

DRAFT

Environmental Justice Subcommittee Meeting

Rosetta Virgilio attended the March 26, 1997 meeting of the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Environmental Justice (EJ) Subcommittee on Policy and Coordination held in Washington, DC. Most notable of the agenda items was the distribution of the Revised Draft CEQ Guidance for Considering Environmental Justice under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Brad Campbell, White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) representative in attendance at the meeting asked agencies to identify any significant concerns by April 15, 1997. Mr. Campbell also indicated the Report to the President on Environmental Justice was expected to go to the White House scheduler the week of March 31, 1997, for distribution. Copies of the draft CEQ guidance has been distributed to NRC's EJ Working Group. Ms. Virgilio will coordinate and provide NRC comments to CEQ.

The Subcommittee was also provided with the following: A subgroup report by Allyce Boyd Stewart, DOT on how to share EJ activities between the IWG and the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC); Ellen Haffia reported on EPA's efforts to Develop Performance Measures to address implementation of EJ; and the Executive Summary of the December 10-12, 1996 NEJAC meeting.

The above-mentioned documents are available for review by interested parties by contacting Ms. Virgilio at 415-2307.

NOTE: The following is for info only and NOT to be included in EDO hi-light unless otherwise directed by management:

Mr. Campbell noted three major categories of change in the guidance, as follows:

1. The requirement in EJ context that agencies consider socio-economic impacts when preparing EAs. DOJ representative Sylvia Liu subsequently indicated DOJ has raised concerns relative to litigation risks in requiring agencies to consider socioeconomic impacts during the EA stage. DOJ strongly encourages agencies to consider socioeconomic impacts in the EA stage; however, DOJ feels each agency should do this within their own discretion and flexibility. This issue must be resolved before the guidance can be finalized.
2. A new section was added raising a specific requirement for agencies to supplement their procedures to address EJ issues in circumstances where no EIS or EA is prepared.
3. Agencies would be required to take EJ into account whenever promulgating or revising regulations, policies, procedures and guidance under NEPA or any other Act.