




ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR WATER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

January 29, 2024

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Transmittal of the Program Policy Addressing Environmental Justice and Equity in NPDES Permitting

FROM: Radhika Fox 

TO: Regional Water Division Directors
Regions 1-10

I am pleased to announce the release of the new “Program Policy Addressing Environmental Justice and Equity in NPDES Permitting.” The policy describes principles and recommended best practices for addressing environmental justice in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program. This nationally applicable framework outlines how the EPA’s NPDES program aims to use existing *Clean Water Act* authorities as well as other applicable federal laws, to help mitigate potential adverse effects of a permitting action where the EPA is the permitting authority or where the EPA is supporting a state in issuing an NPDES permit. The principles recognize the importance of ensuring that permitting decisions do not, either intentionally or in effect, discriminate against people on the basis of race, color, or national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, age, or sex in violation of federal nondiscrimination laws.

Please share these principles and recommended practices with your staff, as well as colleagues at state permitting agencies. This framework may be updated as needed to incorporate the experience and insight gained using these principles and practices.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, please contact Andrew D. Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management at sawyers.andrew@epa.gov.

ATTACHMENT

1. Program Policy Addressing Environmental Justice and Equity in NPDES Permitting

cc: Andrew D. Sawyers
Christopher J. Kloss
NPDES Permit Branch Chiefs, Regions 1-10