

Attention!

You will **NOT** be able to hear audio through the Teams link – the Teams link is **only** for viewing the slides. **A bridge line is being used because not all stakeholders have access to broadband.**

Meeting **audio** is through a toll-free bridge line:

Telephone (U.S.): 888-469-2052

Passcode: 1241502#



Assessment of Environmental Justice at the NRC

**We Will Begin
Shortly**

**Please call into the toll-free
bridgeline for audio.**

ET Bridgeline:

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Public Meeting Slides are available at ML21291A006. There is also a link to access the slides via the Teams Meeting; this link can also be found in our meeting notice.

Systematic Review of Environmental Justice in NRC's Programs, Policies, and Activities

**Public Meeting
October 21, 2021**

Agenda

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Introduction and Agenda



Overview of
Environmental Justice
Effort and Comments
Received to date



Comment gathering



Closing Statements

Meeting Logistics



- This is a Comment-Gathering public meeting to receive public comments.
- This meeting is being transcribed and transcript will be publicly available.
- No regulatory decisions will be made at today's meeting.

Meeting **audio** is through a toll-free bridgeline:

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Participants are in listen-only mode until the comment-gathering period.

Slides are available at ML21291A006. This are also a link to access the slides via **Teams Meeting**; this link can also be found in our meeting notice.

Participants can send questions during the meeting to David McIntyre at dtm@nrc.gov.

Introductions

Facilitator:

Larniece McKoy Moore, NRC

Speakers:

- Jessica Bielecki, Deputy Director, Environmental Justice Review Team
- Allen Fetter, Project Manager, Environmental Justice Review Team



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Welcome and Meeting's Purpose

Overview of Environmental Justice Review Effort and Comments Received to date

Receive your comments

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Why is the NRC having this meeting?

- Staff is systematically reviewing how **Environmental Justice** is addressed in NRC's programs, policies, and activities.
- Soliciting **feedback** is an **important** part of this review.
 - **We are listening** and want to share what we've heard and solicit **additional feedback**.

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What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental justice refers to the federal policy established in 1994 by Executive Order (EO) 12898, which directed federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.



What is the NRC's current policy on Environmental Justice?

In 2004, the Commission issued its “**Policy Statement on the Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC Regulatory and Licensing Actions**” (69 FR 52040)

- Consider environmental justice in reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Focus is on disproportionately high and adverse impacts on environmental justice communities.

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**Commission's
April 23, 2021
Staff
Requirements
Memorandum
(ML21113A070)**

- A. Evaluate recent Executive Orders and assess whether environmental justice is appropriately considered and addressed given the agency's mission.
- B. Consider the practices of other Federal and State agencies and Tribal governments, and evaluate whether the NRC should incorporate environmental justice beyond implementation through NEPA.
- C. Review the adequacy of the 2004 Commission Policy Statement.
- D. Consider whether establishing formal mechanisms to gather external stakeholder input would benefit any future environmental justice efforts

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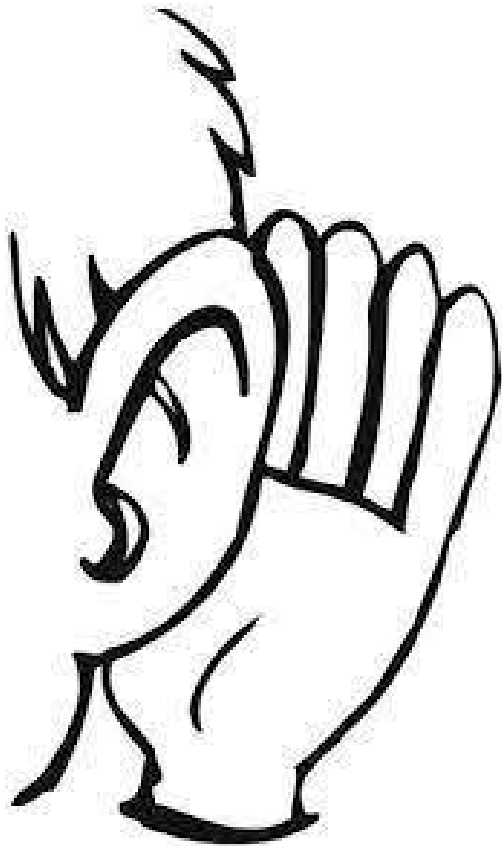
Gathering and considering perspectives

Developed a flexible outreach strategy that allows us to learn and adapt.

- **Public comment** - *Federal Register* notices and related meetings
- **Targeted outreach** to community leaders and groups active in environmental justice, governments -- Tribal, local, state and federal – industry, licensees, and labor unions.
- **Internal outreach** to NRC staff



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Overview of what we've heard thus far to help inform the NRC staff's Environmental Justice Review

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What we've heard

Barriers to meaningful engagement

- NRC's reliance on IT for notices and public meetings
- Lack of broadband internet access
- Lack of consistent communication from NRC
- Communication from NRC is not always easily understandable

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Evaluate recent Executive Orders and assess whether environmental justice is appropriately considered and addressed given the agency's mission.

What we've heard

- The NRC should not limit consideration of EOs in its EJ Review.
- NRC should consider a number of executive orders that have been issued since EO 12898, such as EOs 13985, 13990 and 14008

Review the adequacy
of the 2004
Commission Policy
Statement

In your view, what
portions of the 2004
Policy Statement are
effective?

What we've heard

- **NRC's approach of the Policy Statement reflects outdated thinking on justice concepts and should be revised, e.g., Census data tools might not truly reflect the social, economic, and racial makeup of communities**
- **The policy statement does not guarantee that the NRC will uphold the principles of environmental justice and ensure that all U.S. populations are treated fairly and included in decision-making processes that relate to the environment**
- **The 2004 Policy Statement does not address tribal engagement, and this should be done early in the licensing process**
- **NRC should include Racial Discrimination in siting and Environmental Racism in evaluating licensing actions**

What ways could the NRC enhance identification of environmental justice communities?

How could the NRC enhance opportunities for members of environmental justice communities to participate in licensing and regulatory activities?

What we've heard

- NRC should cultivate relationships with State and local governmental and non-governmental organizations and other community leaders (e.g., church leaders and networks)
- NRC should to tailor outreach efforts to the specific community considering the differences and challenges that might exist
- NRC should convey technical information in a manner that is clearly understood by all members of the community
- NRC should provide opportunities for early notification and input into both safety and environmental aspects of licensing

What actions could the NRC take to enhance consideration of environmental justice at the NRC, considering the agency's mission and statutory authority?

What we've heard

- NRC should create an organization or advisory committee within the NRC with staff solely dedicated to performing outreach and facilitating meaningful engagement with EJ Communities
- NRC should respect Sovereign Tribal Nations by offering consultation early in the decision-making process

Environmental Justice Review Timeline

- Comments Accepted via
 - **Telephone:** 301-415-3875 (leave voicemail comment)
 - **E-mail:** NRC-EJReview@nrc.gov
 - **Mail**
 - **Federal Rulemaking Website**
- Planning additional public meeting(s) during the comment period
- **Submit comments by**
October 29, 2021
- February 2022: Staff provide results of review to the Commission

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If you have
questions/comments

1. Press *1 from your phone
2. Unmute your line and speak clearly when prompted to say your name.
3. Press # after saying your name to hear the meeting again.
4. If you want to withdraw question: press *2
5. Try and keep comments to 3-5 minutes

Any follow-up comments will need to proceed back through the process

+Make sure you speak your name clearly

Contact Information

NRC-EJReview@nrc.gov



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