

Introduction

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) is a federal advisory committee that was established by charter on September 30, 1993, to provide independent advice, consultation, and recommendations to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on matters related to environmental justice. Mr. Richard Moore continues to serve as the Chair of the Executive Council. Dr. Clarice Gaylord, EPA Office of the Environmental Justice (OEJ), continues to serve as the Designated Federal Official (DFO) for the Council.

To date, NEJAC has held six meetings. Public transcripts and summary reports of the proceedings of the meetings are maintained by OEJ and are available to the public upon request.

This Executive Summary provides highlights of the NEJAC's sixth meeting, held on December 12 through 14, 1995 in Washington, D.C. The Executive Council of NEJAC met on December 12 and 14, 1995. On December 13 and 14, 1995, twenty members of the Executive Council, along with an additional 25 individuals, participated in the deliberations of NEJAC's six subcommittees. Each NEJAC subcommittee met for a full day on December 13, 1995; five continued their deliberations through the morning of December 14, 1995.

Approximately 200 people attended the meetings conducted in Washington, D.C.

On the evening of December 12, 1995, the Executive Council hosted a public comment period that was broadcast live (with simultaneous translation) from two communities in Puerto Rico. Using a satellite downlink provided by the Black College Satellite Network, NEJAC members listened as approximately 300 residents of Puerto Rico attended the discussion.

In accordance with the bylaws of NEJAC, members elected candidates to chair the original committees, as well as to head the two new subcommittees. Table 1 contains a list of the persons elected to chair the six NEJAC subcommittees and the EPA staff appointed to serve as DFO for each of the subcommittees.

Table 1

NEJAC Chairs and DFOs
Executive Council: Mr. Richard Moore, Chair Dr. Clarice Gaylord, DFO
Enforcement Subcommittee: Ms. Deoohn Ferris, Chair Ms. Sherry Milan, DFO
Health and Research Subcommittee: Dr. Robert Bullard, Chair Mr. Lawrence Martin, DFO
Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee: Mr. Walter Bresette, Chair Ms. Elizabeth Bell, DFO
International Subcommittee: Mr. Baldemar Velasquez, Chair Ms. Lorraine Frigerio, DFO
Public Participation Subcommittee Ms. Peggy Saika, Chair Mr. Robert Knox, DFO
Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee Mr. Charles Lee, Chair Ms. Jan Young, DFO

OVERVIEW

Mr. Moore opened the meeting by welcoming participants and thanking OEJ and EPA for their commitment to resolve issues related to environmental justice. In fact, NEJAC would not exist, he stressed, were it not for the efforts of grassroots environmental justice groups, as well as the continued commitment of EPA. Mr. Moore reminded the audience that the environmental justice arena has faced many difficult years before NEJAC was formed.

Mr. Moore commented that environmental justice overlaps with and cannot be separated from discussions on such issues as California's Proposition 187, affirmative action, and other issues related to the economy and the workplace.

This was the first meeting at which the new subcommittees met. Dr. Gaylord discussed the creation of the subcommittees, explaining in particular why the NEJAC had waited two years before forming the two subcommittees. She briefly reviewed the activities of NEJAC, stating that issues related to indigenous peoples and environmental justice at the international level were among the council's early concerns in 1993.

Dr. Gaylord added that in 1995, concerns about indigenous peoples and environmental justice related to international issues were raised once again among members of the NEJAC. At the July 1995 meeting of the NEJAC Executive Council, members called for and approved the establishment of two new subcommittees, she continued, to address concerns related to international issues and indigenous peoples.

Common Themes

During the two-day meeting, the subcommittees discussed a wide-range of issues related to coordination of the activities of various federal agencies, involvement of state and local governments in the decision-making process of those agencies, possible duplication of effort among various programs, the effects of budget limitations on efforts to increase community involvement, and the roles of various grant programs.

Members of the six subcommittees called for improved coordination and communication between the six NEJAC subcommittees. The members recommended that the subcommittees share agendas, jointly develop agendas, and participate in joint discussions of common issues. Common issues include issues related to public participation, environmental quality in Puerto Rico, Indigenous Peoples, relocation, and air emissions trading.

