

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council  
January 2013 Public Teleconference**

**Meeting Notes**

The Executive Council (Council) of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) convened for its 46th public meeting by teleconference on Wednesday, January 23, 2013, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time. These notes present highlights of the NEJAC members' deliberations and the issues raised during the public comment period.

Exhibit 1 lists the members of the Council who were in attendance, as well as those who were unable to attend the meeting. Appendix A presents a list of teleconference meeting attendees. Appendix B contains written statements that were submitted for the public comment period.

**1.0 Welcoming Remarks**

Ms. Victoria Robinson, NEJAC Designated Federal Officer, EPA Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), welcomed everyone to the teleconference. She reported that about 200 individuals had pre-registered to attend. She reviewed the meeting agenda, noting the focus of the call was for the Council to discuss the

**Exhibit 1**

**NEJAC Executive Council**

**Members in Attendance**

Teri E. Blanton, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth  
Andrea Guajardo, Conejos County Clean Water, Inc.  
Monica Hedstrom, White Earth Nation  
Effenus Henderson, Weyerhaeuser  
Savonala "Savi" Horne, Land Loss Prevention Project  
J. Langdon Marsh, National Policy Consensus Center, Portland State University  
Margaret May, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, and NEJAC Co-chair  
Edith Pestana, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
John Ridgway, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Nia Robinson, SisterSong  
Fatemeh Shafiei, Spelman College  
Nicky Sheats, Center for the Urban Environment, Thomas Edison State College  
Paul Shoemaker, Boston Public Health Commission  
Nicholas Targ, American Bar Association  
Kimberly Wasserman, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization  
Elizabeth Yeampierre, UPROSE, Inc., and NEJAC Chair

**Members Not in Attendance**

Peter Captain, Sr., Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council  
Stephanie Hall, Valero Energy Corporation  
Vernice Miller-Travis, Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities  
Paul Mohai, University of Michigan  
Patricia Salkin, Albany Law School  
Deidre Sanders, Pacific Gas & Electric  
Kenneth Smith, City of Kingsland, Georgia  
Horace Strand, Chester Environmental Partnership  
Javier Francisco Torres, Border Environment Cooperation Commission

environmental impact and environmental justice challenges of storm surges on vulnerable communities in industrial waterfront areas. Specifically, she noted that EPA was interested in enhancing community resilience to environmental impacts and listening to community perspectives on how the Agency could help achieve waterfront justice.

Ms. Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE, Inc., stressed the urgency for EPA to act, given the change in climate and demographics in waterfront areas. She expressed appreciation to the NEJAC members for their efforts on this issue and to OEJ staff for organizing the Council meetings.

## **2.0 Update from Last NEJAC Teleconference**

Ms. Robinson referred to the NEJAC's previous teleconference on November 14, 2012. She noted that the Council had discussed and agreed on revisions to three draft reports for submittal to the Agency. Specifically, the reports contained the NEJAC's recommendations to the EPA Administrator on environmental justice and permitting, the revised Model Guidelines for Public Participation, and the Agency's tribal and indigenous peoples environmental justice policy.

## **3.0 Panel Discussion: Environmental Impacts in Industrial Waterfront Communities Facing Environmental Justice Issues**

Mr. Eddie Bautista and Mr. Juan Camilo Osorio, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYCEJA), shared a community perspective on the effects of storm surges on industrial waterfront communities. They referred Council members to presentation slides on the NYCEJA waterfront justice project (see Appendix C). Specifically, the project examined the threats associated with the proximity of hazardous waste sites – such as Class 2 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Superfund sites, active chemical bulk and major oil storage facilities, and facilities reporting toxic chemicals in the national Toxic Release Inventory – to significant maritime and industrial areas (SMIAs). They described the following ultimate goals of the NYCEJA waterfront justice project:

- “Design benchmarking mechanisms to establish good, better and best practices to reduce the vulnerability of industrial waterfront areas to climate change impacts.
- Create incentive-based pilot program for performance enhancement, focusing on the provision of technical and financial assistance to local industrial business.”

Mr. Bautista thanked the NEJAC for its newly-formed work group focused on storm surges. He noted that Superstorm Sandy had made the fears associated with potential risks along the industrial waterfront a reality. He encouraged the Council to also review the slides prepared by Dr. Nicky Sheats, Director of the Center for the Urban Environment and co-chair of the NEJAC Storm Surge Work Group, which reported study findings on the contribution of storm surges to cumulative impacts in environmental justice communities (see Appendix C).

