

**WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Public Meeting  
Alexandria, VA**

**November 30 - December 1, 2022**

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## PREFACE

The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) is established by Executive Order 14008, titled “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (issued on January 27, 2021). As such, this is a non-discretionary committee and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

The WHEJAC will provide independent advice and recommendations to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and to the White House Interagency Council on Environmental Justice (Interagency Council), on how to increase the Federal Government’s efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice, including recommendations for updating Executive Order 12898. The WHEJAC will provide advice and recommendations about broad cross-cutting issues related, but not limited to, issues of environmental justice and pollution reduction, energy, climate change mitigation and resiliency, environmental health, and racial inequity. The WHEJAC’s efforts will include a broad range of strategic scientific, technological, regulatory, community engagement, and economic issues related to environmental justice.

The duties of the WHEJAC are to provide advice and recommendations to the Interagency Council and the Chair of CEQ on a whole-of-government approach to environmental justice, including but not limited to environmental justice in the following areas:

- Climate change mitigation, resilience, and disaster management.
- Toxics, pesticides, and pollution reduction in overburdened communities.
- Equitable conservation and public lands use.
- Tribal and Indigenous issues.
- Clean energy transition.
- Sustainable infrastructure, including clean water, transportation, and the built environment.
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) enforcement and civil rights.
- Increasing the Federal Government’s efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice.

EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) maintains summary reports of all WHEJAC meetings, which are available on the WHEJAC website at: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council>. Copies of materials distributed during WHEJAC meetings are also available to the public upon request. Comments or questions can be directed via e-mail to [whejac@epa.gov](mailto:whejac@epa.gov)

## **Council Members in Attendance**

- Richard Moore, WHEJAC Co-Chair, Los Jardines Institute
- Peggy Shepard, WHEJAC Co-Chair, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Catherine Coleman Flowers, WHEJAC Vice-Chair, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice
- Carletta Tilousi, WHEJAC Vice-Chair, Havasupai Tribe
- LaTricea Adams, Black Millennials for Flint
- Susana Almanza, People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources
- Jade Begay, NDN Collective
- Maria Belen-Power, GreenRoots
- Tom Cormons, Appalachian Voices
- Jerome Foster II, Waic Up
- Kim Havey, City of Minneapolis
- Angelo Logan, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice
- Maria Lopez-Nunez, Ironbound Community Corporation
- Harold Mitchell, ReGenesis
- Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD, University of California, Berkley
- Juan Parras, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services
- Michele Roberts, Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform
- Ruth Santiago, Latino Climate Action Network
- Nicky Sheats, PhD, Kean University
- Viola Waghiyi, Alaska Community Action on Toxics
- Kyle Whyte, PhD, University of Michigan
- Beverly Wright, PhD, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

# AGENDA



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY  
 COUNCIL**

**HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING  
 NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 1, 2022**

The Westin Alexandria Old Town, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA 22314

*NOTE: Please be advised that agenda times are approximate. When the discussion for one topic is completed, discussions for the next topic will begin. For further information, please contact the Designated Federal Officer for this meeting, Victoria Robinson, at [robinson.victoria@epa.gov](mailto:robinson.victoria@epa.gov).*

Wednesday, November 30, 2022		[2:00 – 7:00 PM]
2:00 - 2:20 PM	Welcome and WHEJAC Member Roll Call	
2:20 - 2:30 PM	Opening Remarks	
2:30 - 3:15 PM	A Conversation with John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation	
3:15 - 4:00 PM	An Overview of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	
4:00 - 4:15 PM	<i>BREAK</i>	
4:15 - 7:00 PM	Public Comment Period	
7:00 PM	<i>ADJOURN for Day</i>	

Thursday, December 1, 2022		[9:00 – 4:30 PM]
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Welcome and Member Roll Call	
9:15 - 9:20 AM	Land Acknowledgement	
9:20 - 10:00 AM	CEQ Updates and Remarks	
10:00 - 11:30 AM	Addressing Legacy Pollution: A Federal Panel Discussion on Cleanup Efforts	
11:30 - 12:00 PM	New Charge: Carbon Management	
12:00 - 1:30 PM	<i>LUNCH</i>	
1:30 - 2:15 PM	The <a href="#">National Climate Assessment</a> : Overview & Opportunities for Engagement	
2:15 - 2:30 PM	<i>BREAK</i>	
2:30 - 4:15 PM	Public Business Session	
4:15 - 4:30 PM	Closing Remarks	
4:30 PM	<i>MEETING ADJOURNS</i>	

**WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (WHEJAC)**  
**Hybrid Public Meeting**  
**November 30 - December 1, 2022**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) convened virtual and in-person meetings on Wednesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 1, 2022. This synopsis covers WHEJAC members' deliberations during the two-day meeting. It also summarizes the issues raised during the public comment period.

**1.0 WHEJAC Meeting**

This section summarizes WHEJAC members' deliberations during the two-day meeting, including action items, requests, and recommendations.

**1.1 Welcome and WHEJAC Member Roll Call**

On Wednesday, November 30, **Victoria Robinson**, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), U.S. EPA, welcomed attendees to the first day of the public meeting and made announcements. She stated that everyone is in listen-and-view mode only, and public commenters are invited to speak later that afternoon and/or invited to submit written comments instead. She noted that Spanish translation and closed captioning are available. She turned the meeting over to Co-Chair Richard Moore for opening remarks.

**Richard Moore, WHEJAC Co-Chair**, welcomed everyone and gave a brief reminder to public commenters to stay within the time allotted, state the issue, and state their recommendations to CEQ.

**DFO Robinson** took the roll call and informed the Council that the quorum was met.

**1.2 Opening Remarks**

**1.2.1 Brenda Mallory, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**

**Brenda Mallory** thanked the Council for inviting her and for all the work WHEJAC does for environmental justice. She honored Congressman Donald McEachin who had recently passed. She stated that he was a partner in the environmental justice work.

Ms. Mallory stated that this time of year is a time of reflection, both personally and with the work at hand. She stated that, in 2022, the Biden administration has set the pillars in place so that equity work will be efficient and enduring for years to come. She acknowledged that the Council would like to see goals be accomplished faster, but that such work takes time to ensure efficiency. She reviewed some of the work the Biden Administration has done so far, including having community voices in the policy-making process, releasing the first version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), continuing the Justice40 Initiative, and passing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Citing examples of work in progress to meet those goals, Chair Mallory stated that she's looking forward to accomplishments of the coming year.

**Peggy Shepard, WHEJAC Co-Chair**, asked Ms. Mallory about her thoughts about next steps for CEQ with respect to building capacity and the budget. Ms. Mallory responded that the office is still building

teams to tackle environmental justice issues.

### **1.3 A Conversation with John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation**

**John Podesta** thanked the Council for inviting him to speak and to see everyone in person again. He stated that the Council has been instrumental in helping the Biden administration make important progress on environmental justice. He encouraged the Council to keep pushing, noting that the CEJST is one of those important tools to make change happen.

Mr. Podesta described his position and the focus of his office, adding that equity and environmental justice are at the center of the implementation of the IRA. He reminded everyone that the law provides benefits for clean energy and climate; improvements to low-income communities, traditional energy communities, and fenceline communities; and incentives to create good-paying, high-quality jobs in those communities.

Mr. Podesta asked for the Council's guidance on engaging individuals in communities who lack experience with the intricacies of tax credits and deductions. He asked for ideas on communicating this opportunity to help communities attract and drive the investment, and to provide technical assistance to access those resources?

Mr. Podesta stated that the IRA includes a lot of grants to expedite clean energy deployment, cut pollution, and tackle climate change. He stated that most of those programs fall under the Justice40 Initiative, and he gave a few examples.

Mr. Podesta also honored Congressman Donald McEachin and pledged to live up to the standards embodied by him. He welcomed questions and comments from the Council.

**Ruth Santiago** asked how Mr. Podesta envisioned the tax credits and rebates from the IRA working in Puerto Rico, which has a different tax system. Referring to the Green Bank and EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), Ms. Santiago questioned whether these programs are meant to promote green hydrogen programs and, if so, how would that address the emissions from burning green hydrogen, the leakages, and the higher flammability related to green hydrogen. Mr. Podesta replied that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) had a significant amount of money to build out green hydrogen hubs across the country. He stated that the IRA has a production tax credit for green hydrogen and EPA is highly regulating those hubs. He added that he needs to research how these programs will work in Puerto Rico.

**Michele Roberts** asked if there can be an intentional space or program created for communities that need to be relocated because their environment is too polluted to save or because of climate change. Mr. Podesta responded that there is money for relocation under the resilience portions of BIL through grants.

**Beverly Wright, PhD**, asked what part of the BIL or IRA programs will support communities with energy insecurities or extremely high energy bills. She asked whether it's time to renew contracts with utility companies to keep rates low? Mr. Podesta responded that there are federal programs to help with utility bills and better insulate homes, adding that the BIL should be passing funds down to help support those programs. Dr. Wright followed up by asking how BIL and IRA will encourage companies that are resistant to renewable energy to move in that direction. Mr. Podesta replied that the incentives, standards, and regulations within these acts will pressure those companies to make the changes.

**Nicky Sheats, PhD**, asked what the plans are to ensure that there is community input regarding NEPA. Mr. Podesta replied that there needs to be more reform in the permitting process to ensure community input.

**Tom Cormons** asked what Mr. Podesta's plans are to help to transcend the resource constraints with Justice40, and how can the WHEJAC continue to help. Mr. Podesta replied that his office is working on staffing issues within each agency, particularly with adding technical staff in regional offices; analyzing how each agency is spending the money; and ensuring that each agency hits its targets.

## **1.4 An Overview of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**

### **1.4.1 Zealan Hoover, Senior Advisor, U.S. EPA; and Jahi Wise, Special Assistant to the President for Climate Policy and Finance**

**Zealan Hoover** introduced himself and his office's duties. He gave a brief overview of the presentation. **Jahi Wise** introduced himself and gave a brief framing of the fund.

**Mr. Hoover** described the three streams of funding: the funding amount, eligible recipients, use of funds and conditions and carveouts for each. He also explained the flow of funds from EPA to project-level investments through direct and indirect funding. See the presentation slides (Appendix C) for details.

**LaTricea Adams** asked what oversight and accountability would look like to ensure that funding equitably reaches black, Latinx, and indigenous communities, particularly those funds trickling down from states and local government. She asked if there be a public repository that houses allocation descriptions that includes the projects that are slated and those outcomes' benchmarks of progress. Noting that money sometimes gets tied up in state and local government mired in a lot of red tape, Ms. Adams asked what avenues exist to influence shortening the time it takes to actually get the money. Mr. Wise responded that those funds are covered under the Justice40 Initiative, so the impact will be measured with the public progress and dashboard concept and the CEJST. Mr. Hoover also responded that the scoring of the competition will drive the outcome, with one of the components being how quickly they can award funding. Mr. Hoover added that the terms and conditions of the grant will also drive the timing.

**Harold Mitchell** thanked Mr. Hoover and Mr. Wise for implementing this program, adding hopes that this accountability will stop the bad players from interfering with the flow of money to the local level.

**Angelo Logan** asked if EPA and CEQ were in the process of finalizing the guidance on the program. Mr. Hoover responded that they are currently in the process of collecting public input, adding that in December, they will synthesize what they have learned and, in the coming year, develop the program guidance. Mr. Logan asked what role the WHEJAC can play in the development of the program guidance. Mr. Wise responded that the WHEJAC can still send in recommendations and maybe working together with CEQ to synthesize the input and design of the program.

**Dr. Wright** asked for clarification on what funds would non-profits be eligible to apply, what exactly the funds would be used for, and what will be the average amount for those grants. Mr. Hoover responded that it depends on the feedback from the public. He stated that generically, non-profit organizations would include financial institutions that are chartered as non-profits, such as Green Banks, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) that do not take customer deposits, and other non-governmental financing organizations that have community engagement. He explained that at this



time, the size of the individual grants is undecided, but there is a ceiling on the total number and amount of the grants.

**Kyle Whyte, PhD**, stated that he hopes the public feedback will reveal a lot of the details of lessons learned in the past and new ideas going forward. Mr. Hoover stated that he looks forward to seeing what feedback comes in.

**Dr. Sheats** reminded EPA and CEQ to prioritize the opportunity to reduce the disproportionate pollution in neighborhoods with environmental justice concerns, fight the cumulative impacts, and fight climate change. He stated that EPA and CEQ should be specific in thinking down to the community and neighborhood level. Dr. Sheats asked if there could be an extension to the feedback timeline of December 5, 2022. Mr. Hoover reminded everyone that Congress gave EPA a 180-day statutory deadline to begin the grant progress, which ends February 12, 2023, so there is a lot of work that must be done by then. He stated that he would like to get a first draft started with feedback received by December 5. He acknowledged that this is an iterative process, and feedback beyond the December 5 deadline is still welcomed.

**Carletta Tilousi** suggested that heavy metal water testing be added to the funding. She explained that tribes are paying for it themselves and it is expensive. She asked for clarity about project-level investments, recommending that fund-matching requirements be removed from the grants. She also asked if these are competitive grants.

**Viola Waghyyi** also asked if the grants are competitive. She reminded the Council that nuclear energy is not clean energy. She gave several examples of what's happening in her community.

**Co-Chair Shepard** stated that buildings in New York City that are not well maintained will face challenges competing with large corporations to update buildings to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals. Mr. Wise responded that this program is designed to help small businesses get the money needed to make improvements.

**Co-Chair Moore** announced the break to be followed by the public comment period. He reminded the Council that a quorum is needed to start the public comment period.

## **1.5 Public Comment Period**

On November 30, 2022, the WHEJAC held a public comment period to allow members of the public to discuss environmental justice concerns in their communities. A total of 53 individuals submitted verbal public comments to the WHEJAC. An additional 110 individuals had signed up to speak but were not in attendance. Each speaker was allotted three minutes.

**Co-Chair Moore** welcomed everyone back from the break. **DFO Robinson** informed him that the quorum is met. Co-Chair Moore reiterated the procedures of the public comment period. DFO Robinson reminded everyone of the headphones for interpretation.

### **1.5.1 Uni Blake - American Petroleum Institute (Washington, D.C.)**

**Uni Blake:** Good afternoon and thank you so much for this opportunity. So, you heard my name is Uni Blake. I'm a senior policy advisor at the American Petroleum Institute, API, and I am here actually to introduce API to WHEJAC. I took the opportunity and introduced myself previously at a meeting earlier this year in front of some of the WHEJAC members, and I asked the question: is there room in this

conversation for industry? And I was told, yes. And it also depends on what it is that we bring to the table.

Just generally speaking, I am going to make my comments really brief. I saw there are 163 people signed up to testify today, and we would like to spend that time listening to what they have to say because we are here for the communities and whatever it is that they are seeking.

So, our members are committed to safe and responsible operations. This includes the production, discovery, and delivery of energy in a manner that respects communities, and in order to do that, we have put resources towards understanding the potential effects that our operations may have on communities. And where we started was reviewing our best practices and our guidance through an environmental justice lens. And our goal was to identify if there were any opportunities where we could advance or do better with our operations to serve our communities better.

So, API already has over 800 standards and recommended practices that we went through. We also looked at the work that we do with Ipieca, a global oil and gas association who develops guidance documents on environmental and social performance. From that work, we were able to identify opportunities where we can enhance what it is we're doing in our communities and also on the environmental front. So that review is what guides all the work that we're doing now. But, however, the Swahili people, who are from Kenya, say one hand cannot clap alone, and so I am here to say that we recognize that we cannot be of any use unless we work collaboratively with other people, with other organizations, and WHEJAC is one of the groups that we would like to work with.

So, my time here is just to say, hey, I'm Uni. I work with API, and, if any time you need some feedback from the industry, we are here. And that's it, thank you.

### **1.5.2 Stephanie Herron and Dora Williams - EJHA (Pennsylvania)**

**Stephanie Herron:** My name is Stephanie Herron; I defer my time to Ms. Dora Williams.

**Dora Williams:** Good evening. Thank you for this opportunity to speak today, to speak before the WHEJAC and your colleagues. My name is Dora Williams. I'm from Newcastle, Delaware along the Route 9 Corridor and Rosehill Gardens. I'm an active member with the Rosehill Garden Civic Association, which is my local organization. I'm also active with the Newcastle Prevention Coalition. We are part of Delaware Concerns for Environmental Justice and affiliates of EJHA. We're just here today to talk about communities that live in catastrophic zones. On behalf of these communities, especially -- I'm going to start with one -- some of them live in more catastrophic zones than others. It's written since 1940 that Mossville, Louisiana has been taken over by fossil fuel conglomerates until today. A once-thriving town built by ex-slaves is gone. No sustaining life left, and those left are seeking a fair way out.

Beginning in 1942, the island of St. Lawrence in Alaska began its long history of contamination left behind by military operations that exist today. On December the 3rd, we will be remembering the Bhopal disaster of 1984 that injured 574,366 people in its surroundings and, in the following two weeks over time, 8,000 more of gas-related diseases.

Cancer Alley, Louisiana is an 85-mile stretch with a population of 20,000. In 1987, St. Gabriel, Louisiana documented 792 cases of cancer for every 100,000 people, but the state will still not acknowledge pollution as a cancer-causing agent or risk even though renewed challenges are rising as polluters bid for more territory.

November the 25th, reminded residents living along the Route 9 corridor of when the 2018 accidental release of ethylene oxide from the Atlas Croda plant near the Collins Park residential community closed the Delaware Memorial Bridge for four to six hours. That bridge accommodates about 80,000 cars a day, and recently we had someone who was on that bridge at the time at an EPA listening session that said that they could've blown up that bridge at that time.

We would like to prevent all these catastrophic incidents. We ask the WHEJAC to urge the CEQ to make sure of a safe passage for those people who don't have a place to go. They've been displaced by these polluters, big conglomerates that have made money and ruined their towns and their homes. Statements, data collection, and research science agree on what leads to catastrophic ends. These stories are documented and handed down in families and recorded at meetings by the community members. Their professional allies and the like are here today. They bring solutions to their problems.

We want these near misses to stop. So, we thank you for listening today. We hope that we have convinced you to make a way for these people to have a new beginning, a new start. It's very, very important. It was not of their own hands that their lives and homes were destroyed. So, we thank you and hope that your hearts have been convinced to move on their behalf. Thank you.

**Dr. Wright** asked where Ms. Williams was from. Ms. Williams answered that she's from Newcastle, Delaware. Dr. Wright thanked her for bringing up other communities outside of Delaware. She stated that Mossville isn't the only community that's disappearing, noting that five other Louisiana communities have been lost because of pollution.

