

**From:** Grace Gifford <ggifford52@gmail.com>  
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**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Comments on EJ and NRC

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Environmental Justice and NRC programs, policies and activities.

Considering recent Executive Orders on Environmental Justice, an action that the NRC should take is to assume accountability for EJ policies and procedures. As explained in the brochure, NRC was “requested” rather than “directed” to comply with EO 12898. The vision should represent prevention of harm to the next seven generations and beyond. NRC takes on the protection of vulnerable populations and ecosystems when supported by taxpayer dollars. A serious discussion of risk issues, and the liability to taxpayers would enhance consideration of EJ in NRC’s programs, policies and actions.

Neither gestures and deference, nor intimate knowledge of community's life are acceptable substitutes for prevention of harm.

Also long-term, adjustment of South Carolina schools curriculum in the area of civic training should include some of the acronyms and jargon that is used to discuss NRC policies and procedures. Voter registration should be offered at in-person and virtual events, just as it is supposed to be at public libraries and Medicaid offices. This will enhance trust, public input and consideration of EJ.

In expanding engagement and gathering of information, varied meeting styles should be offered. Unless and until broadband and access to it can be assured in rural SC areas, environmental justice opportunities will be unequal. Therefore, a moratorium on new exercise of NRC authority should be maintained as all SC communities are empowered equally with electronic accessibility opportunities.

In our community, government bodies provide legal notice in the local papers. The “Legals” are locally important, and should be used to share events.

There are barriers to participation that include lack of senior and child care, work schedules and transportation. Provisions of stipends to equalize the overcoming of these barriers should increase understanding of issues participation.

I hope that the suggestions will promote understanding and enhance effective community advocacy.

Grace Gifford, Horry Environmental Action Team (HEAT)

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