The following key points were raised during the Council's discussion:

Mr. John Ridgway, Manager, Washington State Department of Ecology, recommended that NYCEJA consider including in its study stored chemicals that are not reported under the Toxics Release Inventory. He noted the existence of large quantities of stored chemicals in warehouses that are not required to be reported to EPA under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) but are often reported to states, local fire departments, and local emergency planning committees (LEPCs). Mr. Bautista and Mr. Osorio expressed appreciation for the comment but also noted challenges associated with accessing such data due to concerns about accessibility to potential terrorists.

Dr. Fatemeh Shafiei, Associate Professor of Political Science, Spelman College, suggested the U.S. Chemical

Safety and Hazard Investigation Board as a source for information and data regarding chemical accidents. She noted her past work on a project with the Board and EPA Region 4 that found a correlation between emergency preparedness and reduced chemical accidents.

Ms. Kimberly Wasserman, Coordinator, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, asked whether New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or other agencies had conducted soil and water sampling immediately after the storm water receded to determine the presence of residual contamination from Superfund and Brownfield sites near the waterfront. Mr. Bautista stated that NYCEJA had urged the state for such testing, however, the devastation was so widespread that immediate testing was not a priority. He noted that EPA conducted soil and ground water testing two weeks after the storm. Mr. Osorio added that testing should be conducted before a severe weather event to allow a strong baseline of data for comparison.

Ms. Yeampierre expressed concern that communities were not sufficiently engaged in emergency response planning activities following Superstorm Sandy. Mr. Bautista pointed out that EPA Region 2 and partner organizations that stepped in to help should be acknowledged for their efforts. He noted that a Regional Environmental Justice Assembly would be held to discuss ways to improve collaborative response to storms. Ms. Yeampierre agreed that community resilience had to begin at the grassroots level.

Ms. Robinson noted that the NEJAC's Storm Surge Work Group would examine waterfront issues in the northeast as well as across the country, and present its findings during upcoming Council meetings. She reported that Ms. Yeampierre and Dr. Sheats were co-chairs of the work group and that other work group members would represent various stakeholder groups.

#### **4.0 Draft Letter about EPA's Working Draft Policy on Environmental Justice for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples**

Ms. Monica Hedstrom, Environmental Affairs Manager for White Earth Nation and co-Chair of the NEJAC Indigenous Peoples Work Group, described the process undertaken by the work group during its review of the Agency's tribal policy. Specifically, the work group members read and discussed a working draft of the policy and developed a response letter.

NEJAC members agreed that the letter was well written, thanked the work group for its efforts, and via a consensus vote agreed to submit the letter to the EPA Administrator.

#### **5.0 Public Comment**

Prior to the teleconference, the following three individuals submitted written statements on the specified topics. All written statements are included in Appendix B.

- **Ms. Lynne Bonnett, New Haven Environmental Justice Network**, New Haven, Connecticut. Topic: Combined sewer overflow during significant storm events. (Ms. Bonnett also provided verbal comments during the meeting.)
- **Mr. Marvin S. Robinson, II, Quindaro Ruins/Underground Railroad-Exercise 2013**, Kansas City, Kansas. Topic: Environmental justice along the riverfront of Missouri River, and Administrator Lisa Jackson's departure.
- **Ms. Jean Mendoza, Friends of Toppenish Creek**, White Swan, Washington. Topic: Community representation on Ground Water Advisory Committee for the Lower Yakima Valley in south central Washington.

In addition to written public comments, seven individuals commented verbally during the teleconference. Key points from their comments are summarized below:

**Ms. Lynne Bonnett, New Haven Environmental Justice Network**, New Haven, Connecticut, expressed concern about the effect of combined sewer overflow during significant storm events. Ms. Yeampierre and Ms. Robinson assured Ms. Bonnett that the NEJAC Storm Surge Work Group would consider ways that EPA could address her concerns.

**Mr. Vincent Martin, Human Synergy**, Detroit, Michigan, asked about the Agency's plans to address the effect of cumulative pollution sources on vulnerable communities during heavy storm events. Mr. Martin noted "alarming" findings from a recent presentation by NEJAC member Dr. Paul Mohai, during which Detroit's antiquated sewer system was alleged to allow untreated water to enter the Great Lakes. Mr. Martin urged EPA to "step up their game" by imposing stricter standards. Dr. Sheats reported that, in New Jersey, he and others were advocating for state policy to address cumulative impacts. Ms. Yeampierre commented that, in addition to storm surges, other climate conditions like heat and drought also have harmful effects on vulnerable populations.