### **1.5.3 Adriane Busby - Friends of the Earth (Washington, D.C.)**

**Adriane Busby:** Hello. Good afternoon. Thank you all for your service and dedication to the Environmental Justice movement and for this opportunity to speak with you today. I am Adriane Busby, the Senior Food and Climate Policy analyst with Friends of the Earth, and I'm here to talk to you about concentrated animal feeding operations, also known as CAFOs or factory farms.

As you know well, President Biden has made advancing environmental justice a top priority for this administration, and we are grateful for this commitment. However, we are concerned by this administration's omission of one of the most important health environmental and economic issues confronting rural communities, and that is factory farming or industrial animal agriculture.

*Big AG* factory farming is a big driver of climate change, and it accounts for 36 percent of these methane emissions. Concentrated animal feeding operations degrade the air, land, and water of nearby communities and destroy the quality of life for these communities, which are disproportionately low-wealth and/or communities of color.

Simply living near one of these communities can cause serious health issues and even death. Yet, this administration has not prioritized action to address this harm from this sector. President Biden's methane strategy for agriculture relies heavily on the widespread industry adoption of methane digestors and subsidizes the cost of this technology for factory farms and other manure-to-gas projects. Paying corporations to continue to pollute is not the solution. In fact, it could actually have the opposite effect and result in the expansion of these operations and clustering in already over-burdened areas to maximize profit creating more pollution, given digestors do not mitigate co-pollutions like nitrous oxide, ammonia, or heavy metals.

California's Central Valley is a good example of where this is already occurring. Some of these operations have expanded exponentially once they have received funding for this technology. And so, this administration is not just failing to act on Big AG; it is actively going in the wrong direction by subsidizing them.

Friends of the Earth ask that WHEJAC work with the Biden Administration to uphold its commitment to environmental justice principles by exercising its authority to meaningfully regulate big AG. And we also recommend that WHEJAC encourage the administration to thoroughly research potential unintended consequences on EJ communities and small-scale producers, as well as the efficacy of subsidizing methane digestors and biogas as a climate solution.

We ask that you continue to work with this administration and support them to transition away from industrial animal agriculture for operators who are looking to transition to other forms of agriculture. Maybe it could fund a program that can work with the community and operators so that they can find alternative solutions for the harms that they are suffering as well as transition to alternative forms of agriculture that are not as harmful and still provide good jobs for the community in which its located. Thank you so much for your time and thank you for listening to my comments.

**Co-Chair Moore** commented that this isn't the first time the Council has heard comments on this subject. He added that rural communities need to be equally safe as city communities.

#### **1.5.4 Dannie Bolden - North Port St. Joe Project Coalition (Port St. Joe, Florida) and Tyson Slocum -- Public Citizens**

**Dannie Bolden:** Hi, my name is Dannie Bolden, and I'm here representing the North Port St. Joe Project Area Coalition in the great community of North Port St. Joe that is located in the city of Port St. Joe, Florida in the Florida panhandle. Today I'm here because I want to sound the alarm, and I also want to bring to your attention and ask for you all's assistance. The community of North Point St. Joe is facing what I think is a threat that could have an overall impact on the continued existence of this African American community.

This community has been surrounded for 60 years by a paper mill and a chemical plant. The paper company dumped toxic soil and other waste materials onto property that actually covered up an underground stream. They subsequently sold this land to residents living in the community and actually then decided that it would be a great place for them to build homes on. Over the years, those homes have begun to sink because that stream continues to flow. The toxic chemicals that were in the debris that was buried there include cyanide, PCBs, and all types of toxic chemicals that have really caused groundwater contamination. The community is really in a position now -- now that the chemical plant and the paper mill are closed -- to really see its revitalization, but we still are faced with some issues.

We are a legacy EJ community. We have been successful in getting three EPA grants that will hopefully help us to assess some of the issues that are impacting our community. I can tell you there has never been any health impact monitoring, or any monitoring done to determine the long-time legacy of the issues from the different chemicals that were buried in the soil.

Now I'm going to fast-forward to what we're threatened with right now. We're threatened today by a liquified natural gas export storage facility being built on the old papermill site where there has been no type of environmental assessment.

My friend Mr. Tyson Slocum with Public Citizens will talk a little bit about what we're dealing with

regarding that issue.

**Tyson Slocum:** Thank you very much, Dannie. So, this summer the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which is under federal law, was granted exclusive jurisdiction over any liquified natural gas export terminal, and therefore FERC is the one to perform the comprehensive environmental review, including an environmental justice review. In response to a petition by a company called Nopetro LNG, they granted an exemption from its oversight for LNG export terminals. So, what FERC did this summer was open up a huge new LNG export loophole because what Nopetro said is, we've got the heat exchangers that are liquifying the gas, but, because they're 1,300 feet away from the physical point of export at the dock, that 1,300-foot distance severs FERC's ability to have jurisdiction.

We think that FERC erred. FERC supported Nopetro's contention, and, as a result, the proposed LNG export terminal is not subject to any federal oversight. We're dealing with a situation where the local governments are not listening to the community. And what's happening in North Port St. Joe is going to happen elsewhere. We know of other proposed facilities in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, an entity called C&G Holding, and another one in Gibbstown, New Jersey. And there are probably dozens more. What these companies recognize is that instead of going through the FERC regulatory process -- which can take two years and cost a lot of money -- they can design their facilities to explicitly evade oversight because of this new loophole and build their LNG export terminals on the cheap in communities across the United States. Thank you.

**Mr. Mitchell** asked, since FERC has decided to create this regulatory loophole for emerging LNG export terminals, are there other federal agencies that could perform a comprehensive EJ assessment, and who is it?

**Mr. Slocum:** That's a great question. And we're not sure. Under the Natural Gas Act, Congress gave the federal government exclusive authority over LNG exports, and right now that authority is shared between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and FERC. Where DOE assesses whether or not the exports are in the public interest, FERC is assigned the responsibility over the physical siting and review of the physical facility. But there's nothing in the statute that says that. So, if FERC is going to walk away from its responsibility over these small-scale facilities, then perhaps DOE needs to step up. I think that there's a potential for the EPA, but what we need here is some sort of interagency collaboration that, if FERC is going to go ahead creating this new regulatory loophole, we've got to make sure that communities like North Point St. Joe are protected.

And so, we're currently in litigation with FERC. We sued on September 27 in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, but that process can take a year. We think we've got a strong case, but we're not the court of appeals. And so, if we lose, I think that one thing that the task force could do is to have an interagency task force on LNG exports and environmental justice, and part of that can look at whether or not the other agencies can step up in FERC's absence.

**Ms. Santiago** stated that, in the Gibbstown case, New Fortress Energy also built an LNG terminal in San Juan, Puerto Rico without FERC authorization, but FERC did determine that the LNG terminal was subject to its jurisdiction. She suggested that he look that case up and maybe consider contacting the other groups that are working on these cases.

**Mr. Slocum:** We're in touch with them, and we are very aware of the case. In this case, the circumstances are a little different. They looked at the precedent in Puerto Rico and they looked at other LNG facilities, and what Nopetro did was they just moved the liquefaction heat exchangers just a little farther away from the dock in an effort to successfully get the exemption. It's also important to note that

New Fortress, in addition to its facility in Puerto Rico, has an export terminal in Miami that they never got FERC authorization for, and it's an export terminal similar to this one in Nopetro on the Florida panhandle. So, there's already a number of examples.

**Mr. Bolden:** Yeah, I wanted to say, too, that this is really interesting for us. We did not know that they were even planning this storage facility in Port St. Joe until we were notified by public citizens. The problem that we had is one of our local state officials, Jason Shoaf -- I'll call his name out -- his family owns the rights to the natural gas line that comes into the community. So, this was really something that he was pushing forward -- to basically work with the St. Joe company, the old polluter, that basically left behind all the environmental issues we have.

But the thing that was paramount to us was when our local government said that they didn't even know anything about this. This is something that was done behind the scenes with no notice or knowledge and with no public input. And I can tell you that my community is a legacy community. Right now, we're receiving three environmental justice grants from EPA to try to address the issues that are impacting our community historically. For all the things we've been through, this is just another slap in the face.

**Dr. Wright** noting that she's from Louisiana, she stated that her organization, the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, along with Earthjustice, are suing the LNG company in Plaquemines Parish right now. The company is saying that it doesn't need a permit from anyone to move forward, so it's the same fight. Dr. Wright stated that the burden then ends up being on the community to prove the health impacts. She suggested getting health surveys and collecting health data so that, when the company says the community is not being affected, they have the health data to prove it. She suggested that the two organizations should connect for a united front.

**Mr. Bolden:** And we're actually working with Climate Imperative as well. We realize that this is not just something that's impacting us. If this is allowed to go forward, other communities along the panhandle, that have areas where they can actually put these facilities, will be impacted. A lot of those communities are predominantly African American communities. We realized that they want to put this small facility there now, and then they're going to add on. There's a 60-acre piece of property that they can build on.

We're in an area that's tourist based. We have a beautiful ecosystem there, and all of this is going to be impacted. We need WHEJAC's help. I'm here asking not just for Port St. Joe, but I'm talking about any of the communities along that panhandle area, which is a place that I love. It's going to be impacted by this, and we can't do it alone. We spoke to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) yesterday, and we're speaking to you guys now. So, do whatever it is that you can do to stop what I think is going to be a big problem for a lot of people who have been faced with environmental injustices for a lot of years now that there's an opportunity to compile that with these new facilities. Thank you, sir.

**Ms. Roberts** stated that this issue needs to be raised with the NEJAC, the WHEJAC, and the White House Interagency Council on Environmental Justice (IAC). It's unfair that the responsibility again falls back on communities to stop LNG companies. **Co-Chair Moore** agreed and stated that these issues are interagency.

### **1.5.5 Katy Super - Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform (EJHA) (Washington, D.C.)**

**Katy Super:** I would like to thank the WHEJAC members for their service in all aspects and our

interpreters and tech staff today for supporting this session. My name is Katy Super, and I'm the program associate for EJHA. I have the privilege to work in solidarity and support of those, many of which you will hear from today, who are working to make their communities healthier and more prosperous.

While historic investment packages and new programs have been established, the Executive Order and Justice40 failed to include any specific provisions for relocation of communities that are so heavily burdened by pollution risk, lack infrastructure, and climate change that they are unable to safely remain in their homes.

I would like to bring into this room my friends and EJHA affiliates Delma and Christine Bennett, who you would hopefully hear from later today. They are two powerful community advocates who have been working for environmental justice for Mossville, their historic home for over 40 years. Mossville, Louisiana is a black community founded in 1790 by formerly enslaved people. It is now surrounded by over 15 petrochemical facilities. Many Mossville residents suffer from cancer, respiratory issues, and other health problems, which can be caused by elevated levels of pollution.

The immense cumulative impacts have forced many residents to accept meager buyouts to leave. They are leaving without enough to get by, and they are leaving sick. The companies, along with local, state, and federal authorities, have all failed to act in good faith or to enact a just and equitable transition and relocation for the residents of Mossville. Mossville is just one example of a community left behind by past and current government policies but there are many others around the country. Communities like Sivuqaq, Alaska, and Manchester, Texas outside of Houston have been intentionally sacrificed to industry.

While this administration has made strides, we cannot merely prevent more fates like Mossville. We must also work full force so that we can once again be whole. Communities should not have to contort their lives, challenges, and solutions into existing government bureaucracies. It is the job of the government to actively find creative solutions that center their needs.

My ask to the WHEJAC is to direct this administration to collaborate and actualize methods and funding sources for fair and just relocation. I suggest the WHEJAC create a workgroup focused on relocation specifically and ask that they advise the IAC, the Interagency Council, to do so as well.

Thank you so much. I respect each one of you and I appreciate your time.

#### **1.5.6 Sandra Smithers - New Castle Prevention Coalition (New Castle, Delaware)**

**Sandra Smithers:** Good afternoon and thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you. My name is Sandra Smithers. I live and work in an area known as the Route 9 corridor in New Castle, Delaware where I am the executive director of a small non-profit that's focused on elevating our community by addressing the social determinants of health. This area has one of the highest rates of pollution-related illnesses in the state of Delaware. Mossville, Louisiana is emblematic of what happens and what will continue to happen because government agencies that are charged with protecting the people and the environment fail to live up to their job and their responsibilities.

In November 2018, Croda had an accidental release of ethylene oxide -- 2,100 pounds of ethylene oxide. No notice was given to the residents. We found out when friends and relatives who lived outside of the area alerted us. And although Croda was fined, the fine was so small it could be considered the cost of doing business. They did install alarms, but the alarms were not loud enough for anyone to hear.

So, I guess that means that we don't really have alarms. They say that we should shelter in place, but in a community that is so compromised, just what does that mean?

There have been no benefits that have come to this community. The fines were supposed to filter down to the community to offset some of the damage that's done, but of course, we've seen none of that. We are told that the chronic pollution-related illnesses in our community are due to "lifestyle." We've been overlooked and disrespected by those whose job it is to protect us. We have very simple asks and that is that EPA has greater oversight of state agencies that are not doing their job, that resources to act should actually reach our community in a meaningful way, that the community is involved in decisions, and that residents in Hamilton Park -- a community in the Route 9 area whose properties have been devalued due to pollution -- be relocated and restored to whole. Thank you.

**Ms. Roberts** asked, with that release at the Croda facility, can you explain what the Delaware Department of Environmental Protection and the Delaware Department of Health did for the communities? Ms. Roberts also questioned whether Ms. Smither's organization had met with the agencies, and if so, what was the resolution and what is happening today.

**Ms. Smithers:** Yes. They had several public hearings, and they told us that they were sorry and that they would do better in the future. Since then, we've had two subsequent releases that the public was not told about, and the only way we found out about it was that we got the information from another source. So, the agency whose job it is to protect us really works hand in hand, we feel, with the polluters.

**Co-Chair Moore** thanked her and reiterated that this is an IAC and CEQ issue, and the WHEJAC will ensure their commitment to work with them on this issue.

### **1.5.7 Michelle Deatruck - Women's March Ann Arbor (Ann Arbor, Michigan)**

**Michelle Deatruck:** Good afternoon. I am Michelle Deatruck, and I'm here in my capacity as chair of Women's March Michigan. I'm also the chair of the D&C Council on the environment and climate crisis, and it is an honor to be here. We applaud the president's leadership on climate and especially the work of WHEJAC on environmental justice issues which is unprecedented and absolutely crucial. Thank you. That's evident all over the country and certainly in my home state of Michigan. And one such issue is landfill gas emissions.

Landfills are the third largest source of U.S. methane emissions, and actual emissions are vastly underestimated. In addition, landfill gas is comprised of other hazardous air pollutants which increase the risk of cancer and respiratory illness, and it's correlated with low birth rates. The reasons for Michigan's vast and expanding landfills with more than 25 percent of the waste in Wayne county's landfills coming from Canada and more from other states are complex. But the first necessary step to addressing the issues of landfill gas health and environmental justice harms is to monitor them and accurately assess them. Congressman Donald McEachin wrote about this in September urging the EPA to measure and monitor landfill methane emissions more accurately. And I recommend the expansion of that mandate to include the measurement of other compounds that impact public health in landfill gasses.

I will now pivot to issues around the implementation of the Justice40 initiative. We are so supportive of this mechanism for ensuring that previously disinvested communities can share in the public infrastructure investments coming out of the IRA. But there are issues related to the use of census tracts as the qualification mechanism for Justice40 initiative communities which I'm hearing about from a lot



of people and a lot of communities, including my own county where I sit on our environmental council. There are neighborhoods that would otherwise qualify but do not because of their location in census tracts with higher income neighborhoods, and so we suggest if possible, updating and changing the EPA's EJ Screen tool to support these efforts going forward. And when it comes to the EJ Screen, it would be helpful to local municipalities, I am hearing, for the EPA to clarify the data and sources being used to inform the tool and clarify how and how often they will be updated and also clarify or think about how it plans to work with states and municipalities to coordinate monitoring and/or neighborhood level air sensors and other local data collection.

It might be helpful to look at emissions reductions at a national level to assess overall improvement toward international goals set forth under the original Paris Climate Accord. And what I mean by that is there are over 475 local municipalities from Dallas to Anne Arbor that are implementing local measures, and they could benefit from working together in a concerted national program. I have a lot more to say about this. I've been thinking about it. I'll submit it in my written comments.

I think smaller municipalities could really use a single-source online place to go for all the tools and resources that they need to access what's available under IRA and other grant programs that are coming forth. I live in a county where we've got townships with one half-of-a-time staff person. They just can't get there. So, we still have tremendous success in the midterms, and I think that's partly because of the steps the administration took on climate, but we faced big challenges in Congress. We need the president to continue what he did in the first two years and take aggressive executive action and for the administration, EPA, and CEQ to pay close heed to what you are doing here and saying in this council. Stand ready to have your back and help. Thank you for leaning in. Thank you.

### **1.5.8 Cemelli de Aztlan - Centro Fronterizo del Obrero (El Paso, Texas)**

**Cemelli Aztlan:** Hi, good afternoon WHEJAC members. My name is Cemelli de Aztlan. I'm from El Paso, Texas, and I'm a community organizer with the organization La Mujer Obrera.

I want to tell you a bit about my neighborhood. Where I live, our boundaries are sources of pollution. We have three highways and industrial zoning for recycling facilities from maquiladoras in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. We have a train on two sides of us, and we have an international port of entry in our backyard. El Puente Libre translates into the Free Bridge; Bridge of the Americas is its official title.

The El Puente Libre was created with the Chamizal Treaty of 1967 to address the moving boundaries of the U.S./Mexico border. This is the only time in U.S. history where the United States gave the land back. And so, when the river kept changing, they decided to pretty much strangle the river which is now depleted and waterless. But they decided to strangle the river and create a boundary to keep the river in one place, and residents that lived in Mexico suddenly were in the U.S. and vice versa.

So, the El Puente Libre -- the Bridge of the Americas -- was created for the people to address the fact that suddenly they were divided by a man-made border. Well, an interesting thing happened with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Our congresswoman asked for money to renovate this super outdated bridge. As you can imagine, El Puente Libre is actually one of the most overused ports of entry because it's free. And so ever since NAFTA, it's been super overused by the maquila truck traffic exploiting that free entrance fee that was intended for the people, not for the industry.

So, as we're in discussion with our congresswoman and the General Services Administration (GSA), we're really looking at this funding as potential to address the high ozone levels of smog, particulate matter, and fugitive dust in our community. We are totally overburdened with cumulative impact,

environmental injustice, and racial injustice happening every which way. With this new funding, we hoped that the renovations would mean mitigation, but that's not the route it's going. In fact, the GSA let us know that they do not want to do an environmental impact study. They're not even thinking about an environmental health impact study. And if they do a NEPA study, it's going to be after the fact when they decide which proposal to move through.