NEJAC members, in acknowledging the current budget situation, examined ways for EPA and the Council to leverage resources within EPA and with other federal agencies. Specifically, members of subcommittees identified significant opportunities for collaboration with the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Discussions about the coordination between NEJAC

and other agencies included concern about the unclear relationship between NEJAC and the IWG. They noted that because the issues being addressed by NEJAC and IWG are "cross-cutting", a unique opportunity exists for NEJAC and IWG to work together, particularly with respect to efforts to "re-invent government."

NEJAC members also focused on examining current activities within EPA to empower local communities to participate in shaping policies that affect their health and environment. Presentations highlighted efforts to provide communities with better access to tools and information, community-based projects, and partnerships between EPA, the community, academia, business, and other federal agencies.

Many members pointed to the use of the satellite downlink to Puerto Rico as a test of NEJAC's model for public participation. NEJAC had worked with EPA and a coalition of 26 organizations located throughout Puerto Rico to develop and organize the event. Comments received during the downlink session focused on water quality issues, poor access to information, inadequate enforcement of environmental regulations, and a general lack of responsiveness from EPA.

NEJAC members expressed concern that federal agencies are using the absence of NEPA guidance as an excuse to "do nothing" in the area of environmental justice. They added that the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) had not addressed the matter adequately. Mr. Brad Campbell, CEQ, responded that his office appreciates the patience of NEJAC and is aware of the "collective unhappiness" NEJAC members feel about the IWG and CEQ. He stated that although it has been difficult to identify a communication mechanism that will not repeat some of the mistakes of the past, CEQ remains sincere in its commitment to environmental justice.

NEJAC members expressed concern about the process for awarding EPA grants. Examples include MIT and Tufts. Members called for a reexamination of the grants process, with particular emphasis on evaluating the participation of local communities in projects.

MEETING SUMMARIES

The following sections summarize the meetings of the six subcommittees.

Enforcement Subcommittee

The Enforcement Subcommittee of NEJAC conducted a two-day meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, December 13 and 14, 1995. During a meeting of the NEJAC Executive Council on December 12, 1995, Ms. Deeohn Ferris was reelected to serve as chair of the subcommittee. Ms. Sherry Milan, EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), continues to serve as DFO for the subcommittee.

The Enforcement Subcommittee was updated on issues related to the transfer of OEJ to the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and also was provided an update on the OECA budget. OEJ was transferred to OECA because of the multimedia nature of the office and because OEJ could draw upon the expertise and technical support of OECA. The transition has been occurring over the last four months and has been successful to date. Currently, OEJ is working with OECA to develop materials explaining the criminal enforcement process for public distribution, and to encourage the general public to interact with enforcement personnel who deal with environmental justice issues.

The subcommittee reviewed the activities in which the subcommittee had participated during 1995, including the development of the Subcommittee Report of Recommendations and the subcommittee work plan. The final draft of the Subcommittee Report is near completion and has been sent to OECA to ensure that recommendations are incorporated into the work plans of appropriate offices within OECA. Members of the subcommittee agreed that the recommendations made by the subcommittee in its report should be considered action items for OECA. The subcommittee work plan outlines specific projects that the Enforcement Subcommittee will undertake in the coming year. Three projects identified include examining issues related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and permitting, trading of air emissions credits and

offsets, and EPA's interim policy on Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP).

Several issues were raised during the satellite downlink with Puerto Rico that were or will be referred to the Enforcement Subcommittee for follow-up. Some of the major issues identified include the possibility of an EPA-sponsored commission of community groups to address the delegation of authority to agencies in Puerto Rico; issuance of areawide 404 permits; increased staff at the EPA Caribbean field office and lack of enforcement of environmental laws and regulations in Puerto Rico. Due to the cross-cutting nature of environmental justice concerns related to Puerto Rico, the members of the subcommittee recommended forming a task force, consisting of members representing all the subcommittees of NEJAC, to address issues related to Puerto Rico.

Members of the subcommittee discussed several specific environmental justice issues related to enforcement, such as the Louisiana Energy Service (LES) case and the Carver Terrace case. The LES case focuses attention on the question of the extent to which environmental justice concerns can be addressed within the NEPA process. The subcommittee pointed out that the case provides an opportunity to examine the extent to which existing regulations or statutes provide EPA with discretion to create criteria related to environmental justice under permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act. The subcommittee also agreed to establish a Work Group on Agency Integration that would not only examine the LES case, but all environmental statutes, as well as EPA's statutory authority under permitting provisions. Mr. Lazarus agreed to serve as chair of the Work Group.