**Ms. Peggy Shepard, WE ACT for Environmental Justice**, New York, New York, talked about the need for community resiliency in low-income, climate affected communities. She noted the devastation of running water systems and the effect on public housing residents during Superstorm Sandy. She called for EPA to develop a program similar to its Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program that aims to promote community resiliency as part of the Agency's community engagement efforts. Ms. Edith Pestana, Administrator, Environmental Justice Program, Office of the Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, recognized the need for cities and states to quickly restore electricity, and heating and cooling systems during severe weather events. Ms. Yeampierre added that one lesson learned from Superstorm Sandy was the need to plan for helping people in wheelchairs and on respirators during emergencies.

**Ms. Chandra Taylor, Southern Environmental Law Center**, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, spoke about coal ash disposal and related drinking water contamination. She referred the Council to [www.southeastcoalah.org](http://www.southeastcoalah.org) for more information about the issue. Mr. Ridgway asked about EPA's efforts to regulate coal ash disposal. Ms. Robinson committed to adding Mr. Ridgway's question to the list for Agency follow up. Dr. Sheats commented that coal ash was not considered a hazardous waste but should be. Ms. Savi Horne, Executive Director, Land Loss Prevention Project, noted that coal ash was a major problem throughout the south. She urged EPA to "weigh in" on this issue. Ms. Teri Blanton, Fellow, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, added that Kentucky was ranked one of the highest states for coal ash disposal and urged EPA to move forward in promulgating a rule for its disposal and deciding whether it should be considered a toxic waste. Ms. Andrea Guajardo, Executive Director, Conejos County Clean Water, Inc., noted that coal ash was also a huge issue for coal-fired power plants in the west.

**Ms. L. Vanessa Frazier, Howardville Community Betterment**, Howardville, Missouri, raised the issue of citizen notification during emergency responses. She commented that communities could do a better job in responding to emergencies if they were able to mobilize themselves. She reported that, during an ice storm in 2009, many communities across Missouri were without resources for up to 30 days, which resulted in deaths among infants and seniors. She recognized the importance of establishing Community Emergency Response Teams. She added that the occurrence of extreme tornadoes and floods were increasing as a result of climate change.

**Mr. Richard Moore, Los Jardines Institute (The Gardens Institute)**, Albuquerque, New Mexico, expressed concern about the recent hiring of a new OEJ director. He explained that his comments were on behalf of community organizations in New Mexico and throughout the southwest. Specifically, he noted that the NEJAC was not consulted about the hiring. Mr. Moore emphasized that the objection was not personal, and he questioned the experience of the new OEJ director in interacting with environmental justice communities. Ms. Yeampierre confirmed that EPA had not consulted with NEJAC during its process to fill the position. Ms. Guajardo commented that the director had helped her organization in the past.

**Ms. Michele Roberts, Environmental Justice and Health Alliance**, Washington, D.C., commented on the toxicological review of inorganic arsenic as part of the Agency's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program. She noted her recent participation in a public stakeholder workshop to inform EPA's IRIS assessment. That workshop, she said, left her with "great concerns" about the environmental justice community's involvement in the process. She provided the following recommendations to EPA:

- Consider acute exposure to arsenic.
- Consider mixtures of chemicals when looking at the potential impact of arsenic in communities.
- Use existing public health data to inform the toxicological review.
- Consider the genotoxicity of arsenic (i.e., harmful effect on genetic material).
- Involve a more diverse community in the review process.

## **6.0 Farewell to Administrator Jackson and Retiring NEJAC Members**

On behalf of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, Ms. Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, expressed appreciation for the service of the following retiring NEJAC members:

- Mr. John Ridgway, Manager, Information Management and Communications Section, Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program, Washington State Department of Ecology.
- Dr. Paul Mohai, Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan.
- Dr. Lang Marsh, Fellow, National Policy Consensus Center, Portland State University.
- Dean Patti Salkin, Professor of Law, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Touro College.
- Jolene Catron, Executive Director, Wind River Alliance.

Council members and Ms. Robinson took turns expressing appreciation for the efforts and contributions of the retiring members.