To my understanding, NEPA hasn't changed much, or it doesn't change much of the plans. It has a very little success rate, unfortunately. I really was excited about this new administration's funding, but I'm wondering what mechanisms and accountability are in place to ensure that the environment and the people are protected as this money gets spent. Thank you.

**Mr. Logan** stated that the issue around ports and ports of entry is really important, especially with the funding from IRA for ports and infrastructure and goods movement. He asked who is the authority that was overseeing this particular project. Ms. Aztlan responded that the GSA and the U.S. Border Patrol are. Mr. Logan stated that it's important that they use all the materials and recommendations that have been put forward as they start feeding information to the agencies to help to inform where resources go for projects like this and the requirements and criteria that should be used as they allocate funding for projects.

**Ms. Roberts** asked how can we prioritize the health and safety and well-being of these particular communities? She stated that this is another example of CEQ and IAC getting involved in preventing catastrophes in the goods movement arena.

**Ms. Aztlan:** I appreciate your comments and I did attend the session on the new funding for trucks and getting them electric. Unfortunately, all the trucks through our neighborhood are coming from Mexico and that funding doesn't apply which is super unfortunate. But we've seen, first and foremost, this is the only free bridge along the border. It's the most overused, and it's the only one that's going through a neighborhood. This money is getting doled out fast, and we've seen the mechanisms fail us continuously. What we've seen is -- especially with the COVID funding and the American Rescue Fund -- how those funds were ransacked. So, I super urge you to make a strong recommendation to attach extra regulation and accountability to these funds. Thank you.

**Co-Chair Moore** stated that they've heard this issue before and that there are Mexico/U.S. border issues along the whole border.

### **1.5.9 Lucia Rodriguez - Hispanic Access Foundation (Maryland)**

**Lucia Rodriguez:** Hello, my name is Lucia Rodriguez, and I'm the government affairs manager at Hispanic Access Foundation, a national non-profit that is Latina-led and Latino-serving, working to elevate Latino voices to ensure equity and representation in all areas of life.

I'm here today to comment on the importance of the designation and protection of new parks, waterways, and ocean and coastal areas throughout the United States. Protecting access to nature for all communities, including Indigenous and minority people, is essential for environmental justice. I had the privilege of growing up in Montgomery County, Maryland where I had access to playgrounds and public parks. My family would spend the weekends doing carne asadas in Regional Park, and my mother and grandma would take me on walks to Brookside Gardens.

But as I got older, I realized that not everyone has these same privileges. My nieces and nephews in south central Los Angeles do not have the same access to nature. The people of El Paso do not have the

same access to nature. An analysis commissioned by Hispanic Access and the Center for American Progress found that people living near Castner Range in El Paso, Texas experience high levels of nature deprivation. And the vast majority of communities of color and low-income communities in the region are experiencing nature loss at rates higher than the national average.

Communities need places to recreate outdoors to restore mental health and enjoy the fresh air and nature views. Communities of color throughout the U.S. are less likely to have green spaces and outdoor areas to recreate. We ask the administration to take one step towards closing the nature gap and use the Antiquities Act to designate Castner Range as a national monument.

Hispanic Access recently released a new report at COP27 titled "Ten Ways Access to Nature Can Bolster Diversity, Communities, and Climate." The report offers solutions to current problems in biodiversity, impact on communities, and climate crisis, including indigenous land and water management, river restoration, and landscaping to promote biodiversity. Equitable access to nature is also key to preserving biodiversity and achieving a just and ambitious climate transition. We urge the WHEJAC to advise CEQ to protect our public lands like Castner Range.

Protecting access to nature for all communities, including indigenous and minority people, is essential for environmental justice. Thank you for this opportunity.

**Co-Chair Moore** reminded everyone that conservation and environmentalism were redefined at the first People of Color Summit as “where we live, work, play, pray, and where we go to school.” He stated that the only existing MOU or environmental and economic justice strategic plan was for a refuge, or a park located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Dr. Whyte** uplifted Ms. Rodriguez’s statements about indigenous people where nature is about subsistence: culture, doing things, food, and intergenerational traditions.

**Ms. Waghiyi** agreed that grief is felt from when indigenous lands and waters and wildlife were stolen historically and up until today due to environmental degradation and environmental harms. It has become their fight today.

**Co-Chair Moore** reiterated that no matter where a group is from, whether they are from Latino communities, Asian/Pacific islander communities, native indigenous communities, or African American communities, they will not allow themselves to become an invisible population.

#### **1.5.10 Daniel Rosenburg – National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) (Washington, D.C.)**

**Daniel Rosenburg:** Good afternoon. It’s an honor to speak in front of you all today. My name’s Daniel Rosenburg. I’m the director of Federal Toxics Policy for the Natural Resources Defense Council, NRDC. I want to speak to you today about an issue I know you’re already concerned about, which is the chemical industry’s campaign to exempt the burning of plastic and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) waste from pollution controls under the Clean Air Act.

As you know, the petrochemical plastic industrial complex has already done great harm to the health of communities where plastic is manufactured and disposed of as well as polluting and poisoning the planet. In the face of global opposition to the growing plastic waste crisis, the chemical industry is now doubling down on plastic production which is projected to double by 2050 and triple by 2060. At the same time, the industry has launched a cynical campaign to greenwash burning plastic, whether directly or as fuel as advanced recycling or chemical recycling. Thus far, 20 states have weakened their laws to

promote industry's new plastic-burning scheme.

But the real prize that industry seeks is to escape from Section 129 of the Clean Air Act which regulates pyrolysis and gasification units as incinerators and get out of RCRA, which treats discarded plastic as non-hazardous solid waste. The plastic manufacturers are pressuring EPA and the Administration to let them burn plastic and other waste, including PFAS waste, without any pollution controls, monitoring, or reporting requirements under the Clean Air Act. If EPA and the Administration grant industry's wish, communities will suffer a massive increase in exposure to toxic pollution and hazardous waste, primarily communities that are already the center for most toxic pollution production and disposal.

The Trump administration proposed to reclassify pyrolysis and gasification as no longer being incinerators, reversing 30 years of law and regulation. They didn't finalize their proposed rule, but two years into the Biden administration, EPA has taken no action to withdraw or reject that Trump proposal. Meanwhile, we understand that EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management is actively considering redefining plastic waste to not be waste under RCRA, a change that would also result in the loss of Clean Air Act protections under Section 129.

We all know the history of EPA's failure to regulate and set lawful and adequate emission standards for most incinerators and its repeated exemptions of categories of waste from RCRA. We cannot simply trust that the EPA will do the right thing under the current administration. (I'm not assuming anybody assumes that.) We are asking the council to strongly recommend to CEQ that the Administration reject the Trump administration's proposal to exempt pyrolysis and gasification from Section 129 of the Clean Air Act and reject the notion of exempting plastic waste from the definition of non-hazardous solid waste.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the WHEJAC to ensure that neither of these actions, which would be giant steps backward from pollution protection and environmental justice, take place. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today.

**Ms. Waghiyi** reminded everyone that her island is in the northern Bering Sea, and they see the pollution every day in the wildlife.

#### **1.5.11 Robin Lewis – Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) DMV (Maryland)**

**Robin Lewis:** Thank you for being here and for listening. I'm so excited and honored to be able to speak to you all. I think highly of many of you. I am Robin Lewis. I am the director for climate equity at Interfaith Power and Light, DMV. So, I work primarily with black churches on environmental justice issues. I've been doing this for quite some time.

One of the things of concern in terms of equitable distribution of funds is the mapping that's used to determine what communities get what. Some of the mapping tools do not include race and they need to. And as controversial as that may be to some people, we all know that race is a direct indicator of toxic sites.

I live in Prince George's County, Maryland, and there are areas in the county that are very toxic. I'm sure you've all heard of Brandywine. I'm sure you've all heard of Capital Heights. In Brandywine, they have at least three to four gas-fired power plants as well as other toxic sites close to an LNG plant which is not far from there. Although the income may be higher than say Baltimore City, when you compare the toxicity of the people living in those areas, they're the same, even though the income is higher.

So, the mapping tool that is being used by some of the federal government agencies does not include race. It looks at income more so than other factors, and it also doesn't look at clustered effects in these toxic sites. So, I know you all are very knowledgeable about this, but I wanted to bring this up as an issue, especially in places like Prince George's County which has a higher income than other areas. Additionally, I just wanted to say I'm working with Green the Church, and I'm sure some of you know Reverend Ambrose Carroll who is the founder of Green the Church. We just started a Green the Church affiliate in the DMV bringing together black, faith-based organizations and leaders to help promote and advocate for environmental justice in the DMV.

So, I'm really excited about that, and I wanted to make you all aware of that and I also wanted to thank you all for all of your hard work. I wanted to bring up the issue of mapping because it is an issue, and we should be using maps that also include race as an indicator of various toxic waste. We know it is. So that's what I wanted to say. I ran over here to say it and thank you for allowing me the opportunity.

### **1.5.12 Ana Parras – T.E.J.A.S. (Houston, Texas)**

**Ana Parras:** Good evening, WHEJAC. My name is Ana Parras. I'm the co-director of Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (T.E.J.A.S.). We're an environmental justice organization located in the east end of Houston. We live and work in the east end. There are over 2,500 chemical facilities in the Houston area. Manchester, the neighborhood where T.E.J.A.S. advocates, is among those most affected by this negligence. There are 30 chemical plants and waste sites in the Manchester area that report to the EPA.

When an explosion happens, nearby neighborhoods, mostly Latinx and people of color, are exposed to this toxicity. Manchester's considered the beginning of the petrochemical corridor in Houston. Texas has the largest number of chemical facilities in the country. Fenceline communities in Houston are a case in point. The oil and gas facilities in chemical plants along the 52-mile Houston Ship Channel have turned the air in Harris County into a public health hazard, significantly increasing the likelihood of residents developing cancer and respiratory problems and shortening the lives of children. Children living near the Houston Ship Channel are 56 percent more likely to develop leukemia than those who live more than ten miles away. This issue is personal. Explosions from chemical facilities can be deadly, but the long-term impact of exposure to toxic chemicals also kills.

Cumulative impacts. In 2016, I was found to have hypersensitivity neuronitis, a rare auto-immune disorder that arises from breathing in dust or toxins repeatedly. I was diagnosed with kidney cancer eight months ago. My diagnosis came the same year that my father died of lung cancer. He worked in the ASARCO refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas and was a member of the United Steelworkers (USW). Workers in these refineries are the first to be exposed to toxic substances. Refineries like the Valero facility located in the Manchester community emits chemicals like benzyne and hydrogen cyanide into our neighborhoods.

We, the most affected, those who breathe and live in toxicity, are advocating for our communities as individuals directly affected. Stronger enforcement action is what is lacking in region six. We are asking WHEJAC, CEQ, and the Biden administration to help us defend our communities.

Beginning with the permitting process, they need to stop allowing expansions in the most overburdened areas. The Manchester community has been studied for so many years the findings are all the same: cancer carcinogens in the air and soil. It is time to put action behind these studies. Relocation needs to happen; it is long overdue for this community. We are asking for the WHEJAC, CEQ, and EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights to step in, take action, and investigate. As the energy

capital of the nation, we carry a greater risk of future major incidents. It has been described by scientists as the next faux pas. Thank you for your time.

**Susana Almanza** stated that the EPA continues to permit these fuel tank facilities one by one instead of looking at the cumulative impact of multiple facilities in the same area.

### **1.5.13 Kirk Frost (New Jersey)**

**Kirk Frost:** I just want to thank the WHEJAC. You bring a lot of different varieties of folks there to the table. Some of them are in very damaged areas. The big thing that I see is that WHEJAC has been granted a broad mandate, and I really urge WHEJAC to strategically build that mandate into a formalized program: govern and engage the public and agencies in the pursuit of enabling equity and justice for all American individuals absolutely targeting the disadvantaged as a priority. That's key.

First, I just wanted to mention really quickly, when the infrastructure bill was passed, I downloaded the text and tried to understand it. I talked to a number of agencies to try to get an understanding of the sections. There are 607 main sections and many subsections under that. And all of them reference other laws that are already in existence and modify just words or sentences or were out-of-context components that you have no idea of what the broader understanding of that actual law is in order to actually show you what the final state was. It's a real problem.

The highway department was the only division that actually gave me a summary of what they had for them to understand, which was really good. Other ones told me to hire a lawyer. So, most people don't have access to that, and I don't.

A couple of questions. Do you know that there is a company out there offering hydrogen solutions for homes and businesses right now where hydrogen storage is not flammable at all? You can't light the hydrogen on fire even if you tried with a match. The technologies are out there but I think that we're so very much undereducated on this, especially since the people in the government don't really understand that very well. Another thing is there are about 16,000 hydrogen fuel cell cars on the road in California, and there have been zero explosions, zero fires, and zero accidents due to hydrogen whatsoever. You can't light the car on fire unless you had a flaming brick wall doused with gasoline and on fire and smash the car into it, and maybe then you might get a little flame out of it.

Just we have a lot of understandings that have been influenced by the public, the media, industry, and often with misinformation around fossil fuels just similar to the tobacco industry. So, the thing I want to really encourage is that the WHEJAC develop a transformation program because really, they're about a transformation. Some of the key things are having monthly metrics reporting and developing tracks that are targeting: one track focused on urgent issues in need in terms of disadvantaged locations right now - - and there are many of them and they do need to be focused on -- but then also on energy transformation.

EPA and DOE are asking for comments -- and by the way, the EPA comments are due in January. But they're all asking for comments around the IRA spending, and they're not coordinating with each other. WHEJAC has a tremendous opportunity to really engage all the agencies. Stand up to FERC. Write the comments to FERC when there are issues. Have a track that's focused on interagency integration, collaboration, and monitoring. And then have a track focused on policy and DOJ support.

DOJ is suing a town because of their discretions in Mississippi I believe it was. There are so many different areas, and that's part of the challenge and the program. A transformation program for

WHEJAC is going to really help. You all have excellent backgrounds, diverse backgrounds with many areas of focus, and the challenge is bringing it into a measurable, quantifiable, ongoing transformation that brings this to a better, equitable level of environmental justice across the United States.

**Co-Chair Moore** stated that the Council has been sending letters through its different workgroups.

#### **1.5.14 Marvin Norman - Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (Cooper Valley, California)**

**Marvin Norman:** Marvin Norman. I'm with the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice from Cooper Valley, California. Just thank you for the opportunity to comment today. As some of you have mentioned earlier, it's the small communities or smaller non-profits like ours -- sometimes our problem sits in the fund, so it's good to hopefully see that those instances and work can be done to make sure that agencies and organizations have access to the funding and the technical support they need to be able to submit applications. Once again, just thank you for the opportunity.

#### **1.5.15 Brandi Crawford-Johnson - EJ Activist (Kalamazoo, Michigan)**

**Brandi Crawford-Johnson:** Good evening. My name is Brandy Crawford-Johnson. I'm an EJ and climate justice activist from Kalamazoo, Michigan. I developed severe asthma and burning eyes from living in Kalamazoo's disadvantaged community for eight years. My husband, my in-laws, and most of my predominantly African American community are all very sick from cancer, respiratory disease, and stress from the toxic pollution being released from the Graphic Packaging International (GPI) paper mill and Kalamazoo's wastewater plant located on the fenceline next door to our homes and schools.

Hundreds of air complaints are filed with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) on a yearly basis. GPI recently expanded to increase greenhouse gasses, biogenic organic compounds (BOC), PFAS, and dioxins by 221 percent in double diesel traffic. Seven hundred twenty-one mature trees to protect our sacrifice zone from climate change were also cut down to give GPI more office space for this expansion. People are getting sicker and dying faster than ever due to environmental racism. We had nine funerals a day during the bad COVID wave last year due to existing respiratory disease and the non-developed lungs of black babies in our sacrifice zone.

I am grateful for the new funding for environmental justice, but our community already has a 14-year death gap and one of the highest asthma hospitalizations, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and cancer death rates in the nation. We cannot wait here for funding disbursement. Kalamazoo is a valley and all the pollution stays trapped, poisoning our redlined community at a much higher level. EPA's CERCLA Section 101(24) grants explicit authority to conduct permanent relocations to include the cost of permanent relocation of residents and businesses and community facilities where the President determines that alone or with other measures such relocation may otherwise be necessary to protect the public health. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) could also assist.

The Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (more commonly referred to as the National Contingency Plan or NCP) states that temporary or permanent relocation of residents, businesses, and community facilities may be provided where it is determined necessary to protect human health and the environment, 40 CFR Section 300. EPA is currently cleaning up polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) from the 15 paper mills that dumped toxins in our river for years. GPI, when it was under a different name, is the responsible party and has just had its 11th toxic spill in the area of EPA cleanup last month. They should have not been allowed to expand.

EPA is wasting cleanup funds near GPI that could be used for relocating our community out of harm's way now. Let's be honest -- all disadvantaged communities in the U.S. have enough legacy pollution to be considered superfund sites. Our community is across the street from the river which is one of the largest superfund sites in the United States. EPA also needs to take back enforcement over the states. The state's only goals are giving permits for economic development which pad the pockets of noncompliant polluters, not protecting human health and the environment.

My pending civil rights complaint against EGLE with EPA CERCLA has an IRA being finalized for EGLE giving GPI the permit to expand in our disadvantaged community and lack of enforcement. But it cannot provide relocation to prevent my community from more severe illness and death. I am begging WHEJAC to plead with the EPA, CEQ, and President Biden to use current EPA laws to relocate our disadvantaged community under CERCLA 101-2440 CFR Section 300 as soon as humanly possible. Thank you for your time and service.

### **1.5.16 Xavier Barraza - Valle de Oro NWR EJ Leadership Team (New Mexico)**

**Xavier Barraza:** Just going to take a couple seconds just to pause and let us honor the words that just were said. My name is Xavier Barraza. I'm here in Southern Tiwa territory. I'm calling on behalf of the organization Los Lunas Institute, and I just want to start off by saying that this is the most robust, rambunctious, dynamic, full of probability room in our government -- the WHEJAC, the NEJAC, and these spaces where we have us as a people gathering and discussing our issues. This is the most powerful space that we are creating within the government outside of on the local ground in our local communities and those political spaces.

And with that, I want to reinforce the comments that are asking for our federal government and for us as a people to continue to demand that these spaces and these people who are sitting on the WHEJAC are invested in and given the proper personnel, infrastructure, and resources to implement their charge because they, and we as a people, know how to do this. We know how to fix our issues.