The subcommittee reviewed the Carver Terrace case, in which members of a Texarkana, Arkansas community have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for alleged discrimination during the relocation process. Acknowledging that the Office of Solid Waste And Emergency Response (OSWER) had initiated a work group at EPA to address relocation issues at Carver Terrace and NEJAC's Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee has a work group examining relocation, the subcommittee recommended that OSWER ensure

that it considers enforcement issues in its deliberations.

During its discussions on issues related to the open market trading of air emissions credits, the subcommittee established a Work Group on Air Emissions, which will focus on several basic items related to EPA's air emissions credit trading program. Because of the cross-cutting nature of air emissions trading, the subcommittee recommended working jointly with the NEJAC Health and Research Subcommittee to address common issues.

The subcommittee also heard numerous presentations during the two-day meeting. The presentations consisted of reports on information tools to support environmental justice; EPA's policy on SEPs; Superfund administrative reforms; and activities of EPA's Office of Compliance.

Health and Research Subcommittee

The Health and Research Subcommittee of NEJAC conducted a two-day meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, December 13 and 14, 1995. During a meeting of the NEJAC Executive Council on December 12, 1995, Dr. Robert Bullard was reelected to serve as chair of the subcommittee. Mr. Lawrence Martin, EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD), continues to serve as DFO for the subcommittee.

Much of the two-day subcommittee meeting was filled with presentations on activities that are ongoing within EPA to empower local citizens to participate in shaping policies that affect their health and environment. These presentations highlighted:

- EPA efforts to provide communities with better access to tools and information
- community-based projects sponsored by EPA
- partnerships between EPA, the community, academia, business, and other federal agencies on environmental justice issues.

The members of the subcommittee passed six resolutions for full consideration by the NEJAC. They

also identified several actions items to address in the future. The subcommittee established work groups to survey health and environmental concerns at the community level and to report back findings at the next meeting of the NEJAC subcommittee.

As part of the presentations, two software tools, currently under development by ORD which have the potential to be used to support environmental justice studies, were demonstrated. The first tool, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Indicators Model, is an information management and risk-based ranking and comparison tool that is based on TRI reporting information supplemented by receptor population data and exposure characteristic modelling. Currently there are plans to link the model with a geographic information system (GIS) software tool, like ArcView, to provide a mechanism for the evaluation of health and environmental impacts of multiple emissions sources on a small geographic area comparable to the size of a neighborhood. A second tool, a prototype system also using ArcView and containing information about TRI data, facilities listed on the National Priorities List (NPL), and block-level census data, was demonstrated to the subcommittee. Future versions of this prototype system may include relative facility ranking capabilities.

Several presentations provided information on recent reports issued by EPA which address health and research topics. These reports include a draft compendium of all the cumulative risk research or projects conducted by the agency in recent years, the Exposure Factors Handbook which provides reference information used by risk assessors on the general population, and a draft document entitled "Identifying and Quantifying Susceptible Populations."

Other presentations provided an overview of recent EPA reports on urban soil lead abatement demonstrations projects, mercury emissions, and distribution of industrial air emissions by income and race in the United States. In particular the subcommittee reviewed recommendations made by an EPA- and HUD- sponsored task force on controlling lead hazards and recently set forth in a report entitled "Controlling Lead Hazards in the Nation's Housing." After much discussion, the subcommittee recommended that NEJAC ask EPA to reconsider

its findings.

The Baltimore Environmental Justice Community Partnership Pilot Project and the Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant Program are ongoing EPA initiatives that emphasize a local rather than a national focus/methodology and provide an opportunity for the federal government to find more effective ways to organize resources to assist communities in achieving their environmental goals.

Several of the presentations expanded on the subject of partnerships in support of environmental justice. A representative from the U.S. Conference of Mayors briefly discussed the efforts of her organization to support EPA's pollution prevention efforts. A representative from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) discussed the Baltimore Symposium on Urban Environmental Justice that her organization cosponsored with EPA in 1995. In another presentation, upcoming opportunities for more effective interaction between the subcommittee and HHS on environmental justice research agendas were discussed.