The NEJA also recognized the efforts of Administrator Jackson, who would be stepping down from her post at the end of January 2013. Dr. Marsh acknowledged the Administrator's work in raising the national profile of environmental justice under the administration of President Barack Obama, including her efforts to successfully "reactivate" the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

**APPENDIX A**  
**LIST OF ATTENDEES**  
**(8 pages)**

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council  
January 2013 Public Teleconference  
Appendix A: List of Attendees**

**Kedesch Altidor-Dorcely**  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
Atlanta, GA

**Arturo Alvarez**  
Harbor Community Benefit  
Foundation  
San Pedro, CA

**Rusty Ashcraft**  
Alliance Coal, LLC  
Lexington, KY

**Amanda Aspatore**  
National Mining Association  
Washington, DC

**James Bahng**  
Port of Los Angeles  
San Pedro, CA

**Ann Baughman**  
Freshwater Future  
Petoskey, MI

**Eddie Bautista**  
New York City Environmental  
Justice Alliance  
New York, NY

**Aaron Bell**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Agatha Benjamin**  
U.S. EPA Region 6  
Dallas, TX

**Teri E. Blanton**  
Kentuckians for the  
Commonwealth  
Berea, KY

**Lauren Boles**  
City of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA

**Lynne Bonnett**  
New Haven Environmental  
Justice Network  
New Haven, CT

**Lawra Boyce**  
South Carolina Department of  
Health and Environmental  
Control  
Columbia, SC

**Amy Braz**  
U.S. EPA Region 1  
Boston, MA

**Jamie Bridges**  
Baltimore Metropolitan  
Council  
Baltimore, MD

**Terah Burdette**  
Arch Coal, Inc.  
Scott Depot, WV

**Holly Cairns**  
Pennsylvania Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Harrisburg, PA

**Mary Carnagie**  
Michigan Department of  
Environmental Quality  
Lansing, MI

**Alanna Conley**  
U.S. EPA Region 10  
Portland, OR

**Jamie Cross**  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
Grand Haven, MI

**Maricela Cuevas**  
LEPC Corpus Christi / Nueces  
County  
Corpus Christi, TX

**Lillie Davis**  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
Chicago, IL

**Danielle Deane**  
Joint Center for Political and  
Economic Studies  
Washington, DC

**Elmo Dowd**  
Illinois EPA  
Chicago, IL

**Sherry Driber**  
New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Trenton, NJ

**Francis Esposito**  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Washington, DC

**Jessica Estepa**  
E&E Publishing  
Washington, DC

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council  
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**Jeff Evon**  
ONC  
Bethel, AK

**Robert Faithful**  
Centerville, VA

**Nathaniel Folkemer**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**L. Vanessa Frazier**  
Howardville Community  
Betterment  
Howardville, MO

**Tamara Freeman**  
U.S. EPA Region 7  
Lenexa, KY

**Merritt Frey**  
River Network  
Salt Lake City, UT

**Brad Frost**  
Illinois EPA  
Springfield, IL

**Aida T. Fuentes**  
Puerto Rico Environmental  
Quality Board  
San Juan, PR

**Awilda Fuentes**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Alice Furumoto-Dawson**  
BIG: BlacksInGreen.org  
Chicago, IL

**Cynthia Garcia**  
California Air Resources Board  
Sacramento, CA

**Cynthia Giles**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Renee Goins**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Linn Gould**  
Just Health Action  
Seattle, WA

**Clive Graham**  
ERM  
Annapolis, MD

**Celeste Murphy Greene**  
University of Virginia  
Virginia Beach, VA

**Andrea T. Guajardo**  
Conejos County Clean Water,  
Inc.  
Antonito, CO

**Jeannine Hale**  
U.S. EPA Region 6  
Dallas, TX

**Linda Hall**  
ENVIRON  
Emeryville, CA

**Lisa Haugen**  
U.S. EPA Region 7  
Lenexa, KS

**Monica Hedstrom**  
White Earth Nation  
White Earth, MN

**Effenus Henderson**  
Weyerhaeuser  
Federal Way, WA

**Walker Holmes**  
Skeo Solutions  
New Haven, CT

**Savonala "Savi" Horne**  
Land Loss Prevention Project  
Durham, NC

**Steven Howie**

**Gwendolyn Hudson**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Lisa Jackson**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**John Jones**  
Alpha Natural Resources  
Bristo, VA

**Robert Kaufmann**  
KCPS  
Washington, DC

**Jamal Knight**



**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council  
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**Rev. Earl Koteen**  
UU Legislative Ministry  
California  
Berkeley, CA

