



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 20, 2022

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, CONNECTICUT, INDIANA
NON-AGREEMENT STATES
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF HOW
AGENCY PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
(STC-22-023)

Purpose: To inform the States, Agreement States, Non-Agreement States, and Federally Recognized Tribes that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)'s has completed its systematic assessment on how the NRC approaches environmental justice (EJ) in its programs, policies and activities and submitted a paper to the NRC Commission with recommendations and actions.

Background: In response to the Commission's April 23, 2021, Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) M210218B (ADAMS Accession No. [ML21113A070](#)), the staff conducted a systematic review of how the agency's programs, policies, and activities address EJ. Specifically, the staff evaluated Executive Order (EO) 12898 and recent EOs and assessed whether EJ is appropriately considered and addressed in the agency's programs, policies, and activities, such as adjudicatory procedures and environmental reviews, given the agency's mission. The staff considered the EJ practices of other Federal, state, and Tribal agencies, and evaluated whether the EJ Policy Statement is adequate, and whether the NRC should incorporate EJ beyond implementation through National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The staff also considered whether establishing formal mechanisms to gather external input would benefit any future NRC EJ efforts. To inform this review, the staff engaged with partners and stakeholders representing a broad range of EJ perspectives and leveraged resources within the agency.

Discussion: Based on its review, the staff concluded the NRC's programs, policies, and activities that address EJ through NEPA are consistent with applicable law. They are also generally consistent with the spirit of EOs that address EJ. The EJ considerations at the NRC are currently limited to NEPA-related activities for regulatory and licensing actions. The staff has identified areas where consideration of EJ could be updated, enhanced, or modernized both within and outside the NEPA context, including enhancements to the EJ Policy Statement and implementation of formal mechanisms to benefit future EJ efforts.

The staff formally submitted its EJ paper (SECY-22-0025) and supporting enclosures to the Commission on March 29, 2022, and the documents were released to the public on April 12, 2022. The three links below all lead to SECY-22-0025 and enclosures.

<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/recent/2022/index.html>

<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/2022/index.html>

<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/combined/2022/index.html>

In addition, the NRC's public EJ website update can be found here: <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/licensing/nepa/environmental-justice/assessment.html>. [Social media posts are also available](#) via Twitter and Facebook.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact the individual named below:

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Signed by Anderson, Brian
on 04/20/22

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SUBJECT: THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF HOW AGENCY PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DATED: April 20, 2022

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