Two significant opportunities for collaboration were proposed. Mr. Gerry Poje, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), invited the subcommittee to participate in a forthcoming series of regional fact-finding public meetings, organized by the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences and funded by 15 federal agencies, to examine environmental justice research, education, and policy needs. Mr. Poje also invited the subcommittee to work with NIEHS in organizing a meeting of high level federal science managers to serve as a model participatory project on environmental justice. An overview of HHS's migrant health program also was presented.

Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee

The Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee convened for the first time at the December 1995 meeting of NEJAC. The subcommittee was established in response to concerns expressed by several members of NEJAC that issues important to indigenous peoples had not been addressed adequately by the existing committee structure of NEJAC. During a meeting of the NEJAC Executive Council on De-

ember 12, 1995, Mr. Walter Bresette was elected to serve as chair of the subcommittee. EPA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) and OEJ have agreed to jointly sponsor the subcommittee. Ms. Elizabeth Bell, OEJ, was appointed to serve as DFO for the subcommittee.

The Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee chose as its mission the improvement of interagency coordination and communication among agencies on environmental justice issues related to indigenous peoples. The subcommittee stressed that, by its very nature, the Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee is different from other NEJAC subcommittees because the issues that this subcommittee will address are cross-cutting with those that also will be addressed by other subcommittees.

The subcommittee also expressed a need to strengthen relationships with other subcommittees of the NEJAC, individual members of the other NEJAC subcommittees who represent indigenous peoples, and EPA's Tribal Operations Committee (TOC).

In an effort to improve communication between the six NEJAC subcommittees and among the various individuals who represent indigenous peoples, the subcommittee recommended that each NEJAC subcommittee develop and share agendas before meetings of the NEJAC. In addition, the subcommittee suggested the NEJAC subcommittees hold joint sessions when appropriate.

In addition to improving communication within the NEJAC, the Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee also recommended participating in a joint meeting with the TOC. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the relationship between the two groups, identifying areas of mutual concern, and avoid duplication of efforts.

Environmental justice issues and concerns related to indigenous peoples also were discussed at length. The issues included specific cases those previously reported to the NEJAC, as well as several new issues brought before the subcommittee. A common theme among the issues and cases presented before the subcommittee was the hesitation of many Indian tribes to adopt strong environmental regulations and standards for their lands because of continuing pressure for economic growth and increased

employment. Members agreed that the subcommittee could play an important role in supporting the emerging environmental programs of tribal governments.

Concern also was expressed that existing pollution prevention programs of EPA do not meet the needs of companies located on Native American lands. Members cited the constant struggle between economic growth and environmental protection as critical to why such companies are reluctant to invest in pollution prevention technologies because of the costs associated with such investments.

The subcommittee heard numerous presentations during the two-day meeting. The presentations consisted of reports on environmental justice activities at EPA; the agency's efforts to address tribal operations; transboundary pollution affecting tribes in the United States, Mexico, and Canada; the connection between environmental justice and tribal water rights; and pending legislation affecting Native Americans.

From these presentations, the subcommittee identified several areas of mutual concern for the various NEJAC subcommittees. For example, discussions about environmental justice issues related to border tribes and the possible loss of water supplies for tribes in the Great Lakes region because of the free trade agreements with Mexico and Canada, might be appropriate topics for both the International Subcommittee and the Indigenous Peoples Subcommittees.

International Subcommittee

The International Subcommittee convened for the first time at the December 1995 meeting of NEJAC. The subcommittee was established to identify and advise EPA on environmental justice issues of international importance. During a meeting of the NEJAC Executive Council on December 12, 1995, Mr. Baldemar Velasquez was elected to serve as chair of the subcommittee. Ms. Lorraine Frigerio, EPA Office of International Activities (OIA), was appointed to serve as DFO for the subcommittee. OIA has agreed to serve as sponsor of the subcommittee.