As I go into discussing the problems that are on the ground in my community or in the community that I belong to, I want to talk about the other side of the coin with the way we are often discussing or having to discuss addressing environmental justice in these types of arenas. What's right is directing benefits to those to whom they rightfully belong. What's wrong on that other side of that coin is us not taking a good look and assessing and documenting the massive amounts of looting that occurs with those other 60 percent of benefits and the other benefits that are outside of Justice40 and making that apparent. And we should be tracking that and documenting the profits that are not going to our communities better, just as we are tracking the ones that are coming in because those are complementary and those are needed.

On another coin, determining environmental injustice occurring in our communities and understanding that to the greatest extent possible is absolutely necessary but not really taking a good look at the discriminatory practices that are standard operating procedures across the board when it comes to corporate practice. But those are not being scrutinized and analyzed like the strategies that are coming out of the grassroots communities. These SOPs -- these operating ratios -- we see what's happening with the railroad. We're cutting down operating ratio, we're increasing profits, we're taking people out of the equation, and this is SOP -- this is the standard -- and if we're not looking at those SOPs as our accounting, as our ONB, as our government, as our people, then we're not looking at where those benefits are going when they're not 40 percent or anything below that.

The last thing I'll say is I hope what we're recognizing -- all of us, especially those of us who serve,



those of us who are employed by our government, public service agents -- is that the way is to invest in the people, invest in mechanisms that share power and to really look at the practices that we ourselves are practicing. And the way we look at capitalizing, monetizing, and commodifying nature in ourselves because all those profits, all these benefits are coming from us and they're coming from this planet and they're coming from our bodies. And so, let's look at that, and let's incorporate that into our equation.

Again, beautiful space. I hope this pollinates and covers our entire nation -- these kinds of conversations.

**Dr. Whyte** commented that one of the horrifying aspects of the issue that Ms. Crawford-Johnson raises is that all over the Midwest there are midsized cities and cities between the size of a small town and a midsized city that have rampant environmental justice issues but there is no environmental justice organization that's formed. Oftentimes that's because citizens are scared for legitimate reasons of reprisal from the industries that are there. Larger non-environmental organizations and some well-established environmental justice organizations are not able to support these communities in a way that would make sense, and very courageous individual citizens are standing up for these communities, but their issues are largely invisible.

But when you hear about these issues, they're just as trenchant, just as insidious, just as problematic, and there needs to be a solution to this because for every issue that's associated with a known environmental justice organization or a city known to have environmental justice issues, there are 30 more issues that are completely invisible and that really talk to the complexity and the size of this problem.

#### **1.5.17 John Mueller (Guthrie, Oklahoma)**

**John Mueller:** Good evening. I am John Mueller, an activist and former public works engineer, now retired in Guthrie, Oklahoma. I have attended a number of these meetings as many of you know. So, thank you again WHEJAC and EPA for this ongoing opportunity to share more insight and perspective for what has become a rare and time-sensitive opportunity. It's been said that timing is everything, and I'm convinced the time could not be better to right a wrong.

My argument again today is about water fluoridation, a well-documented environmental justice problem, and that ending the practice is a challenge that falls well within the scope of the just-released EPA report "Fiscal Year 2023 Top Management Challenges" by the EPA Office of Inspector General. The challenge is how to end water fluoridation and manage the widespread pushback from special interest stakeholders. Even pushback from the consortium of pro-fluoridation dentists, a recently published press release from the American Fluoridation Society (AFS), even made a bold attempt to marginalize and denigrate the integrity of the National Toxicology Program (NTP) just to support their claim that fluoridation is safe and effective.

It was a nonsensical *ad hominem* attack on our eminently respected NTP. But by the divine blessings of these virtual public meetings and President Biden's executive orders and initiatives for scientific integrity and environmental justice, you are receiving the information you need about the harmful effects of fluoride ingestion and its environmental injustice. I'll be submitting additional materials as I know others are doing also for the same issue. So, my main point here now is that a rare and transformational opportunity is glaring at EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to do what we taxpayers pay them to do to protect public health.

EPA must reverse its historic and unabashed fealty to the pro-fluoridation special interests and instead

direct that human energy to protecting public health. My specific recommendation to them, which you have asked for, is instead to direct that human energy to protect public health. My specific recommendation is for Administrator Regan to invoke Executive Order 13990 and take the first step and grant the petition filed six years ago to ban the addition of fluoridation chemicals to public water supplies but denied by the Trump administration and now pending in federal district court as a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) lawsuit.

Finally, I've got to say at this morning's virtual public meeting of EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council, there were six public commenters online all presenting from their various and diverse perspectives and all urging the end of fluoridation. Thank you again so much for this opportunity.

### **1.5.18 Kayleigh Warren - Tewa Women United (Santa Clara, New Mexico)**

**Kaylee Warren:** Good afternoon, WHEJAC members. My name is Kayleigh Warren. I'm a member of the Pueblo of Santa Clara, one of the 19 Pueblo nations located in New Mexico. I'm here today in my capacity as the environmental health and justice program coordinator for the non-profit organization Tewa Women United. Tewa Women United is a community non-profit founded and led by indigenous women belonging primarily to Tewa Pueblos and land-based communities in the Espanola Valley.

Our organization exists to fulfill the mission of protecting those most vulnerable, namely indigenous women, children, and our earth mother from all forms of violence. We appreciate the opportunity today to speak about our community's more than 80-year struggle with Los Alamos National Laboratory, also known as LANL. LANL is a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory initially organized during World War II for the design of the first nuclear weapons as part of the Manhattan Project.

LANL is a short distance northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico within ten miles of two Pueblo communities, which includes my own, and within 15 miles of ten other Pueblo communities. Since our founding, Tewa Women United has spoken out about our concerns as land-based mothers, daughters, and aunts from our Pueblo perspective regarding LANL's activities. In the interest of time, the list of issues and injustices inflicted on us by LANL is a little bit too long for this comment period and also complex as facets of the facility's mission and the agencies who have abilities to regulate them are a tangled web that tells a decades-long story of deception and neglect.

Currently, we are battling a planned release of a vapor form of the element tritium which would expose our communities to a radioactive dose more than double the EPA's yearly standard. We're also facing the fact that LANL is in the process of its hastiest and largest-ever expansion aimed at drastically increasing its manufacturing of plutonium pits, an essential component in the makeup of nuclear warheads. Both of these issues are being done without dedicated environmental impact statements and little to no community consultation.

And as I said, these are just two in a long list of things our communities are facing with little to no recourse. We would like to ask today that the WHEJAC advocate to this administration and the EPA on behalf of frontline indigenous and land-based communities who are impacted by nuclear weapons development by recommending more active enforcement of the Clean Air and Clean Water acts. It's unacceptable that communities like mine are forced to bear the health and cultural impacts of the nuclear weapons industry with no recourse or consultation.

The land and waters occupied and abused by LANL are our home, our relatives. Our nations have been in this region since time immemorial and the forced separation that LANL has inflicted on us has been a recurring and worsening wound since World War II. As LANL ushers in a new area of expanded

production, we hope to have WHEJAC's support and advocacy as we try to protect our communities. Thank you.

#### **1.5.19 Kevin Messner - Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) (Washington, D.C.)**

**Kevin Messner:** Okay. Thank you. I'm Kevin Messner. I'm the senior vice president of public policy and government relations with the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. I want to thank you all for this forum. It's been very interesting to listen to others speak on some of these issues. What I wanted to bring to your attention is some research that my association commissioned on home appliances in low-income households. What that research found was that lower-income consumers are at a tremendous disadvantage when replacing appliances. And that if an appliance stops working, and in particular something like a refrigerator, which is used to store their food and medicine, that creates a huge issue, and it pushes them over the edge financially.

The Fed uses a \$400 emergency spend criteria in some of their studies and research and they have found that an ever-increasing number of people face this hypothetical \$400 emergency spend problem. It's actually at 60 percent of all adults in 2021 who said that they would have covered \$400 exclusively through using cash or its equivalent. And the remainder said they would've paid by borrowing or selling something. So, our research found that in order for a lower-income person to afford a new appliance, very sadly, the top things that they would have to cut back on our groceries and medicine.

So, if their refrigerator or stove breaks, in order to replace it, they'd have to cut back on groceries and medicine. And all-American families should have equal access to these new highly efficient home appliances. So, we acknowledge the administration's climate goals; however, the analysis that's done before regulations are issued should include a robust consideration of their impact on low-income and disadvantaged communities. For example, appliance energy conservation standards that are regulated by the U.S. Department of Energy, those analyses need to be more accurately determined if any changes in their requirements will disproportionately impact low-income households.

Specifically, the analysis should not assume that low-income consumers can afford to pay more up-front costs that will later be recovered through savings on their monthly energy bill that won't be paid off for potentially up to ten years. That assumption is not consistent with the reality that lower-income consumers do not have an extra hundred dollars laying around to pay for revised regulation.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and to provide these comments to the advisory council and hope that you will look through this and think about the regulatory analysis which is really in the weeds. Inside baseball, it's where the rubber meets the road when regulations are promulgated. So, thank you and I'm happy to answer any questions.

#### **1.5.20 KT Morelli - Breathe Free Detroit (Detroit Michigan)**

**KT Morelli:** Hello, my name is KT Morelli. I live in Detroit, Michigan -- Anishinaabe territory near the now-closed Detroit incinerator, and I'm a member of Breathe Free Detroit. I am here today to urge you to prioritize phasing out while increasing regulation of solid waste incinerators and chemical recycling facilities by calling on the EPA and other regulatory agencies to take long-awaited action to protect communities like mine across the nation. I am calling in from the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty negotiations in Uruguay as part of many environmental justice delegates here including the indigenous representatives.

We represent communities and environments directly affected by the entire lifecycle of plastic pollution

from the time it is extracted, refined, created, used, and wasted. Environmental justice communities have experiential knowledge of human rights violations and the direct health effects of pollution from these industries. The plastics chemical recycling and incineration industries have struggled with decades of technological difficulties, pose an unnecessary risk to the environment and public health, and pose a financially risky future that is incompatible with the climate-safe future and circular economy.

A report from Reuters in 2021 found that only about 20 percent of the proposed chemical recycling facilities are operational with the majority shutting down or being canceled despite tens of millions of dollars in funding. Yet these facilities are being included in solid waste reform packages throughout the nation and are getting exempt from solid waste regulations. Chemical recycling, usually pyrolysis and gasification facilities, are in fact incinerators and should therefore be federally regulated as incinerators under Section 129 of the Clean Air Act. And our regulatory agencies need to address the ongoing pollution issues of these facilities nationwide.

For 16 years, the EPA has failed to regulate incinerators as they are legally obligated to do so under the Clean Air Act. In Detroit, we had to pursue a civil lawsuit to stand in place of the inaction of both the EPA and our Michigan EGLE while the incinerator polluted our air and harmed our families and neighbors. The Detroit incinerator received over 800 Clean Air Act violations yet was fined for less than a dozen.

Our facility had a hole in its stack for weeks and possibly months before any correction measures were taken. The results of the inaction from the EPA and Michigan EGLE have caused an increase in asthma, birth defects, miscarriages, and death in my family and my community. If we cannot rely on our state or federal regulators to simply do their jobs, it leaves our communities in chaos. Many of the countries negotiating the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty already recognize that chemical recycling and incineration should not be permitted in the process to address plastic pollution as it causes more harm to our air quality and there are not enough air emission control regulations.

No matter our race, income, or zip code, government regulators are tasked with protecting the health of all residents. I close by urging lawmakers to oppose chemical recycling, pyrolysis, gasification, and incineration while regulating them at the highest standards and place the human rights of the health and wellbeing of communities above the profits of plastics, fossil fuels, and waste industry. Thank you so much.

### **1.5.21 Naomi Yoder - Healthy Gulf (Texas)**

**Naomi Yoder:** My name is Naomi Yoder. I am with Healthy Gulf, a Gulf of Mexico regional environmental non-profit. I wanted to thank you for the continued opportunity to offer comments to the WHEJAC. Many of you have heard me before. So, thanks for being here. We work on behalf of communities and ecosystems for the health of both. And while my comments are focused on the Gulf, some of them pertain to a much larger area. The WHEJAC meeting this week has an agenda item regarding "carbon management."

I just want to say that for Gulf Coast communities that have been subjected to extreme pollution and adverse health effects, and for communities that have environmental or climate injustice, carbon management is not redirecting fossil fuel production and usage emissions out of sight. Carbon management should mean across the board reducing emissions in the vein of net zero is not zero -- trying to reduce our emissions to zero. False solutions like carbon capture and sequestration or CCS need to be named now as false solutions and should be eradicated from the way forward.

CCS is not the way forward and CCS on the Gulf only adds pipelines, infrastructure, pollution, and safety risk to already endangered communities. If we are really committed to environmental justice, we will acknowledge the harm that pipelines and fossil fuels do to our communities and our environment, and we will say no to CCS across the board.

So, I want to shift to talking about several folks who have mentioned environmental justice analysis tools, and I want to just mention that I think that we are at a crossroads moment. We have more data and tools for identifying environmental and climate injustice communities than ever before despite there are very real concerns that have been brought up today. Even when we have this data, though, we do not have any legal or regulatory mechanism for enforcing or mandating action. We need systemic change to address systemic environmental racism and injustice, and one of the changes that need to be made is a provision in many environmental laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act, for example, that mandate what justice means for imperiled communities.

The WHEJAC is a panel of our country's best thinkers about environmental and climate injustice. What would the WHEJAC say justice would look like for impacted communities? I know that Justice40 is one of those answers, but how can we write this into our regulations so that when an environmental justice analysis in an environmental impact statement finds significant or even any environmental injustice communities, that project will change and will have consequences and will benefit a community?

I know I have plenty of ideas that I could share with you, but I would like to ask the WHEJAC to take this on, and I also wanted to echo what Mr. Slocum brought up earlier. I would support a task force or a special look at environmental justice and LNG. There's a very real situation on the Gulf as you know with LNG in particular and with legacy pollution and the intersection of those things. So, I look forward to your response as an advisory council to this broader question about how we can address environmental and climate injustice in our regulations and encode that into our laws going forward. Thank you.

### **1.5.22 Alice Sung - Greenbank Associates (California)**

**Alice Sung:** Thank you to all the members of the WHEJAC for your work and all of the other CEQ members here listening today in this sacred space. I've been listening to your recommendations since May of last year. My name is Alice Sung, founding principal of Greenbank Associates. I'm an independent climate justice advocate, recovering architect, and sustainability professional currently serving as environmental justice movement fellow at The New School.

I have three big-picture comments today for you to take into consideration. The first is to create a public environmental justice accountability web page on your website that at least records or documents all of these public comments both made verbally today, in past meetings, as well as written. And then if you could then publicly also publish in a column next to these, record the response and how each of these community concerns is addressed with dates.

The second recommendation is to stop the misuse of public funds that allow the perpetuation of further harm to the environmental justice communities that allows business as usual. Shift these, what I call business as usual Injustice60 funds towards Justice40 work. An example of this is that after your May 21, 2021, list of recommendations, almost a couple of weeks after that in June of 2021, DOE announced with some fanfare \$200 million or something on that order funding for research, and R&D into carbon capture, utilization and sequestration (CCUS). That is number two on page 59 of your 17 good recommendations for projects that do not benefit the communities.

Number three simply is to create a joint body of the WHEJAC with CEQ or EPA or other agencies and the White House to assess and identify all of the environmental justice needs across each state and territory and prioritize them by the cumulative impacts for those most in need and those who have been asking for help for many, many years. Create a master implementation plan and a new model for shifting the funds to address these needs in that order of prioritization. A suggestion for a new model might be that you consider not having these funds to be competitive grant models. To create a new model where you simply allocate the funds for Justice40 to where they are most needed. Thank you for your time.

### **1.5.23 Peggy Beltrone - Cat Creek Energy (Idaho)**

**Peggy Beltrone:** Good afternoon. My name is Peggy Beltrone, and I do public policy work for Cat Creek Energy, which is an independent power producer located in Idaho. Our company believes that it is the government and the larger community's role to fight those collective problems that drive fragile individuals closer to despair. That is the nobility in environmental justice, so we applaud your work as individuals and as an advisory committee. Next year, Cat Creek Energy will begin the phased construction of 1,620 megawatts of solar and hydropower generation and energy storage in two Idaho counties that have been designated as disadvantaged in the recently released climate, environment, and economic justice screening tool.

Cat Creek Energy has taken steps to ensure that low-income, English as second language, and Native American members in the area will be advantaged in the recruitment for the thousands of jobs our project will spur. We're proud to have a partnership with the Laborers' International Union of North America to ensure aggressive recruitment and supplemental training for individuals from communities that have had barriers to employment in the past. We embrace this partnership because it aligns with our business ethics. And we applaud the Justice40 policy frame that encourages all businesses to think in new ways about how to do the right thing.

As a practical matter, the Justice40 frame is a unifying point as we interact with multiple federal agencies to advance our project. In the interest of time, we will submit written comments to further detail the economic justice, social justice, and environmental justice tenants of our clean energy project, and, from that vantage, offer policy suggestions. Thank you.

### **1.5.24 Maya Nye - Coming Clean (West Virginia)**

**Maya Nai:** Thank you. Hi, my name is Maya Nye. I'm the federal policy director for Coming Clean. We're a network of over 150 organizations working to transform the chemical and fossil fuel industry so that they're no longer a source of harm. I'm also a member of People Concerned About Chemical Safety based in Chemical Valley, West Virginia, and we're dedicated to the health and safety of all of those who live, work, and study in the fenceline of toxic chemical facilities. We're also affiliates of the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform.

So, I grew up in a fenceline community just across the river from the Union Carbide facility which was the sister facility to the one in Bhopal, India, which in 1984 released a deadly gas that has since killed and injured over half a million people. I lived through many chemical disasters, sheltering in place, and breathing in noxious chemicals as a result of this facility which is located in the predominantly black community of Institute, West Virginia. It's also home to a historically black land grant university. The Union Carbide facility is the source of ongoing legacy contamination and is only one of many sources of pollution that contribute to the cumulative impacts on the fence line.

I'm here speaking for myself and for people in my community who continue to suffer from the effects of legacy contamination at the hands of failed U.S. chemical policies like EPA's risk management program, which was established in the aftermath of the Bhopal disaster to prevent other similar disasters like that from happening in the U.S. The EPA is currently updating the risk management program, and we ask that you urge the CEQ to weigh in with the EPA. Get them to ensure that the risk management program rule is moving in the right direction and that it's working to actually prevent chemical disasters like it was intended.