**Lara Lasky**  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
Chicago, IL

**Herb Lee**  
Pacific American Foundation  
Kailua, HI

**Suzette Tay Lee**  
APEX Direct, Inc.  
San Francisco, CA

**Sheila Lewis**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Simone Lightfoot**  
National Wildlife Federation  
Ann Harbor, MI

**Braden Lusk**  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY

**Yolanda Manzone**  
San Francisco Public Utilities  
Commission  
San Francisco, CA

**J. Langdon Marsh**  
National Policy Consensus  
Center  
Portland, OR

**Vincent Martin**  
Humansynergyworks.org  
Detroit, MI

**Karen Martin**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Margaret J. May**  
Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council  
Kansas City, MO

**Courtney McCusker**  
Administration for Children  
and Families  
Washington, DC

**Cassandra McFadden**  
White House Council on  
Environmental Quality  
Washington, DC

**Shirley M. Miller**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Renee Moilanen**  
Port of Long Beach  
Long Beach, CA

**Michelle M. Moore**  
New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
Long Island City, NY

**Richard Moore**  
Los Jardines Institute (The  
Gardens Institute)  
Albuquerque, NM

**Kelly Morgan**  
Colorado Department of Public  
Health and Environment  
Denver, CO

**David Moss**  
Kentucky Coal Association  
Lexington, KY

**Janice Moynihan**  
Sustainable Long Island  
Farmingdale, NY

**Leanne Nurse**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Juan Camilo Osorio**  
New York City Environmental  
Justice Alliance  
Brooklyn, NY

**Kenneth L. Page**  
Illinois EPA  
Springfield, IL

**Andrew Park**  
U.S. EPA Region 2  
New York, NY

**Edith Pestana**  
Connecticut Department of  
Energy and Environmental  
Protection  
Hartford, CT

**Myra Reece**  
South Carolina Department of  
Health and Environmental  
Control  
Columbia, SC

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council  
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**Dawn Reeves**  
Inside EPA  
Arlington, VA

**John Ridgway**  
Washington State Department  
of Ecology  
Olympia, WA

**Michele Roberts**  
Environmental Justice Health  
Alliance  
Washington, DC

**Nia Robinson**  
SisterSong  
Greensboro, NC

**Victoria Robinson**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Marvin S. Robinson, II**  
Quindaro Ruins/Underground  
Railroad-Exercise 2013  
Kansas City, KS

**Lisa M. Rogers**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Estela Rosas**  
APEX Direct, Inc.  
Chicago, IL

**Bennett Ross**  
APEX Direct, Inc.  
Chicago, IL

**Joi Ross**  
APEX Direct, Inc.  
Chicago, IL

**Charlotte Runnels**  
U.S. EPA  
Dallas, TX

**Connie Ruth**  
U.S. EPA  
St. Paul, MN

**Fatemeh Shafiei**  
Spelman College  
Atlanta, GA

**Nicky Sheats**  
Center for the Urban  
Environment  
Trenton, NJ

**Peggy Shepard**  
WE ACT For Environmental  
Justice  
New York, NY

**Paul Shoemaker**  
Boston Public Health  
Commission  
Boston, MA

**Amy Simes**  
North Carolina Department of  
Natural Resources  
Raleigh, NC

**Stephanie Smith**  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
Chicago, IL

**Steve Smith**  
Lyondell Chemical Company  
Channelview, TX

**Karen Sprayberry**  
South Carolina Department of  
Health and Environmental  
Control  
Columbia, SC

**Gary Street**  
Freshwater Future  
Tetoskey, MI

**Mike Sullivan**  
Terry A. Hayes Associations,  
Inc. (TAHA)  
Culver City, CA

**Benjamin Sussman**  
ERM  
Annapolis, MD

**Amber Swain**  
The Solution Group, LLC  
Lexington, KY

**Nicholas Targ**  
American Bar Association  
San Francisco, CA

**Christi Tate**  
National Environmental  
Health Association  
Denver, CO

**Daniel Taylor**  
Ohio Valley Environmental  
Coalition  
Huntington, WV

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council  
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**Larry Taylor**  
Kentucky Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Frankfort, KY

**Chandra T. Taylor**  
Southern Environmental Law  
Center  
Chapel Hill, NC

**Denise Tennessee**  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
Atlanta, GA

**Beryl Thurman**  
North Shore Waterfront  
Conservancy of Staten Island  
Staten Island, NY

**Arthur Totten**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Arati Tripathi**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Miriah D. Twitchell**  
Alaska Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
Juneau, AK