Much of the meeting was designed to provide the members of the subcommittee with an overall understanding of activities through which EPA meets its international responsibilities. Presentations were given by staff of OIA, OECA, OSWER, and EPA's Office of General Counsel. These presentations highlighted:

- Multilateral environmental policy initiatives
- Environmental justice efforts at international conferences
- EPA efforts on enforcement on the international front
- EPA efforts to phase out lead

As part of the presentations, the members of the International Subcommittee heard several speakers and one panel discussion on multilateral environmental policy initiatives of the U.S. Two multilateral policy initiatives which have potential impact on environmental justice issues are the General Trade Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The members discussed issues related to enforcement under these multilateral agreements.

Presenters also reported on several international conferences, including the United Nations (UN) Fourth World Conference on Women, the Basel Convention, and the Summit of the Americas. The conferences highlighted issues related to social policy and sustainable development. For example, the UN conference for the first time examined women's relationship to the environment, including such issues as their right to reimbursement for the use of their intellectual property, their relationship to agriculture, and their exposure to toxic chemicals. The EPA Task Force on Women drafted language on environmental justice to include in the conference report. Members of the subcommittee were urged to breathe life into the UN document containing the strong definition of environmental justice.

Members of the subcommittee discussed at length international enforcement related to environmental justice, particularly along the United States and

Mexico border because of the influx of people searching for employment. An issue of central concern is the lack of community right-to-know laws in Mexico. The members noted that public access to information is the linchpin of environmental justice; they recommended that EPA discuss this issue with its counterparts in Mexico.

During the discussions on EPA's efforts to phase out lead, the subcommittee noted that environmental justice programs do not exist which are targeted for Africa, although lead phase-out programs exist for Europe and Latin America. Members of the subcommittee expressed concern that environmental justice issues related to Africa seem to be overlooked.

In addition to the presentations, members of the subcommittee urged EPA to define its role in extra-territorial conduct of U.S. multinational corporations, especially in light of such incidents such as the improper operation of smelters in Peru. The subcommittee stated that EPA should develop mechanisms to influence multinational corporations to behave in a more moral manner.

The International Subcommittee discussed the need for improved coordination between EPA and other agencies related to international environmental justice issues. The members also noted that the NEJAC through EPA should encourage communication with other agencies. The subcommittee also recommended that language related to environmental justice be inserted into the ISO 14000 standards currently under development.

Public Participation and Accountability Subcommittee

The Public Participation and Accountability Subcommittee of NEJAC conducted a two-day meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, December 13 and 14, 1995. During a meeting of the NEJAC Executive Council on December 12, 1995, Ms. Peggy Saika was reelected to serve as chair of the subcommittee. Mr. Robert Knox, Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), continues to serve as DFO for the subcommittee.

The members of the subcommittee discussed the unique, cross-cutting characteristic of the Public Participation and Accountability Subcommittee and agreed that the work of the subcommittee needs to become more visible. The members agreed to develop a process to incorporate public participation in all activities of the NEJAC through key activities, which include:

- Ensuring communication among subcommittees
- Ensuring that the mission statement of the subcommittee and the NEJAC model for public participation are incorporated by, and used for, NEJAC and other related activities
- Develop a resource bank of technical expertise.

The subcommittee also discussed a work plan for specific projects to be undertaken by the subcommittee. The members of the subcommittee once again agreed that the work plan goals should acknowledge that public participation is a cross-cutting issue and focus on improving the coordination among NEJAC subcommittees, and pursuing increased coordination with other federal agencies. The members recommended that joint meetings be conducted with other subcommittees, as well as with representatives of HHS.

Improving the public participation process was discussed at length by the members of the subcommittee. The members agreed that the Model for Public Participation be adopted by the NEJAC as a living document, subject to revisions as needed. During the October 1994 meeting of NEJAC, the subcommittee developed a model for public participation that consisted of three guiding principles and five critical elements.

The subcommittee also agreed that the process of public participation should be institutionalized as part of the NEJAC meeting. They also began development of a process to incorporate public participation in all NEJAC activities. The subcommittee strongly recommended that NEJAC consider the continued use of downlinking and other innovative technologies and translating capabilities to meet the

needs of participating audiences, as well as the establishment of procedures that ensure accountability for responding to public comments.

Members of the subcommittee also indicated the need to reaffirm the list of stakeholder groups that should be involved actively in preparing for public participation meetings. As stakeholders were identified, the members of the subcommittee commented that industry and business should be involved in public participation to encourage them to become “good neighbors” to the communities in which they operate. The subcommittee also agreed to include international groups in the list.