I'm also here in solidarity with other environmental justice legacy communities, like the historic town of Mossville, Louisiana which cannot build back better because their health and neighborhoods have been destroyed by the impacts of industrial pollution despite the historic and really important funding packages like the inflation reduction act. We ask that the WHEJAC create and ask that the Interagency Council create a workgroup specifically on relocation.

I'm also here in solidarity with the people of Bhopal who continue to suffer the devastating effects of the 1984 disaster and the ongoing contamination from a U.S. company that has never been brought to justice nearly 40 years later. We ask the WHEJAC to ask the Interagency Council to get the U.S. Department of Justice to uphold the international treaty that compels Dow Chemical and Union Carbide to show up for their date and be in court. Thank you very much and thanks to the WHEJAC for all of your service.

#### **1.5.25 Ian Zabarte - Native Community Action Council (Nevada)**

**Ian Zabarte:** I am Principal Man, Ian Zabarte, the western bands of the Shoshone nation, Secretary of State of the Western Shoshone National Council, Secretary of the Native Community Action Council, and 2017 Nuclear Regulatory Commission appointee to the licensing support system advisory review board. Our lands stretch from Death Valley in southern California to the Snake River in Idaho.

Nuclear issues threaten the western Shoshone people. Radioactive fallout from indiscriminate weapons of mass destruction tested in our country, secret shipments of plutonium into our country from sites across the United States, low-level nuclear waste facilities exploding from rainwater intrusion at the Beatty (Nevada) low-level nuclear waste dump, and licensing of the proposed Yucca Mountain High-Level Nuclear Waste Repository inflict conditions intended to bring about the destruction of the western bands of the Shoshone Nation of Indians.

Much nuclear risk we experience had been done in secret and demonstrate intent. The nuclear weapons industry remains unaccountable and lawless. The United States must join the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons which is international law. The United States has failed to live up to the promise of peace and brought instead weapons of war to our country that kill our land and people, a violation of international law preemptory norms in 18 U.S.C. 1091.

We love our horses. The bureau of land management stole our horses, blaming us for range destruction caused by U.S. nuclear weapons testing. We need environmental regulation to protect our already vulnerable people. We need collaborative baseline health assessments of radiation exposure. We need health registries, surveillance, and monitoring over time that other countries with these nuclear issues have but not here in the United States. That is not development. That is going backward. We haven't even touched on the importance of those things.

Origin is important to uncover mass health effects. We need expansion and reauthorization of the

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include Trinity Test Downwinders. We need the President to implement Article 6 of the Treaty of Ruby Valley for our protection, development, and growth. This would have the effect of making trespassing by other Americans occupying Shoshone country legitimate.

Finally, the Andrews County, Texas, Holdtec facility is licensed for high-level nuclear waste from commercial nuclear reactors pending licensing of the proposed Yucca Mountain Deep Geologic High-Level Nuclear Waste Repository. Without environmental protections in Texas, the waste sent to Texas will be stranded and abandoned there because the Yucca site will not be licensed, and I will speak to that.

Yucca Mountain is Western Shoshone property with constitutional protection under Article 6, section 2 in the Treaty of Ruby Valley. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission agrees that even after spending \$15 billion, the U.S. Department of Energy cannot -- even with the Bureau of Land Management master title plaques (the land status record of the United States) -- prove ownership because Western Shoshone title remains unextinguished. Stop funding nuclear, fund renewables. Thank you and I will submit other comments in writing.

#### **1.5.26 Alex Cole - Sierra Club (West Virginia)**

**Alex Cole:** Hi. My name's Alex Cole. I'm with the West Virginian Sierra Club as well as the People over Petrol Coalition and the Alliance for Appalachia. I'm from downriver of where Maya Nye was just talking about in Institute, West Virginia, and I don't think I have to spend much time explaining just how much West Virginia a sacrifice zone has been. I mean, it's literally a layer cake of mountaintop removal, over slurry impoundment, over an underground mine, over a power plant, and all the ash and poison associated with that. Air quality, chemical valley, and water pollution from that are all now interlaced with fracking pads, fracking compressor stations, and pipelines feeding a lot of the other places that we've been talking about today.

So, I'm just seeing as a major theme that there are a lot of holes in our map that need to be filled. There are a lot of places, and particularly one area I've noticed is the minor point source polluter air permits. Those permits that are done on the state level for a lot of these facilities, particularly with the air quality, are just not on our map. So, it's literally just one case here, three of the exact same plants built side-by-side inside one fence by one company, but it's permitted at the state level because it's three units separated out in the permit. So, the EPA just doesn't -- it's not a major point source.

And as anybody that lives in a state like mine knows, it's been a long time since our state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ever denied a permit for anything. So, we have to get those minor point sources on the map. There are other solutions for smaller rural problems. Usually, rural problems like fracking and coal mining are National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. It would put a lot of sites on the map. It would complicate the map a lot, but, if you're measuring cumulative impacts, you need to look at the cumulative impacts.

And when you bring up that word at a DEP meeting at the state level, they say we're not here to talk about cumulative impacts; we're here for this one permit. Even though we know it's next to 16 other permits for the same thing, we're here to talk about that one permit. It's just absurd. Thank you.

#### **1.5.27 Paige Hopkins on behalf of Lisa Arkin - Beyond Toxics (Oregon)**

**Paige Hopkins:** Thank you. Hello. My name is Paige Hopkins. I am testifying on behalf of the



executive director Lisa Arkin who is unable to be here today. Beyond Toxics has been an environmental justice leader in Oregon for over 20 years. We have been engaged with impacted communities to watchdog Covanta Marion Waste Incinerator for over six years.

Covanta is located in the mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon's most populated region. Covanta Marion is already 32 years old, which is beyond the 30-year lifespan of incinerators. Covanta poses a serious threat to the health of the communities downwind of the facility, as well as the water and the soil that may be contaminated from the fallout of heavy metals from their toxic's emissions.

The Covanta waste incinerator is located near a primarily migrant farm working community. The community is home to at least five schools. The surrounding areas have much higher percentages of people of color, those with low incomes, and young children as compared to the rest of the state. We're concerned they may be overburdened with exposure to high levels of pollutants. The pollutants of greatest concern are dioxins and heavy metals. For example, the Willamette River exceeds water quality standards for mercury at the company's outfall. It is very concerning that Covanta's new permit does not have a mercury limit but merely requires Covanta to show how it will monitor and minimize mercury releases.

This loose approach is unacceptable given that the Willamette River is a source of drinking water for many communities. Covanta burns close to 600 tons of municipal waste per day and imports more than 250 tons of medical and industrial waste per month. We are very concerned that there is very little regulation regarding what materials the incinerator can import. The type of materials determines the toxicity of the pollution. Plastics can be a case in point.

Regarding stack testing, the once-per-year testing for toxins emissions is almost certainly a significant understatement of the actual toxic's emissions. The once-per-year tests also do not account for significant fluctuations in the waste mix that can have serious effects on the amount of toxics being emitted.

In closing, we urge you to take action on four important policies our communities demand for proper regulation and oversight of any incineration facility -- stricter emissions standards, particularly for heavy metals; continuous emissions monitoring; restricting the type of waste an incinerator can import; and requiring all incinerators to be categorized as a medical waste incinerator if the facility is meeting or exceeding emissions limits that are applied to a new medical or infectious waste incinerator. Thank you for your time.

#### **1.5.28 Almeta Cooper - Moms Clean Air Force (Washington, D.C.)**

**Almeta Cooper:** Good evening. My name is Almeta Cooper. I'm the national manager for health equity for Moms Clean Air Force which consists of more than one million moms, dads, caregivers, and supporters nationally who fight to protect clean air and children's health.

As a mom and a member of my community, I care deeply about environmental justice, and I agree with Dr. Robert Bullard that environmental justice embraces the principle that all people and communities have a right to equal protection and equal enforcement -- of environmental laws and regulations. Equal protection and equal enforcement require that black, brown, and low-wealth communities who are disproportionately affected by environmental harms must be included in determining the solutions for reversing environmental harms in their communities and also there must be timely action to implement such solutions.

On behalf of Moms Clean Air Force, I urge the WHEJAC to accelerate and review the proposal and finalization of the important air quality rules with significant environmental justice implications. Specifically, I'm asking that you seek to restore the appropriate and necessary finding of the mercury and air toxic (MAT) standards, which have been pending at the Office of Management and Budget for at least eight months.

I'm asking that you finalize the heavy-duty NOx rule for trucks by the end of this calendar year, which is also pending at the Office of Management and Budget. This rule is critical to addressing the disproportionate exposure to near-road pollution and freight corridors affecting adjacent black, brown, and low-wealth communities. I'm also asking that WHEJAC establish stronger national ambient air quality standards for fine particulate matter, PN2.5, pollution of no higher than eight micrograms per cubic meter for the annual standard. And also asking that you seek to set tighter limits on harmful PN2.5 pollution in line with the levels recommended by EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee earlier this year.

Doing so will protect millions of Americans, including vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, and people with upper respiratory and heart conditions. In addition, I urge the WHEJAC to continue to seek to include and meaningfully respond to the voices of grass-roots community-based groups and organizations in identifying solutions and responses to environmental injustices that are well-documented.

Thank you to the WHEJAC and its staff for inviting public comment and permitting digital and remote testimony to allow for increased participation in these public hearings.

#### **1.5.29 Christine Bennett - Mossville Environmental Action Now (Mossville, Louisiana)**

**Christine Bennett:** Thank you. This is Christine Bennett from Mossville, Louisiana, and I'm speaking on the behalf of MEAN, which is Mossville Environmental Action Now and also the Concerned Citizens of Mossville and Lake Charles.

I would like to say that in our movement -- we've been in for over 40 something years or more now -- our concern is the relocation. We've been told that for years now, and some of us have been relocated and some of us are still there with the 16 plants that we're surrounded by and the hearing of ten other LNG plants coming this coming year. We are afraid that we can't take anymore.

It's no more talking anymore; it's time that we either get moved or other actions taken until they're moving. That's setting aside for every plant that's coming in, anything that's coming in our area, any kind of industries. We're asking now that money be set aside for a health plan for the people of the fenceline communities and other surrounding areas. When somebody takes sick, their insurance doesn't pay it all or they don't have insurance in our area. So, we're looking for help now. And we're hoping that we can penalize or ask every industry or anything that comes in our area around the fenceline communities that money be set aside for local residents.

Then I would also like to say that we appreciate them sending Mr. Regan to our community. But he went to all other communities, but it's gone almost a year now since he's been there. If we could've just got a text saying, we haven't forgotten you guys, we're still trying to do what we planned. Because when they left, undoubtedly, they took the wrong information for him because whoever was writing or taking his messages -- air monitoring has been going on in Mossville for years, and it's still killing us. So, it's not just about the air monitors. It's about, what are you going to do about the relocation? What are you going to do about our health?

Those are the things we're asking for now because every week there are three or four people dying from Mossville. One of my best friends died last night. I'm riding with my niece now who's 15 years old who they took half of her face off. I asked her so she can be seen today on the line, but we can't and she's riding with me now. I'm saying I'm really doing all I can to help her because she needs some kind of plastic surgery and things that's going on in her health. She has no health funds. She has nothing to help her right now.

So, if we'd had money set aside for our health with all six of these plants and even ones coming in, we wouldn't be having these problems. But when Mr. Regan left, we haven't heard nothing. I talked to Matthew Tejada and Gloria Vaughn. No one could give us any information. Matthew was very kind about it, even Gloria, but there is nothing they say that they can give us about what happened when Regan came. Does it really take a year to even say, hey, we're compiling all the information, we're doing all we can, and we haven't forgotten you guys and the visit?

But I can't thank you enough for listening to us today, but we sent letters out. We done sent everything to the White House and everywhere. Please, get us out of there. We're dying every day, and I just hope the next time you hear it won't be me or my family or someone that you know. But we're asking now that somebody do something about the health problems that's going on and get us out of Mossville because we are claiming 2023, the rest of Mossville, and what's ever left of Mossville, they don't turn it into some more Mossville's and Manchester's, and Alaska areas. We need to learn to do better than what we're doing with the land. Thank you.

**Mr. Logan** asked who the lead agency in the relocation effort would be. **Dr. Wright** replied that it is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but most of the people they worked with 30 years ago are already gone. Mr. Logan asked how WHEJAC might provide any type of recommendation or effort to support the cause at Mossville. **Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome, PhD, CEQ** Senior Director for Environmental Justice, added that there is an interagency working group that's working on community relocation. She stated that she will get Ms. Bennett's information and make the connection with the correct agencies.

**Ms. Bennett:** Okay. Okay. You know, money was allocated by Sasol Chemicals (USA) that would've taken us all out of there. But during that time, do you know two CEOs were fired? A lot of them got their retirement early because of the mess over the money that was supposed to have been allocated to move everybody out of Mossville. Now we don't know how true that story is, but we know they got rid of a lot of people during that time because the money wasn't put there nor used for what it was supposed to, which was to get us all out of there. The money was there sent to them to make sure everybody moves out of Mossville. Thank you.

**Ms. Viola Waghiyi** stated the reason that her community is always brought up -- abandoned and buried military waste. She recommended that WHEJAC make recommendations under Justice40 that any time there's pollution, especially to ongoing legacy communities, that the polluter pays, whether it's providing funds for communities to do their own health assessment, relocation, health care, and for proper diagnosis and treatment of environmental health effects.

**Ms. Jade Begay** stated that it was announced that day that three communities, two in Alaska and one in Washington state, will receive quite a substantial amount of money to move their communities, and that funding is coming from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI). In 2016, funding was given to a community in Isle de Jean Charles in Louisiana, and that funding came from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She recommended trying the DOI for advocacy and the U.S. State Department to do loss and damages domestically.

**Ms. Adams** asked what agency is responsible for the expediency of providing immediate support on the public health side, adding that even if residents do relocate, what implications exist for public health. **Arsenio Mataka**, Senior Advisor on Climate Change and Health Equity to the Assistant Secretary for Health, replied that it's not the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) that would provide such support, adding that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) should have some role in the ability to connect people to health insurance. He added that outside of some sort of special initiative related to relocation, that's a different story.

**Dr. Wright** responded that back in 1992, they began working with Mossville. ATSDR and HHS also had been there. The problem is that some people were relocated, and some people were left behind. It's not in EPA's mandate to relocate. She stated that the only thing they can do is declare the land poisonous and then bring in brownfields plan to clean it up. She suggested that, with this whole-of-government approach, WHEJAC can pull together different agencies that might be able to help, but if you don't fall under that agency's mandate, you can't be relocated with their money. She added that it's taken 30 years for some communities to relocate. **Juan Parras** stated that he knows a lot of communities should be relocated, but it's a discussion for later and not try to solve it right now.

### **1.5.30 Ty Pinkins - The Pyramid Project Youth Organization (Mississippi)**

**Ty Pinkens:** Thank you for this opportunity to speak today and thank you to WHEJAC for all the wonderful work you continue to do. My name is Ty Pinkins. I am the founder and president of The Pyramid Project Youth Organization, which is a non-profit organization focused on exposing youth to development and leadership opportunities.

I am a veteran, an attorney, and a community organizer. And my work takes place in underserved communities throughout the Mississippi Delta, including the city of Rolling Fork where I was born and raised. Many of the rural communities of color I work in are located in the Yazoo backwater area of Mississippi's South Delta which suffers from frequent flooding. This region has long endured structural, systemic, and racial inequities, and many of its residents struggle every day to make ends meet. As a result, these communities lack the resources and technical expertise needed to take advantage of existing federal programs that could help them obtain prompt and effective flood relief.

In light of these pervasive hardships, I urgently ask for WHEJAC's assistance to address these current and historic environmental injustices, specifically by advising CEQ and this administration to coordinate with key federal agencies including FEMA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and EPA, to immediately deploy on-the-ground assistance to help these predominantly black communities access these flood programs and the available funding by assisting them in developing, writing, and submitting grant proposals.

In fact, this past July, I joined nearly 50 community leaders and members from the Yazoo backwater area in delivering a letter to CEQ Chair Mallory and other federal leaders requesting urgent assistance to access federal funding for elevating and flood-proofing homes, businesses, and roads; carrying out voluntary relocation and buyouts; and protecting targeted areas from flood plain easements. We also asked the federal government to engage with local farm owners to increase the federal purchase of conservation easements and related wetland restorations, which would provide additional flood protection for our communities.

Unfortunately, our plea for help has thus far gone unanswered. Yet these communities are not standing idly by waiting and hoping that help will one day come. In fact, they are eager to secure the effective

flood relief program technical expertise they need. They understand that thanks to this administration, there are substantial federal monies available that could be quickly put to work to benefit people's lives, property, and livelihoods.

Recently, the neighboring disadvantaged backwater communities of Myersville and Rolling Fork, Mississippi, submitted a joint unanimously supported application for the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant, requesting non-financial direct technical assistance to provide them with capacity and capability support for hazard mitigation planning. These are the two largest predominantly black communities located just ten miles apart in counties that are identified as disadvantaged under the Justice40 Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool in four categories. They are geographically located within 100-year flood plains, suffer from high poverty rates, and have long suffered from backwater flooding. However, they lack the resources to take advantage of federal programs capable of addressing this chronically debilitating situation.

As a native of this area, and in full recognition of the many hardships these vulnerable communities face, I request WHEJAC's help to elevate and engage CEQ in coordinating and developing support from key federal agencies to immediately deploy on-the-ground assistance to help these communities access these flood programs and available funding by assisting them in developing, writing, and submitting grant proposals. Thank you for your consideration, and I stand ready to assist in this important work. Thank you so much.

### **1.5.31 Larry Lambert - Delaware State Representative District 7 (Claymont, Delaware)**

**Larry Lambert:** Thank you for this opportunity. I am Delaware State Representative Larry Lambert. I represent the 7th District that is Claymont, Delaware. It's an area where growing up we had two shelter-in-place orders where I, as a child, had to run the streets looking for my sister as we were told to shelter in place and to seal off our vents, our doors, and windows. This is also an area where just a few years ago there was a rumbling under our feet because the Sunoco plant refinery right across the state border in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania (about half a mile away from my district), they were having underground explosions. They were having underground issues that were making our houses shake.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg in regard to issues here in Delaware. We also stand with the other states that are having issues, from Mossville to Albuquerque, New Mexico to West Virginia, et cetera. But here in Delaware, I was honored and blessed to establish the nation's first Justice40 oversight committee, and we had WHEJAC members that were very helpful such as Michele Roberts, Richard Moore, and former South Carolina State representative Harold Mitchell. And in so doing, we had community listening sessions across all three counties.