**Maria Voles**  
City of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA

**Alice Walker**  
U.S. EPA  
Washington, DC

**Casey Warner**  
ERM  
Raleigh, NC

**Kimberly Wasserman**  
Little Village Environmental  
Justice Organization  
Chicago, IL

**Kim Wells**  
The Solution Group, LLC  
Prestonsburg, KY

**Terry Wesley**  
U.S. EPA Region 2  
New York, NY

**Julie Wiley**  
San Diego Association of  
Governments  
San Diego, CA

**Babette Williams**  
U.S. Department of Labor  
Washington, DC

**Charles Williams**  
Rust College  
Holly Springs, MS

**Shad Williams**  
Centerville, MA

**Allan Willinger**  
New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Trenton, NJ

**Lori Wooten**  
TCEQ Corpus Christi Region  
Office  
Corpus Christi, TX

**Alice Wright**  
Pennsylvania Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Norristown, PA

**Morgan Wyenn**  
Natural Resources Defense  
Council  
Santa Monica, CA

**Elizabeth Yeampierre**  
UPROSE, Inc.  
Brooklyn, NY

**Suzanne Yohannan**  
Inside Washington  
Arlington, VA

**Arthur Zuco**  
U.S. EPA  
Research Triangle, NC

DRAFT

**APPENDIX B  
WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS  
(3 pages)**

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council**  
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**Appendix B: Written Public Comments**

**Name:** Lynne Bonnett

**Organization:** New Haven Environmental Justice Network

**City, State:** New Haven, Connecticut

*Lynne Bonnett submitted the following written statement for the public record. She plans to speak during the public comment period.*

Our community needs to fix the combined sewer overflow problem resulting in raw sewage going into our rivers when it rains. Our regional sewer plant, GNHWPCA, has done little to promote green infrastructure solutions and have stated that this is the municipality's responsibility to manage storm water. New Haven is an ideal location for ground infiltration because it has alluvial soil; those with rain gardens and dry wells state that they are extremely effective and have not overflowed despite significant storm events. We need good pilot studies to demonstrate effectiveness and better information on cost of alternatives as well as how much sewage actually spills from each outfall. What can the EPA do to help our community use integrated planning to meet this challenge?

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Appendix B: Written Public Comments**

**Name:** Marvin Robinson, II

**Organization:** Quindaro Ruins/Underground Railroad-Exercise 2013

**City, State:** Kansas City, Kansas

*Marvin Robinson submitted the following written statement for the public record. He does not plan to speak during the public comment period.*

In the event I can not get through the line, for the Public Teleconference: my QUESTION would be who will pick-up the mantle and include the poor and power-less like our former Administrator Ms. Lisa Jackson, did so incredibly well ? And when can we get the ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY to come and help us utilize the Quindaro RUINS / Underground Railroad site as a model local for ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE - POLLUTION PREVENTION Educational out-reach ? And thank YOU very much . And what does it take to get on the NEJAC Borad ? In addition, why is, it that we are being taken out of our community when the Missouri River FRONT Development cuts right through our neighborhood, who can a Poor Low-Income Black community ever get help, from especially after they took yall ( our regional E.P.A. ) offices away from our community and moved yall to a suburban area, that does not have the Missouri River front removal of long-time poor Black residents, especailly with the heavy volume of TOXIC Waste and race issues that are clearly challenges, but we have no where else to go ? AND why are the decision-makers being permitted to just throw the poor out of community and not address any of the important problems that confront us, daily / and Thank YOU all again-

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**Name:** Jean Mendoza

**Organization:** Friends of Toppenish Creek

**City, State:** White Swan, Washington

*Jean Mendoza submitted the following written statement for the public record. She does not plan to speak during the public comment period.*

In south central Washington there is a problem with nitrate contamination of the groundwater due to over application of manure and fertilizers to croplands. The EPA designated the Lower Yakima Valley as an Environmental Justice Showcase in 2008. A Ground Water Management Area, funded by the State Department of Ecology and administered by Yakima County was created in 2012.

It is our understanding that any program that receives federal funds for environmental justice must have an advisory board that represents the affected communities. Can you elaborate on the minimum requirements for this advisory board? Over half of the members of The Ground Water Advisory Committee for the Lower Yakima Valley are agency representatives. There are currently no Hispanic representatives even though 70% of the affected population is Hispanic. There are no representatives from the population that uses private well water for drinking.