The subcommittee also reviewed the status of EPA’s final rule for expanded public participation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Pledging to draft NEJAC’s official response to the guidance documents, members of the subcommittee suggested meeting with the Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee to discuss the RCRA Final Rule and the guidance documents.

EPA’s process for awarding grants also was discussed during the meeting. Concern was expressed by several members about apparent inequities and difficulties experienced by community groups in obtaining grants, compared with universities like Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University, who are experienced grant writers.

The subcommittee concluded its meeting by discussing mechanisms to increase the visibility of the subcommittee. One mechanism discussed was participation in the satellite downlinks.

Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee

The Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee of NEJAC conducted a two-day meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, December 13 and 14, 1995. During a meeting of the NEJAC Executive Council, Mr. Charles Lee was reelected to serve as chair of the subcommittee. Ms. Jan Young, OSWER Outreach and Special Projects Staff (OSPS), continues to serve as DFO for the subcommittee.

The Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee opened with a discussion of the activities of the subcom-

mittee during May 1994 through November 1995. Members of the subcommittee pointed out these activities reflect the subcommittee’s effort to ensure that opportunity is provided for public participation in decision making about issues related to waste and hazardous waste facilities. The subcommittee also heard reports from its two Work Groups, who were created to facilitate the goals of the subcommittee.

The Public Health Work Group provided an update on EPA activities to develop a policy to address the relocation of residents living on or near environmental hazards. The Work Group is co-sponsoring a Community Roundtable on Relocation at which EPA will elicit comment from communities about issues related to relocation. Members of the subcommittee commented that the purpose of the proposed roundtable discussions is to bring community concerns to light and build partnerships to support the decision-making process.

The Work Group on Siting examined issues related to siting of hazardous waste facilities. The group had conducted surveys of hazardous waste facilities to identify what facilities exist and how they are used for storage, as well as to identify environmental justice concerns that are pertinent to the operations of the facilities. Dissatisfaction was expressed by several members of the subcommittee about OSWER’s draft report, “Siting Hazardous Waste Facilities,” which noted that the federal government will not play a role in siting decisions—the states will have that authority. Members of the subcommittee stated that communities want the federal government involved in siting decisions. The subcommittee decided to prepare guidelines for informing the public about how to become involved in the facility siting process.

The subcommittee expressed concern related to efforts to privatize the LandView II Mapping computer software. Members of the subcommittee strongly recommended that the federal government retain control of the program, providing updates as needed. Members explained that LandView II is a valuable tool that offers communities access to crucial data. Such a move to privatize the system might increase the price of the system, placing it out of the reach of the communities that need it. The subcommittee also recommended that EPA coordinates

its efforts related to LandView II with the work of U.S. Geological Survey and the federal geographic data council.

The Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee discussed urban revitalization and the Brownfields Initiative. One issue raised by the subcommittee about the public dialogues on the Brownfields Initiative is that communities and representatives of EPA Headquarters and the EPA regional offices appear to have different visions of the Initiative. The subcommittee recommended that standards be established and a common understanding reached so that all parties can clarify the objectives of the initiative and their expectations of it.

In addition, members commented on EPA's grant process. The subcommittee agreed that applicants should be required to demonstrate in their grant proposals that community organizations will be involved throughout the project and that EPA should require that proposed projects be tied to plans formulated in and by communities. Members reiterated that EPA also needs to focus on what happens after the grant has been awarded.

The subcommittee discussed issues of significance to indigenous peoples related to waste and facility siting. Members of the subcommittee pointed to the dumping of waste into open areas and the numerous waste sites located on tribal lands that are on the NPL as serious problems. The subcommittee also recognized that many Indian tribes do not have adequate environmental infrastructures to prevent the dumping of wastes. In response to these issues, the subcommittee established a working group to address Native American issues and to assist OSWER in implementing its environmental justice implementation strategy related to Native Americans. The members also noted that such issues of mutual concern would be appropriate topics on which the Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee and the Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee could work together.

The subcommittee concluded by discussing that EPA should to continue to address matters related to siting of facilities, with toxic and nuclear wastes of concern, and the need to assess progress on the regional level in implementing the environmental justice strategies developed by various agencies.