:55:33,960 --> 01:55:36,000

Around Justice 40,
Charles Lee and myself,

1481

01:55:36,420 --> 01:55:38,310

Victoria Robinson, are the two leads.

1482

01:55:38,310 --> 01:55:43,920

Lee.Charles@EPA.gov and
Robinson.Victoria@EPA.gov

1483

01:55:44,340 --> 01:55:47,880

If you have specific questions around Justice 40, the lead in our Office for

1484

01:55:47,880 --> 01:55:54,120

Justice 40 and the Interagency Council is
Nicolette Fertakis and her email address is

1485

01:55:54,120 --> 01:56:04,020

Fertakis.Nicolette@EPA.gov and she is

1486

01:56:04,020 --> 01:56:09,180

supported by Patrick Beckley
at Beckley.Patrick@EPA.gov

1487

01:56:16,290 --> 01:56:18,600

Last bit, our closing remarks.

1488

01:56:19,170 --> 01:56:25,170

Our next step is that we are going
to take a look at all the questions that have

1489

01:56:25,170 --> 01:56:32,580

been posed in the Q&A pod and we will do our
best to answer or find answers to these

1490

01:56:32,580 --> 01:56:37,500

questions or direct individuals to the right
people that you can pose your questions to.

1491

01:56:37,950 --> 01:56:39,930

We will be publishing within the week.

1492

01:56:39,930 --> 01:56:45,240

We'll be able to post the recording,

1493

01:56:45,240 --> 01:56:48,260

it'll take a little longer for the
transcript because it has to be

1494

01:56:48,260 --> 01:56:57,380

translated as well as cleaned up into actual language as opposed to the auto language that

1495

01:56:57,380 --> 01:57:00,200

the transcription services do on these systems.

1496

01:57:01,700 --> 01:57:05,580

We have our next National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

1497

01:57:05,580 --> 01:57:08,440

is scheduled in two weeks on October 12th.

1498

01:57:08,510 --> 01:57:12,240

Same time, same bat channel. 2 PM, on Zoom.

1499

01:57:12,240 --> 01:57:16,220

The focus on that will be the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act

1500

01:57:16,220 --> 01:57:21,200

DERA program and the corresponding Ports Initiative program that EPA has.

1501

01:57:21,200 --> 01:57:23,120

That should be an interesting topic.

1502

01:57:23,120 --> 01:57:28,280

If you have questions around and want to learn more about diesel

1503

01:57:28,280 --> 01:57:32,060

emissions, air programs, as well as the ports issues.

1504

01:57:32,810 --> 01:57:38,000

As Matt has mentioned before, we have a
EJ listserv and this instruction on the screen

1505

01:57:38,000 --> 01:57:43,940
about how to subscribe to the listserv,
how to follow us on Twitter and

1506

01:57:43,940 --> 01:57:49,960
to send up any follow up questions or
comments to environmental-justice@EPA.gov

1507

01:57:50,250 --> 01:57:53,690
I think we've got... it's about four
o'clock now.

1508

01:57:53,720 --> 01:58:00,200
As I said, we'll get back to you
with any comments or questions that you guys

1509

01:58:00,200 --> 01:58:06,770
had or point you to some individuals
who will be able to help you

1510

01:58:06,770 --> 01:58:11,420
more directly. I'll turn it back over to
you, Chitra and Sheila, for any final

1511

01:58:11,420 --> 01:58:12,440
comments or anything.

1512

01:58:17,490 --> 01:58:22,980
Chitra Kumar: I'll just end on a big thank you to all
of you who made this call happen and for all

1513

01:58:22,980 --> 01:58:27,240
of you for showing up and sharing your
thoughts and questions with us.

1514

01:58:28,650 --> 01:58:33,390

Like Matt said at the beginning, it's a lot of work for us and we know it's a lot of work

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01:58:33,390 --> 01:58:34,410

for you to do this.

1516

01:58:34,410 --> 01:58:37,170

It's really important too.

1517

01:58:38,340 --> 01:58:44,310

We hope that you've got something out of it and we can move the ball forward with all of

1518

01:58:44,310 --> 01:58:48,150

the initiatives that are focused on environmental justice in a positive way by

1519

01:58:48,150 --> 01:58:51,180

doing so. A big thank you to all.

1520

01:58:51,180 --> 01:58:56,400

I mean, a big thank you to Victoria, Christina Motilal, the folks behind the

1521

01:58:56,400 --> 01:59:03,510

scenes like Nicolette, and Patrick, and others you can't see but who are helping to make

1522

01:59:03,510 --> 01:59:04,710

this a success.

1523

01:59:05,070 --> 01:59:06,270

Who did I miss Sheila?

1524

01:59:07,080 --> 01:59:07,680

Charles.

1525

01:59:07,680 --> 01:59:12,180

Sheila Lewis: You've got everything and thanks all for... and continue to stay engaged.

1526

01:59:12,570 --> 01:59:19,770

Please share this information on the next call with others, and we look forward to

1527

01:59:19,770 --> 01:59:24,630

continuing this engagement, the conversation and getting your feedback.

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01:59:25,290 --> 01:59:26,460

We really appreciate it.

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01:59:27,440 --> 01:59:28,850

Chitra Kumar: Yes, very much.

1530

01:59:31,830 --> 01:59:32,730

Bye everybody.