We collected 63 data points that have numerous details from the residents, and we also engaged our local agencies that are a part of our Justice40 oversight committee. That includes the Delaware equivalent of the EPA, Delaware's Health and Social Services, housing, labor, et cetera. And one of the issues that we ran into is that we're at the point now where, although we were ahead of the game in establishing a Justice40 oversight committee in 2020, we are now in a space where we could use that additional support from the CEQ team.

Chair Mallory was generous, and she came and visited Delaware and gave some insight. However, during our journey, we were so early that a lot of the things, including the screening tool, weren't available yet. So, we could use that support to make sure that we are ensuring that, when it comes to those federal benefits, they are going to the communities that need them the most. We also want to share that the screening tool, while we appreciate the work that's been done thus far, it doesn't accurately

capture all the census tracts. We have issues with livestock waste negatively impacting people, costing people quality of life, and loss of life, and that's not accurately captured in Sussex County.

From here in Delaware, we could use that additional support from the WHEJAC as well as the CEQ to make sure we can connect those infrastructure hours to the communities and the issues that need them the most. Thank you.

### **1.5.32 Whitney Amaya - East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (Long Beach, California)**

**Whitney Amaya:** Good evening WHEJAC members. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak to you today. As mentioned, my name is Whitney Amay, and I'm calling in from unceded Tongva territories in Long Beach, California where I'm a community member and zero waste community organizer with East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice.

I had the opportunity to speak to you all earlier this year about the incinerator in my neighborhood, the harm it's causing my community, and how this incinerator, like so many others across the country we've heard on this call, has been allowed to over pollute our communities for decades because of EPA's failure in updating emissions standards for more than 15 years.

If any of us didn't do our jobs, we'd be fired, and it's outrageous that the EPA has repeatedly failed to do its job, especially when people's lives are on the line. We appreciate your leadership in asking CEQ to urge EPA to do its job. We don't need lip service. We don't need to hear that this administration is committed to environmental justice and hearing our communities; we need action. So, thank you again for your leadership and action on this issue so far.

I'm here today to ask that you continue to pressure and urge this administration and EPA to update incinerator emissions standards that are decades-long out of date, and that they do so on or before May of 2024. Anything past this date is unacceptable and a continued signal from EPA and this administration that they don't care about our communities. In addition to this ask, we need you to demand that the EPA regulate pyrolysis and gasification as incinerators because that's what they are. These facilities are being greenwashed as advanced recycling, chemical recycling, plastics to fuel, and conversion technologies. Honestly, I don't know what else industry is going to come up with, but at the end of the day, they're incinerators, and we cannot allow the industries and agencies to get away with building these facilities in our communities and keep polluting our neighborhoods.

We live in a region that has never met air quality standards and is extremely close to several dangerous pollutants that are harmful to our health, which leads to the higher rates of respiratory illnesses and high rates of cancer and premature death that we see in our communities. We refuse to accept that as normal and demand that the EPA take action now. They can't continue to ignore our communities; they need to do their job to protect public health and the environment. As the leading voice of environmental justice, please make this a top priority to get incinerator emission standards updated and pyrolysis and gasification facilities regulated as incinerators.

We look forward to your continued support in holding the incinerator industry and EPA accountable. Thank you.

### **1.5.33 Sofia Martinez - Concerned Citizens of Wagon Mound and Mora County (New Mexico)**

**Sofia Martinez:** Good evening. My name is Sofia Martinez. I'm president of the Concerned Citizens of

Wagon Mound in Mora County. I'm also an organizer in New Mexico around environmental justice and food justice issues.

First of all, I'm calling from northern New Mexico's unceded indigenous land. Some of the ancestors were the Ute and Apaches in this area, and so we want to acknowledge that for sure. We want to thank also the WHEJAC committee and all the work that they've done in the last couple of years to continue to center environmental justice.

As I've been listening to everyone that has testified today, I also want to thank them for the stories of what is going on in poor and disadvantaged communities -- and not disadvantaged in any way other than the fact that we happened to be impacted communities and communities that have dealt with injustice. So, I want to address my comments and I don't want to reiterate any of the things that have been said and the things that need to be done, especially, focusing more on cumulative impacts and interagency collaboration which has almost been nonexistent. Those are two recommendations to the WHEJAC that really need to be tightened up.

I also want to talk about the idea of Justice40 and where that money can be used and how it can be used. We're concerned about the fact that it can be used for the development of hydrogen which we consider to be a false solution -- again a way of maintaining our dependence on oil. So, we're really concerned about this -- small rural organizations and communities and small profits in New Mexico and in our indigenous nations and rural areas across the country.

Although some of this money is a good opportunity when we hear about all those stories, we really know that that's really nothing to address all the issues that have been expressed today, and even accessing these funds when we look at that, there is no technical assistance.

Poor and rural communities don't even have the technical skills or the staff to write these proposals, much less the umbrellas that are needed, et cetera. I know that there's going to be regional centers that will be created, and unfortunately, by the time they're created, who knows where we'll be at that time politically in terms of how much time people have to access that Justice40 money. It might be a good recommendation to have each of the agencies that are responsible for J40 and the different programs to basically identify technical writers that can help communities write proposals that basically provide some kind of fiscal sponsorship.

There's also, in terms of transformation, there have been some new movements in the philanthropic here in the last several years where it just is impossible sometimes for people to address the federal grant, and there are ways that could basically support communities such as maybe applying through Zooms and through phone calls or other methods other than the written forms that one must turn in right now, which, again, require a lot of time and expertise, et cetera. So how can those things be supported based on the time that is available to take advantage of these opportunities that Justice40 basically allows? And again, thank you for your work.

#### **1.5.34 Linda Karr - Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates (Madison, Wisconsin)**

**Linda Karr:** Thank you for letting me speak. I am Linda Karr of Madison, Wisconsin with Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates for the last 15 years. I have lived 60 feet away from a wood-burning neighbor for the 17 years I have owned the house I bought for \$84,000, which proves I am low income. My neighbor owns the house assessed at almost twice the assessment of my house and burns wood continuously as a hobby.

My neighbor turns his natural gas heat down and uses his wood stove continuously for recreation. I use three air purifiers inside my home. Letting this pollution continue, if the indoor residential wood stove is certified, is a failure in curbing hyper-localized air pollution. Certified wood stoves emit thousands of times the particulates of natural gas furnaces. Particulates of 2.5 micrometer-size -- PM2.5 -- are the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung setting off a cascade of human health problems and early death.

The solution, and my recommendation, is to give a PurpleAir PM2.5 monitor to any resident who complains that wood smoke from a neighbor is infiltrating their yards and homes. The \$249 PurpleAir monitor I purchased myself proves daily that in my own yard, I breathe three times the current EPA healthy limit of PM2.5. Wood smoke is 90 percent PM2.5. There should be ordinances against indoor residential wood burning with readings from PurpleAir PM2.5 monitors used as evidence, especially in cities where indoor woodburning is not a tradition.

Wood burning was enshrined as renewable and given subsidies in only the last few decades although scientists object. This year the European Union ended most subsidies for wood burning. A panorama TV documentary showed that the second largest woodburning plant in the world -- in Drax, North Yorkshire, England -- is highly polluting and is decimating primary forests in Canada and the southern United States. It's hard to make individual residents take personal responsibility for their role in air pollution, but it can be done.

#### **1.5.35 Paul Presendieu - City of New Rochelle Ecology & Natural Resources Advisory Committee (New Rochelle, New York)**

**Paul Presendieu:** Thank you so much for providing a platform to address all of you. My name is Paul Presendieu. I am a resident of the city of New Rochelle, New York in Westchester County, New York. I am the chair of the City of New Rochelle's environmental advisory committee.

I am reaching out to you as a result of some conversations I've had with members of the community about needed resources and assistance with our environmental equity work. Our census data information in New Rochelle is shifting. We have now become a community that is over 57 percent people of color and in need of assistance with any linguistic equity resources to be able to make sure that we're equitably disseminating information to our growing Hispanic community, our underrepresented Haitian community, as well as many people that have immigrated here from Asian or Pacific Island nations.

So, I'm reaching out to all of you to see if there's any infrastructure that has already been set in place. I know you have interpreters here assisting with this meeting, but any way that people could be able to reach out to you with the environmental resources we could be able to gain some sort of assistance in translating just to make sure that people who are making New Rochelle a home or are transitioning to communities are able to equitably access information for renewable energy rebates and retrofits or zero waste or composting bins. These are things that historically have been overlooked by people because such material not in a language that they could receive this information.

This also includes information for a systematic overhaul of waste incineration. Even though Westchester County is ranked the fourth safest county in the United States of America, we do have the waste incinerator, located in the city of Peekskill that is over 70 percent of people of color, which is incinerating over 580 million pounds of carbon dioxide and hazardous materials and has people on a pathway to cancer. So, making sure that we're able to get information on what is being done in other communities and what is -- what the federal government would like for us to do to make this waste management a page in our history textbook available for people of less linguistic equity will be invaluable as well as sewage treatment practices.



Our sewage treatment plant in Westchester County is located in southwest Yonkers, with Yonkers being a city that is over 65 percent of people of color. But southwest Yonkers being over 80 percent black and Latino, and the cumulative residents in proximity to a sewage treatment plant are talking about how it's impacting their outdoor air quality, overall self-esteem, people just being able to have the needed confidence to live with dignity and be able to have a fair shot at the American dream.

So as we're seeing a shift in the racial demographics of our communities, we're just really in need of support, guidance, and resources to make sure that we're able to communicate the current environmental information that's available to residents due to lands and linguistic equities so that everyone could be able to read and understand this information regardless of whether or not you were born here or whether or not you completed your education and just having a strong understanding of the English language. Thank you all.

**Co-Chair Shepard** responded that her group has a lot of experience with sewage treatment plants. Noting that it had won its lawsuit against New York City regarding a sewage plant, she said that she'd be happy to talk to folks in Yonkers about this issue. She requested he email her about it. Mr. Presendieu responded that he would email her and carbon copy LaTricea Adams, Black Millennials for Flint, because she has been a good resource for pioneering this type of conversation.

### **1.5.36 Cynthia Palmer - Moms Clean Air Force (Virginia)**

**Cynthia Palmer:** Thank you. Cynthia Palmer, Moms Clean Air Force. I recently got home from Port Arthur, Texas. The petrochemical pollution I observed there was horrific: the miles-long plumes of ethylene oxide and sulfur dioxide, the giant flares of burning plastics chemicals, and the ethylene cracker plants right next to homes. The concentration of toxic air pollution in Port Arthur is second only to that of Cancer Alley, Louisiana. The cancer risk in these frontline communities is hundreds of times the national average according to EPA's own data.

What's more, the fossil fuel industry is on target to triple plastics production by 2060, not because we need all that extra plastic, but because single-use plastics are a lifeline for the oil and gas companies determined not to let climate change and the promise of renewable energy cut into their profits. The judge's ruling canceling the air permits for the \$9 billion Formosa Plastics Group plant in St. James Parish, Louisiana is good news to be sure, but 2022 has nonetheless been the biggest year in U.S. history for the construction of other ethylene cracker plastics-making facilities.

Mom's Clean Air Force is calling on the White House to halt this vast plastics build out and to stop siting these gigantic fortresses amidst some of the most underserved, overburdened communities -- many built on former slave plantations. I'll also mention three low-hanging fruit.

One, do not allow plastics burning pyrolysis incinerators to operate without pollution controls. Most of these plants are situated in communities with EJ concerns and EPA is on the verge of exempting plastics burning from Section 129 of the Clean Air Act. This precedent-setting decision to deregulate plastics incineration would be environmental injustice at its worst. Two, control the PFAS emissions from solid waste incinerators under Section 129 of the Clean Air Act. Rather than break down the PFAS, studies have found that incinerators are releasing it through the stacks into the surrounding low-income communities. And three, ban the use of PFAS as the fracking fluid. PFAS is toxic, even in the most minute quantities. In 2011 EPA brushed aside the grave concerns of its own scientists and approved the use of PFAS chemicals as fracking fluids. At least 120 companies have been using PFAS in more than 1,000 wells threatening the surrounding environmental justice communities. Thank you very much.

### **1.5.37 Ashley Haugen - That Water Bead Lady (Texas)**

**Ashley Haugen:** My name is Ashley Haugen. I'm the founder and president of That Water Bead Lady. Our non-profit focuses on consumer product safety as an environmental justice issue that impacts us all.

In 2017 my one-year-old daughter was poisoned and severely injured by water beads. Water beads are marketed as a non-toxic, eco-friendly, biodegradable, safe sensory toy for children. The beads that poisoned my daughter contained acrylamide monomers. My one-year-old wasn't allowed to play with the beads. They were a birthday gift for her older sister who was turning six. A birthday gift changed the trajectory of my daughter's life forever.

The release of harmful chemicals from toy products is not only a consumer product concern; it is an environmental justice issue. A child's occupation is to play, and toys are the tools and materials of the trade. Thus, it is unacceptable that the majority of healthcare professionals who treat pediatric patients do not receive a comprehensive education in occupational and environmental medicine and medical toxicology.

Because of this, non-toxic labeling can be deceptive and misleading, causing patients and clinicians to underestimate risk. The term non-toxic is essentially unregulated. There are no specific standards or verification for non-toxic claims, and the Federal Hazardous Substances Act does not define the word non-toxic. Historically, as with lead and arsenic, mercury, and other poisonings, many clinicians miss the forest -- the poisoning -- because they focused on the trees -- individual symptoms.

I am here to request help in advocating for increased funding for the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) across the country, increased funding for poison controls, and toxic surveillance systems to improve real-world feedback. Cases are reported to poison control centers or bedside consultation services on a voluntary basis leading to significant variability in the number and of types of cases based on local practice patterns which result in reporting bias. Ironically, exposures managed by independent toxicology consulting services may not even make it onto the registries.

Additionally, the EPA should recognize that play is the occupation of childhood and invest more research funding into new approach methodologies and traditional research into developmental neurotoxicity, chemical exposure, and injury. Too many researchers and clinicians lack training in occupational environmental medicine. It is important for the toxicology community to consider these limitations when evaluating the rigor of registries. Since their inception, large registries have been an important data source for tracking exposures, identifying novel trends, and generating interesting hypotheses.

As such, many important studies have been published using data registries; however, the quality of these studies and the conclusions drawn from them are only as good as the source from which they come. That's it.

### **1.5.38 Jermain Jones - Friends of Detroit Club PAC (Detroit, Michigan)**

**Jermain Jones:** I have a question in regard to the role that federal legislators are playing and advocating for sustainable mass transit in municipalities in states across the country. Is there an effort to inspire more sustainable measures for mass transit, and if not, how do we create those conversations?

### **1.5.39 Jessica Roff - Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (New York)**

**Jessica Roff:** Hello, I'd like to thank WHEJAC for holding this public comment session and for your letter to the CEQ on municipal solid waste incinerator emissions, which is what I'll be talking about. My name is Jessica Roff. I am the U.S. and Canada regional plastics and petrochemical programs manager at the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, GAIA, and we work with a hundred member organizations across the country. And we work with a lot of communities that are already dealing with different infrastructures around incineration and the fossil fuel industry.

As Cynthia Palmer was just talking about, I also just got back from the same trip to Port Arthur, Texas, and being in the community and seeing the vast amounts of infrastructure is truly mind-blowing. I've never seen anything like it, and I've been on quite a number of toxic tours so far in my life. I want to support the comments that Whitney Amaya and Daniel Rosenburg, and Cynthia Palmer all made related to incineration, including pyrolysis and gasification.

A number of our organizations have been tracking existing facilities across the country of pyrolysis and gasification, and there's demographic information on 38 of them which provide a clear and disturbing, though not surprising, insight into the plastic petrochemical industry's plans for their so-called advanced chemical or molecular, depending on their mood, recycling facilities. Twelve of them have greater than 50 percent Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) communities within a three-mile radius. Thirteen of them have 50 percent or greater BIPOC communities within a five-mile radius of the facility. Thirty-four of them have low-income communities within three miles and 35 had low-income communities within a five-mile radius.

Six of the eight new chemical recycling communities are in communities that are disproportionately black or brown, and five are in communities where a disproportionate percentage of households have income below \$25,000. And in that context, industry is looking for financial and regulatory subsidies across the board at the state and federal levels. The American Chemistry Council has spent more than \$14 million lobbying members of Congress in 2020 to secure exemptions from regulations and therefore exempt them from having to pay for their externalities.

These de-facto subsidies and incentives are killing people. We really need your help to push the EPA to do its job and issue the decades overdue regulations for incinerators and to make crystal clear that pyrolysis and gasification remain under those regulations count as incineration and will be regulated under the Clean Air Act Section 129, which as Whitney pointed out, has to happen by May 2024.

Also, the EPA has included chemical and advanced recycling in its landmark national recycling strategy. We need to make sure that that's amended and that the rest of their federal money that they're getting under the guise of doing things that are supposed to be sustainable is also ended, including the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Energy. We really need your help. We appreciate the work you've done so far to do this and for taking all this time to listen, but we really need the amplification of those requests to ensure that the pyrolysis and gasification continue to be regulated so the industry can't keep building out their toxic infrastructure in our communities.

#### **1.5.40 Bryan Parras - Sierra Club (Houston, Texas)**

**Bryan Parras:** My name is Bryan, and I am the campaign representative for Healthy Communities at Sierra Club. I live in Houston, Texas, and it's been tough listening to so many of my friends, neighbors, and communities with whom I've been working alongside for two decades now. I want to believe that EPA actually tries to protect communities. I want to believe that this environmental justice committee is dedicated to environmental justice. And I want to believe that Michael Regan and President Biden both

care deeply about these things.

But what I've seen is failure time and time again, and it's disappointing and disheartening and it's a dishonor to the folks who are on this committee, some who have compromised their own health to do this work, to raise these issues. And I want to point to one specific issue that can be fixed tomorrow by Administrator Regan and supported by the White House and that is to close startup and shut down malfunction loopholes that impact most of the communities that have spoken today.

Christine Bennett in Mossville, the folks in Port Arthur, Manchester, Houston and so many other communities near plants that emit illegal emissions which are outside of their permit that the federal courts have found to be illegal and yet still exist, and which EPA still allows. I'm calling today to hope that this is, at the very least, one thing that can and should be eliminated in this administration. We know that time is short and there are processes.

Attempts have been made to make rule changes, and they've been circumvented by the election of a new administration that then rolls them back. This is egregious, and it breaks my resolve and faith that there is such a thing as a rule of law. We have legislation that was passed before I was born that has been circumvented, that's gone to court, that's been proven to be illegal, and there's still not been any change in direction.

I'm asking please that these illegal loopholes be closed, all of them, in all their forms in every state, and that that be done with enough time for this rule to be codified. Thank you.

#### **1.5.41 Karen Spencer (Massachusetts)**

**Karen Spencer:** I'm somebody who's been harmed by municipal water. The Safe Drinking Water Act says that no national agency can require any substance to be added to water for the purpose of treating people, but national agencies spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually promoting fluoridation policy. The 2006 National Research Council advised the EPA that its maximum contaminate level goal of four parts per million for fluoride in drinking water was not protective of human health. Moreover, the NRC advised there was significant evidence of harm to bodies, brains, and bones from fluoride in drinking water at concentrations deemed safe by the EPA and no evidence of safety at any concentration for susceptible subpopulations, including pregnant women and their fetuses, bottle-fed infants and young children, the elderly, and those in fragile health.

Yet, EPA has done nothing in over 16 years to address that gap in science. Approximately 99 percent of the fluoridation chemicals added to municipal water go directly into the environment along with the tramp contaminants from those chemicals which include arsenic, aluminum, barium, lead, et cetera. This pollution, much of it imported from China and Mexico, persists in our environment, but EPA has enabled easements for those contaminants and subcontracted the oversight to a private agency willfully blind to the cumulative effect on American water sources.

Today we have hundreds of studies documenting that not only are the EPA's maximum and secondary contaminant levels causing misery in millions of Americans, but we also know that EPA is the player in the fluoridation charade who doesn't care. They spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to protect the profitable fluoridation policy in violation of the intent of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the regulations of a toxic controlled substance act. One of those studies, a 2021 benchmark dose analysis, found that 0.2 pounds per million in drinking water has an effect on baby brains similar to lead.

Others have documented that 0.5 parts per million impede normal thyroid function. Fluoridation

schemes target 0.7, and diabetics and kidney patients who drink excessive amounts of water and so get higher doses of fluoride are in a vicious cycle that damages kidneys. Analysis of recent data showed that adolescents living in fluoridated communities have blood markers suggesting that they're at a high rate of kidney and liver disease.

Tell EPA that the maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for fluoride should be zero. Inform HHS and CDC that fluoridations are not advisable or sustainable and tell states to stop enabling schemes that poison us all from womb to tomb. And thank you, committee, for staying on with us all for so long to hear our voices. We appreciate it.

#### **1.5.42 Julia Brooks-Goodwin - Faith-Based Community Leader (Pennsylvania)**

**Julia Brooks-Goodwin:** My name is Julia Brooks-Goodwin, and I'm a community engagement leader, advocate, fellow, and also community corps ambassador. I want to say thank you first for having me testify and give my opinion. To the panel, I greatly acknowledge and thank you for your expertise and your understanding concerning this important issue, and I believe it takes all of us to help with this issue going forward.

As a community engagement leader and advocate, I know firsthand the issues facing communities in Pennsylvania, specifically, Philadelphia, Colesville, and Parkesburg, that are proof of the climate issue in diversity and inclusion. Many businesses, homeowners, families, and schools are facing high electric bills. Businesses and family schools would like to purchase and invest in clean energy vehicles, solar panels, and also retrofit but cannot afford them. Many of these communities are indigenous and underserved black and brown communities.

Pennsylvania is one of the states that have very high pollution, and the biggest environmental problems in Pennsylvania are the power plants, air pollution, and also clean drinking water. And I ask that you continue to find and fund and continue to invest in the state of Pennsylvania's communities, businesses, and schools; to continue to fix the roads and bridges; and to provide grants and assistance in underserved black and brown communities specifically.

And also want to say thank you for all your help and assistance and for giving me a chance to address this issue. And I thank you very much for your support and listening. Thank you.

#### **1.5.43 Shanna Egberg - Hispanic Access Foundation (Maryland)**

**Shanna Egberg:** My name is Shanna Egberg. I'm the director of conservation programs with the Hispanic Access Foundation, and I really appreciate you all staying on so late to hear us.

I recently returned from COP27 where the President announced his commitment to reducing methane, which was definitely very welcome. We are looking forward to strong EPA rules that prevent the leakage and deliberate release of this potent greenhouse gas that also harms local communities by converting it into ozone, a harmful air pollutant.

We are also eagerly awaiting new rules on soot and particulate matter. There are so many statistics and stories we've heard today to illustrate the impact of poor air quality on communities of color. But to stick with one of the starkest data points, Latino children are twice as likely to die of asthma as white children are. These and multiple other air and water quality rules that we've heard about today have been frustratingly slow to come out when we know that our communities need cleaner air yesterday. I am only mentioning two rules in my comment period, but we could also talk about mercury, coal ash,

fracking, wastewater, vehicle tailpipes, dirty ports, and of course carbon emissions, and even that only covers outdoor pollution. So, we hope to see new rules covering all of these forms of both indoor and outdoor pollution and that they'll be as strong as possible to protect the health of our families, our climate, and future generations.

At COP27, John Kerry announced a new carbon credit scheme. And for that, the U.S. would support a phase down of, quote, 'unabated oil and gas.' I want to remind everyone here that any scheme that allows fossil fuels to continue to pollute -- be that through carbon markets, carbon credits, carbon capture, sequestration, storage, and other similar proposals -- will continue to harm all of the communities that were represented here today.

There is evidence showing that even when these kinds of schemes reduce overall carbon emissions, that doesn't necessarily mean any less pollution in our overburdened communities. From coast to coast, we have seen that happen. So, I strongly urge caution when considering carbon markets and carbon sequestration-type proposals because any carbon scheme that includes continued pollution means the continued tolerance of the disproportionate burdens in our environmental justice communities. Thank you.

#### **1.5.44 Jane Williams - California Communities Against Toxics (California)**

**Jane Williams:** Greetings WHEJAC members. Jane Williams, executive director of California Communities Against Toxics. We are really at a pivotal moment here in the environmental justice movement -- are we doing everything we can? I want to briefly talk about two things today and really urge WHEJAC to weigh in on them. Two extremely important things in front of this administration, the greatest air pollution emission reductions we could currently get actually would be if we could get EPA to do a consolidated rulemaking on the startup, shutdown, and malfunctioning exemptions.

These exemptions are everywhere in Clean Air Act Title 5 permits, in sections 112 and 129 rules in SIPs. The exemption was found to be unlawful decades ago, and EPA is just being slow as molasses removing it. Most of the emissions from major stationary sources of air pollution are coming from the startup, shutdown, and malfunction exemptions.

The second thing is, that the Biden Administration is still considering the holdover for pyrolysis and gasification exemption from Section 129 of the Clean Air Act that came from the Trump Administration. We need this administration to affirmatively keep pyrolysis and gasification, which has been defined as incinerators for decades, keep them in the Clean Air Act. The plastics industry -- big plastic -- is planning on building hundreds of these small pyrolysis and gasification facilities in our communities across the United States, and they're seeking an exemption for all their emissions.

And lastly, we need anything the WHEJAC can do to help push this administration on strong particulate matter (PM) standards. We're waiting any day to have those standards issued. As you know, particulate matter is a killer in our communities. Our communities are at the frontlines of exposure to particulate matter, and we need the strongest possible standards. Thank you all for your incredible service and I hope you have a great rest of your evening. Thank you.

#### **1.5.45 Mike Ewall - Energy Justice Network (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)**

**Mike Ewall:** Thank you, and good evening WHEJAC. My name is Mike Ewall with Energy Justice Network. I live in Philadelphia, the poorest big city in the nation surrounded by the nation's largest cluster of incinerators. We've got five for trash and six for sewage sludge, which is related to the fact

that our city's been number one in the past decade for cancer incidents among large U.S. cities, and it's ranked among the top ten asthma capitals each year.

Four of the five households I know, on my little block, have someone in those households living with cancer, including my own. On October 4th, we had 274 organizations write to CEQ with copies to the WHEJAC and EPA. These were predominantly smaller community environmental and environmental justice groups from 31 states, many of whom are battling waste incineration. Nearly 20 national groups also signed on in support, including Greenpeace, Food and Water Watch, Sierra Club, Clean Water Action, Teamsters Union, and the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

As you know well, incinerators are located in communities where black residents, in particular, are most disproportionately impacted. The letter was asking for EPA to modernize their standards for incinerators -- something WHEJAC also called for earlier this year. However, the letter expanded on that with six other requests.

First, we want to see EPA stop promoting the burning of trash as renewable energy and as being better than landfilling, which will require that they update their outdated waste hierarchy.

Second, we want them to close the loopholes. We have communities where trash incinerators are being turned into medical waste incinerators without being subjected to the much stricter requirements for medical waste incineration. There's also EPA's nonhazardous secondary materials rule that's another loophole that permits waste burning without waste incinerator regulation.

Third, we want to improve disclosure while simply filing a rulemaking petition to EPA to have them start requiring incinerators to report to the toxic release inventory which they've never had to do. So, holes on the map exist where people just don't realize that they're as polluted as they are.

Fourth, we want to see the long-abandoned dioxin reassessment put out and have an updated dioxin inventory.

Fifth, we want to protect local clean air laws. The Baltimore Clean Air Act that we wrote and was passed unanimously by Baltimore City Council in 2019 was struck down by a federal court that misinterpreted the federal Clean Air Act and didn't recognize that it authorizes state and local governments to have stricter clean air laws.

And finally, the sixth point is to regulate incinerator ash as hazardous waste and stop allowing it to be used as landfill cover material and other so-called beneficial uses. We'd love your support in backing this letter and in urging a response from CEQ and EPA. Thank you.

#### **1.5.46 Jodie Bechard-Maró - Bristol Residents for Clean Air (Bristol, Connecticut)**

**Jodie Bechard-Maró:** Yes, thank you. Of course, my name is Jodie Bechard-Maró, and I live in Bristol, Connecticut which is a former EJ community. I'm also a volunteer coordinator for a community-based action group named Bristol Residents for Clean Air.

Bristol is the host of a trash incinerator managed by Covanta Corporation. Covanta filed a permit with the state for the approval to burn medical waste from about seven states. Bristol residents were really concerned, and they know that it's highly unlikely that we'll be able to stop the burning, but some of the efforts that we put forward is trying to get our local city government to enact local clean air laws. But nobody wants to take any action because there are profits for the city. So, the only option is to come and

plead with the EPA to tighten those regulations on incineration, especially when these corporations move to mix trash with medical waste.

And they say that the guidelines are safe for the residents, but that's not taking into account what's going to change when we start burning the medical waste. And I'm just a small resident with concerns raising my family here, but it's very, very hard to field these concerns that residents around you feel unable to do anything about it. They can't garden in their yards because of the noxious odor or the noise disturbances or the people that live in the communities around there that can't afford to move. You know, they are communities of lower income sociodemographics; they can't afford to move, and they don't want this happening in their backyard, but unfortunately, they feel powerless to make the change to do it.

So, the only other option is to get the EPA to intervene and tighten up those regulations. And so, I know we've heard a lot of incinerator communities come in asking for that. So hopefully this is a reasonable request for the EPA and WHEJAC to take into consideration especially since incineration is such a dirty form of energy. It's outdated, and our incinerator is old. In short, Covanta makes a lot of money, and our city doesn't want to move it because there are profits back to the city, but it's a very great cost to the residents in the town.

We are double the national average of asthma in school-aged children in Bristol and nobody really wants to look at the real data there to support the science behind some of the health issues that are surrounding incineration and that dirty energy. So, thank you so much for taking the time to let us speak today and for all the good work that you do every day for the environment and to help protect citizens for environmental justice. Thank you so much.

#### **1.5.47 Kait Ahern – Student, Lafayette College (Scranton, Pennsylvania)**

**Kait Ahern:** My name is Kait Ahern. I'm an undergraduate student, and I'm from Scranton, Pennsylvania. My comment is about *West Virginia v. EPA*. So, this case stripped away some of the regulatory power of the EPA claiming that the agency lacked the ability to regulate CO2 emissions from preexisting coal plants because it had not explicitly been delegated that power by the Executive Branch or by Congress through the Clean Air Act.

My concern is that the *West Virginia v. EPA* ruling, will prevent environmental justice initiatives in communities across America, especially ones where air pollution is driven by coal plants. Although Justice Kagan in her dissent in the case referred to the Supreme Court's decision as an advisory opinion, we must be careful not to ignore the dangerous precedent this case will set, which is that the EPA may not be allowed to act on its own accord without explicit allowance from the legislative or Executive Branch in the future.

My suggestion is that the White House put pressure on bipartisan members of Congress to pass legislation now, which will allow the EPA to function at the capacity it was previously allowed to as an executive administrative agency. The White House must take action before the EPA is further stripped of its ability to respond to the most pressing emergency of our lifetimes -- climate change.

#### **1.5.48 Leel Dias - Student (New Jersey)**

**Leel Dias:** Hello, all. I'm a high school student, and I'm very concerned about trash incineration. I think, obviously, it's an environmental justice issue. I'd just like to emphasize the low reporting standards that EPA requires trash incinerators to make. This became very clear to me when I attempted



to use EPA's emissions databases to compare incinerator emissions to other plants like coal plants and biomass burners. I quickly learned that a surprising amount of emissions data is modeled with only three pollutants moderated at all plants continuously.

And while analyzing eGRID, which is an EPA database, I found that incinerator emissions inexplicably dropped by 27 percent between 2012 and 2014, and, when I reached out to EPA staff, they couldn't find any substantive reason for this. So, the lack of high-quality data that isn't modeled is very, very concerning. In 2018, less than a quarter of incinerators had continuous emissions monitoring -- monitors for carbon dioxide, which is a serious global warming pollutant. And without proper monitoring, citizens cannot clearly see just how much incinerators are screwing their communities over.

So, to be able to hold incinerators accountable, I think it's past time for the enforcement of new EPA standards on continuous monitoring. I'm just speaking to urge WHEJAC to advise the CEQ to bring all incinerators up to modern standards, including modern emissions limits and continuous emissions monitoring for all regulated pollutants for which permit limits are set, which include toxic metals, dioxins, particulate matter, and acid gasses.

#### **1.5.49 Lauren Greenberger - Sugarloaf Citizens Association (Dickerson, Maryland)**

**Lauren Greenberger:** Thank you. My name is Lauren Greenberger, and I live in the farming community of Dickerson, Maryland, the site of our county waste incinerator. I represent a small citizen's watchdog group called Sugarloaf Citizens Association.

For 25 years, the county waste incinerator has been polluting our air, water, and land. On top of that, every year we send 200,000 tons of toxic ash from the incinerator to a majority black community in Virginia, clearly, a blatant civil rights violation. For years, we have been trying to get this closed, but we continue to be stymied by local bureaucrats. Why is this? The huge obstacle has been the use of the EPA-sanctioned Waste Reduction Model (WARM) to evaluate the safety of incineration. The problem is the WARM model only measures greenhouse gases. It completely ignores all of the other toxic chemicals that incinerators produce. This includes mercury, dioxins, furans, and cancer and respiratory illness-causing agents. Everything harmful to human health is given a free pass.

In addition, the WARM model completely discounts all biogenic material, meaning food and wood, et cetera. Anything organic is simply dismissed as renewable and therefore not counted. This is a ridiculous, and more importantly, dangerous assumption. Incineration appears safe because nearly half of the emissions are simply erased. The WARM model is used as a firewall to protect the incinerator industry, plain and simple, and our Department of the Environment hides behind it.

If the EPA would promote a true lifecycle analysis that counted all of the emissions that came from an incinerator, municipalities around the country could fairly and honestly evaluate their valid waste management strategies and choose truly the cleanest and safest for their people and the planet. It's time for the EPA to stop propping up the incinerator industry with this misleading and dangerous model. There are others so much better to use. Please encourage them to change. Thank you for your attention and for listening. We so appreciate the work you're doing.

#### **1.5.50 Kevin Barfield - Camden for Clean Air (Camden, New Jersey)**

**Kevin Barfield:** First, I'd like to thank WHEJAC for hosting this public forum. This is my first time speaking at this level, so I'm a little nervous, but I don't just want to regurgitate all the great things that were said today. I'm just hoping that this process is not a formality and that what was just being said

tonight is actually going to be used to hopefully make a change. I know locally, being from Camden, New Jersey and dealing with a city that was once an industrial hub in this tri-state area, we're still dealing with a lot of environmental issues. The incinerators are definitely one of them.

And the fact that grassroots organizations don't have the funding, I think that some of the things that were mentioned today are important to ensure that funding is going to these organizations that are actually there advocating and trying to educate the community to keep the big business from continuing to add on to the already environmental injustices. That's just heartbreaking hearing a lot of the stories.

But again, just hoping this committee takes the information that was presented tonight, and hopefully, things can help change the community throughout this nation that is suffering from these big corporations and our local politics that seem to control the process and the funding. Thank you.

### **1.5.51 Jan Victor Andasan - East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (Los Angeles, California)**

**Jan Victor Andasan:** Thank you for your attention. I know various folks from different partners we work with have spoken about the incinerator issue that I really just wanted to share. I'm really grateful for this committee since I think this is my first time commenting and just appreciative of the way you comport yourselves in this space.

My name is Jan Victor Andasan. I live in so-called Los Angeles County on Tongva territories located near Covanta's incinerator at the Port of Long Beach, and I'm a member and staff of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice. Like many others, we are here to urge you around the solid waste incinerator and the call for EPA to take long-awaited regulatory action.

I'm someone that grew up in West Long Beach when I immigrated from the Philippines, and I thought pollution and living adjacent to next to these facilities were normal. West Long Beach, just like many of the speakers today, is a predominantly black/brown, working class, immigrant community of color inundated with pollution, not just from incinerators, but its freeways with diesel trucks trips, intermodal rail yard facilities, two of the largest ports, and refineries. All of this pollution adds up. It's been years and decades for many since we thought breathing in air that was killing us is normal.

My brother was conceived and born near all these facilities in West Long Beach and when I grew up alongside him, we both developed asthma as a result of living there. They had to get him on a nebulizer every night, and that was normal for our neighbors and my friends in school. I want to underscore, while I have shared that my brother and I have respiratory issues, we also face cancers in our community. Burning trash in incinerators and other types of pollution don't just show up as cancers; they show up as premature birth and even reproductive harm to our bodies.

That these sites are being allowed to operate near us is continued genocide on black/brown, working class, immigrant communities because our ability to give birth, if we choose to, to have children, is taken away or it's given with complication. If there is an American dream in this continent -- in this country -- my dream is for me and my community to know that we breathe in the air that doesn't deteriorate our bodies.

Incinerators must no longer be allowed to operate without stronger and more meaningful oversight. I want to echo that we want incinerator emission standards up to date by May 2024. But honestly, we've been waiting, and it's a decade or multiple years too late. And so do it sooner, push sooner, get EPA to take action sooner. They're killing us.

I am so appreciative that you all are here to defend public health and to be our voices, and we need you to continue to be our voices while we do the work on the ground. Our bodies are not disposable. Thank you so much for being the champions for our frontline communities, and I appreciate being given the time to speak and really to hear all the stories and the powerful work that many people are doing. Thank you.

### **1.5.52 Sally Gellert -- Lackawanna Coalition (New Jersey)**

**Sally Gellert:** Thank you all for staying with us so long. I'm running through my comments looking for unique material. I started by highlighting the NEPA regulations for incinerators. I mentioned some of my groups that have signed onto that letter: Unitarian Universal is for just economic community; The Union Point Safe Energy Coalition, or UPSEC, United for Clean Energy; The Hudson River Sleep Clear Water; Occupy Bergen County; and lots of national groups that I support.

I won't go over that material from that letter, you know it. One earlier speaker mentioned sustainable public transportation. As chairperson of the Lackawanna Coalition, which has advocated for New Jersey passengers since both were founded 43 years ago, I strongly support that suggestion. I testified at Transit Equity Day on February 4th, which is Rosa Parks's birthday. Clean sustainable transportation in New Jersey, we've got congestion issues that would help as well as the ever-present air pollution. Our New Jersey air usually fails.

I want to highlight the Clearwater, Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson joint project that brings Hudson Valley municipal leaders together to evaluate their community for the best places for renewable energy facilities. So, they are in control of optimizing renewables in their locales, rather than being at the whim of a for-profit or even a public utility. This would be a great program to duplicate across the country. I'm across the Hudson, and we don't have those maps. So, give communities the ability to sit down together and look at what would work for them to bring clean energy to their community because it's different everywhere.

I live less than 40 miles from Indian Point, which is currently on to be decommissioned by Holdtec International, which is a private company with a reputation for cost-cutting and corner cutting. It has drawn the negative attention of the NRC with its request to control the decommissioning trust fund now, not after the decommissioning is complete, which is a direct conflict of interest. It has also caught the attention of the state as well as community residents. The discovery of discrete radioactive particles at Zion nuclear plant brings us concern for what might be found at the Indian Point facility in Buchanan, New York, even as local politicians push for the reuse of the property for financial reasons.

Holdtec International's efforts to dump radioactive waste from the Pilgrim nuclear reactors into Cape Cod Bay brings us concern that, should they be allowed to dump into the Hudson River, it will affect drinking water for the seven communities who get their water from the Hudson -- the river that flows two ways.

Regarding greenhouse gas reduction funding, please do not include speculative high-tech technologies with carbon capture sequestration that are more about greenwashing and enabling the continuation of fossil fuel expansion. It's not environmental justice.

In terms of grant requirements, one thing we learned during the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy is how grants that prohibit funding where there's a preexisting condition, discriminate against those who have not been able to afford maintenance repairs. My time's running out, I'll send you more in writing.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

### **1.5.53 Vanessa Agudelo - Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions (New York)**

**Vanessa Agudelo:** Thank you so much and thank you all so much for hanging in there and giving us a space to be able to speak tonight. Good evening, my name is Vanessa Agudelo and I'm the organizer for Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions, also known as WASS. WASS is a grass-roots organization founded and led by Peekskill residents to move Westchester County, New York, towards zero waste, and to make the WIN Waste trash incinerator located in Peekskill obsolete.

We are here today to underscore the immediate urgency we have to update the overdue municipal waste combustor standards, mandate enforceable accountability, and start to right the environmental injustices that have plagued Peekskill and communities like it for decades. It's no coincidence that the WIN Waste trash incinerator found its home in Peekskill. Although Westchester County is often recognized as one of the richest counties in America, the city of Peekskill is amongst the poorest and most diverse in the county.

This pattern of environmental injustice that often burdens and disproportionately poisons black, brown, immigrant, and low-income communities is one that Peekskill knows intimately well and one that we hope that the WHEJAC will seriously address. The city of Peekskill is considered both an environmental justice community as well as a disadvantaged community by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) standards because it recognizes that our city has been unequally overburdened with adverse environmental conditions in most part created by the trash incinerator in Peekskill, one of which is the oldest in the country.

This incinerator is the largest source of greenhouse gas and several other harmful emissions in Westchester County and places the burden of waste disposal squarely on Peekskill. We know that this air pollution has been deadly for our residents who have been suffering from asthma at alarmingly high rates among other long-term effects. In fact, in 2017 the New York State Department of Health published its Health Equity Report that showed staggering environmental racism in Peekskill. The length between ambient air quality and heart attacks is well established in the scientific literature, and it's no surprise that Peekskill has almost double the rate of hospitalization for heart attacks as the rest of Westchester.

Peekskill also has higher rates of low-birth-weight babies, emergency room visits for asthma, and lung cancer diagnoses relative to the rest of the county. This is the trend that is set to continue if real action is not taken to address the detrimental cost that our community unfairly carries while the number one polluter in our region continues to evade responsibility and profit while doing so.

That is why WASS is proud to have joined the over 270 organizations across the country that are calling on the CEQ to bring all incinerators up to modern standards, including modern emission limits and continuous emissions monitoring for all regulated pollutants; to stop the promotion of burning gas as renewable energy or that trash incineration is preferable to the use of landfills; to close the loopholes that permit trash incinerators to burn various wastes without being subjected to much stricter requirements; to improve disclosure; to complete the long abandoned dioxin reassessment; to protect local clean air laws; and to regulate incinerator ash as hazardous waste and disallow its use as landfill cover material and other beneficial uses. Thank you so much for your time. Have a good night.

### **1.6 Adjourn for the Day**

**DFO Robinson** thanked everyone for their public comments and the Council members and agency representatives for staying until the end. She gave instructions on how to submit written comments. She adjourned the meeting for the day.

## 2.0 Day 2 Welcome and Member Roll Call

On Thursday, December 1, **DFO Robinson** welcomed everyone to the second day of the public meeting. She gave a few instructions and then handed the meeting over to Ms. Shepard.

**Co-Chair Shepard** recapped the prior day's meeting and set the stage for the day's meeting.

**Co-Chair Moore** acknowledged the behind-the-scenes folks who were instrumental in conducting this meeting. He stressed that the recommendations from the public comments must be addressed by EPA. He mentioned that the NEJAC was in attendance, and he looks forward to working with the NEJAC in the future.

**Vice-Chair Catherine Coleman Flowers** noted that all comments are being watched by government agencies as well as the private sector to help mediate the needs of EJ communities.

**Vice-Chair Tilousi** emphasized that the public comments showed that EJ communities across the country are in dire need of help. She expressed hope that agencies acknowledge the public's demands and make necessary changes to clean up the environment.

**DFO Robinson** proceeded with the roll call and informed everyone that the quorum was met.

## 2.1 Land Acknowledgement

**Vice-Chair Tilousi** acknowledged the original people of this land in Virginia and the indigenous people who are still here. She stated that it is customary practice when one tribe crosses into another's land to introduce themselves. She explained her lineage, the indigenous history of Virginia, how they have been mistreated then and now, and the land that was taken away. She stated that we must remember the past and she also stated that in her native language.

## 2.2 CEQ Updates and Remarks

### 2.2.1 Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome, Senior Director for Environmental Justice, White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

**Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome** thanked her staff and those who have supported her personally. She acknowledged Congressman McEachin and her aunt, both of whom had passed away, stating that they were trailblazers for environmental justice.

Dr. White-Newsome stated that the public comments emphasized the importance to right the wrongs in environmental justice communities. She stated that her vision includes three goals. One, environmental justice is deeply woven into the White House administration and environmental justice is intentionally integrated into policies, practices, conversations, and budgets. Two, environmental justice is built on accountability, transparency, and clear communication. Three, the movement to institutionalize environmental justice across the federal government not be a one-and-done, but endure beyond this administration.

Dr. White-Newsome explained the updates and progress so far. She summed it up into three buckets: relationships, recharging, and reimagining reality. She stated that relationships between CEQ, federal agencies, and interagency councils are growing stronger, and the work so far is charging forward and recharging with every step that is taken. She gave examples of the progress, citing the Climate and

Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), the EJ Scorecard, Justice40 Initiative, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and increased participation by agencies on the IAC. She gave examples of how the agencies are reimagining their efforts to meet the goals set by the EPA and the Administration. She opened the floor for comments and questions from WHEJAC members.

**Dr. Wright** agreed that the public comments were difficult to listen to with the redundancy and lack of remedy. She expressed the desire to converse with Dr. White-Newsome regarding relocating the residents of Mossville.

**Ms. Adams** expressed concern for the younger generation's lack of knowledge regarding environmental justice and stated that media platforms should be utilized to promote environmental justice.

**Ms. Roberts** stated the importance of an intentional relocation plan for communities being forced out of their homes due to legacy environmental justice issues.

### **2.3 Addressing Legacy Pollution: A Federal Panel Discussion on Cleanup Efforts**

**Co-Chair Moore** invited each speaker to introduce themselves.

**Ms. Waghiyi** testified about the pollutants and legacy/generational effects from military activity in Alaska.

**Ms. Mary Martinez White**, Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, testified about the atomic bomb testing pollution and legacy/generational effects in New Mexico.

#### **2.3.1 Carlton Waterhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator - Office of Land and Emergency Management, U.S. EPA**

**Carlton Waterhouse** recognized the legacy effects of the pollution mentioned earlier. He explained the initiatives so far to address legacy pollution in Alaska and across several states in Navaho land (uranium mines). (See Appendix C: Presentation Slides for more details.)

#### **2.3.2 Brian Jordan, Cleanup Program Manager - Office of Environment and Energy Resilience, U.S. DoD**

**Brian Jordan** explained the three programs DoD is working on: Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program, and the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP). He stated that the DoD is committed to addressing legacy pollution in accordance with federal laws, having transparent cleanup and mitigation programs and involve impacted communities, and establishing Restoration Advisory Boards with tribal members and other impacted communities to ensure their interests are considered. **Co-Chair Moore** reiterated that these legacy issues have gone back over 70 years. (See Appendix C: Presentation Slides for more details.)

#### **2.3.3 Dr. Margaret Venuto, Epidemiologist - Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security, U.S. DOE**

**Dr. Margaret Venuto** explained the joint DOE/ATSDR Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant cleanup project in Piketon, Ohio. (See Appendix C: Presentation Slides for more details.)

### **2.3.4 Dr. Patrick Breyse, Director - National Center for Environmental Health, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**

**Dr. Patrick Breyse** explained that public health and exposure assessment are often initiated by communities in crisis. He explained that his office is currently studying PFAS exposures around the country, the assessment of Chemical Exposures Investigations Health survey of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Water System in Hawaii, and investigating exposures at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He stated that his office is currently studying 29 DoD facilities and other areas. (See Appendix C: Presentation Slides for more details.)

**Co-Chair Moore** opened the floor for questions and comments.

**Ms. Waghiyi** expressed appreciation for the work that's been done so far but gave several examples of the disregard to community members pleas as to where the pollution can be found.

**Co-Chair Moore** asked for more information about a research project on infant mortality in New Mexico following the WW2-era nuclear testing. Ms. White responded that infant mortality went up 200 percent in 1945 and stated that this number is probably low because of underreporting.

**Ms. Santiago** asked about the cleanup efforts at the Vieques military facility in Puerto Rico. Ms. Roberts commented on how important it is to address prevention instead of risk to stop the legacy effect. Ms. Begay asked if the cleanup of national laboratories falls under the NALEMP. Mr. Jordan replied that national labs fall under DOE and not DoD. He added that that larger munitions are dealt with by open detonation and are very hard to handle.

**Mr. Mitchell** asked about the buried plutonium near the Savannah River Superfund site. Mr. Logan commented that Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) contractors who remove hazardous waste must be held accountable too. Ms. Adams asked how the dashboard holds polluters accountable. Mr. Jordan responded this question and a related public comment that he would need to confirm before answering.

**Vice-Chair Tilousi** asked which tribe Dr. Breyse was referring to with a cleanup and how folks get on the advisory boards he mentioned. She asked which facility has the high uranium levels in Pike County. She also referred to the public comment about a denial of hazardous waste testing. **Dr. Venuto** responded that the name of the facility in Pike County is the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site. She also said the public health assessment is the first to understand exposures and health concerns.

**Vice-Chair Flowers** commented that not only do military members suffer from military waste so do their families. She asked if there is a registry for the family members as well to track legacy effects. **Co-Chair Shepard** asked about compensation for the medical health of people exposed, not just cleaning up the land. **Mr. Waterhouse** responded that EPA knows there are exposures and impacts, but EPA doesn't do the health portions.

**Dr. Wright** stated that sometimes it's worse when people call the ATSDR to do a study because they don't find anything, but people are still dying. Is there another way? **Co-Chair Moore** referenced a report called "Inconclusive By Design." He highly encouraged everyone to read it. **Dr. Breyse** responded that the ATSDR took that report seriously, developed new processes to get communities involved earlier, and will continue to get more data to find the pollution.



**Co-Chair Moore** asked that the other questions get answered after the meeting. He asked Ms. Waghiyi and Ms. White to write down their list of questions and areas of concern and submit them. **Ms. Waghiyi** commented that their small population's cancer reports are discredited because they are so small, but their incidence rate is ten times higher than normal. **Ms. White** stated that getting data means spending money. The question always comes up with a study: who's paying for it? She stated that bomb testing is in the past. It's already happened, so her request is for more early detection and medical help to deal with the legacy effects.

**Co-Chair Moore** noted that there is an extreme distrust among communities with federal agencies and rebuilding that trust will take time as progress happens. He thanked the panel members for their time.

## **2.4 New Charge: Carbon Management**

**Dr. White-Newsome** gave some context for the charge. The EPA is charging the WHEJAC to give advice on carbon management: provide advice to support an all-of-government approach to ensure the safe and equitable deployment and management of carbon management programs, guidance and agency actions, particularly in communities with existing environmental justice concerns. See the presentation slide for the four pieces of the charge.

### **2.4.1 Shalanda Baker, Director and Secretarial Advisor on Equity U.S. DOE Office of Economic Impact and Diversity**

**Shalanda Baker** stated that this charge will address some of the scientific and technical questions; challenges around community benefits implementation; hiring the right people to review the applications; and actually, implementing the benefits, plans, and frameworks.

### **2.4.2 Sara Forbes, Director - Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration (CCUS), White House Council on Environmental Quality**

**Sara Forbes** stated that investing in carbon capture has changed rapidly since the BIL and the IRA were passed. The number of permits for geological sequestration more than doubled over the last couple of months. She stated that this is the time to make the changes in regulations that are needed to establish the guardrails to ensure that where these projects are moved forward are done in the most responsible manner possible.

### **2.4.3 Robin Morris Collin, Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA**

**Robin Collin** stated the public comments really moved her. EPA is committed to focusing on legacy pollution and transforming the heritage that tied waste to race.

**Co-Chair Shepard** opened the floor for questions and comments.

**Dr. Wright** asked what the process is for receiving permits for carbon sequestration within Louisiana's Cancer Alley. Ms. Collin explained the difference between permits and primacy. She explained the next steps for a Class VI well, which is for carbon sequestration, adding that EPA makes sure that all resources of that state are in place before issuing permits.

**Co-Chair Shepard** asked for a list of the states that have applied for carbon sequestration. Ms. Collin

responded that she didn't have that information with her, but Louisiana and two or three other states have asked for primacy. California and Texas have requested permits. She will forward the answer to the Council. Ms. Forbes responded that the CEQ/SSC report has a list of the types of permits and the process for those permits. Ms. Baker added that 30 live permit applications for Class VI wells; six are in Dr. Wright's region. Primacy applications have come from Texas and Louisiana. Ms. Forbes added that North Dakota and Wyoming have primacy approval, and Oklahoma has started the process.

**Co-Chair Shepard** asked if there were any public processes for input into that permit process. Ms. Forbes replied that she wasn't sure. Dr. Wright acknowledged that there was one, and the public protested against it.

**Dr. Whyte** suggested that the WHEJAC not consider this charge. He explained that they'd already said no. Co-Chair Shepard asked him to clarify why they said no before. Dr. Whyte replied that the technology is not compatible with the Justice40 approach, meaning that if we import strategies for other types of initiatives and technologies into this, it will repeat history. Dr. Sheats added communities are fighting carbon sequestration, and for WHEJAC to take the charge will be contradictory to their cause. Co-Chair Shepard agreed with him and said that they will talk about it more during the business session.

**Dr. Baker** reminded the Council that the DOE is mandated to spend money on carbon management. She asked how do we ensure that obligation is equitably exercised? That's what the charge is for -- to get advice from the WHEJAC to set the guardrails on that subject. Ms. Forbes reminded the members also that her office has already gotten great feedback from those opposed to this effort, and now the charge is to get feedback from the WHEJAC. Ms. Collin reminded the Council that there are ways to manage carbon other than sequestration. Dr. White-Newsome challenged everyone to work together to get information that's useful to all -- prioritizing community health and managing carbon.

## **2.5 The National Climate Assessment: Overview & Opportunities for Engagement**

**DFO Robinson** welcomed everyone back from the lunch break and informed Co-Chair Moore that the quorum was met.

### **2.5.1 Allison Crimmins, U.S. Global Change Research Program, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy,**

**Allison Crimmins** introduced herself and explained the purpose of her office. Referring to the last four National Climate Assessments, she explained that the fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) started in February 2020 and is expected to be released by the end of 2023. She explained what formulates the assessment, the priorities, the process to date, the next steps, and the table of contents (scientific, national, regional, response, and new chapters). She then explained that this version incorporates more public engagement in the development process, including feedback from NCA4, authors, reviewers, editors, workshops, and artwork. New features of NCA5 will include a user- and layperson-friendly website, scientific advances, and practical examples.

Ms. Crimmins described the main themes: addressing, experiencing, the risks of, and mitigating against climate change. She showed how environmental justice is incorporated into the assessment and report, including diverse authors, expertise, language, terminology, translations, maps with overlays of EJ communities, artwork, and tribal consultations. She then explained how the public can participate, such as by reviewing the drafts and submitting comments and artwork. She asked for WHEJAC's feedback in three areas: development process, assessment content, and outreach and engagement. She opened the floor for comments and questions.

**Ms. Adams** asked if EJ organizations have been contacted as part of an effort to engage with frontline or communities of color. Ms. Crimmins replied not yet and that would be a great idea. Ms. Adams asked if there is anything in the assessment regarding the climate workforce. Ms. Crimmins replied that it is covered in the economics chapter in terms of jobs and livelihoods, especially in how jobs may be shifting. Ms. Adams asked if socio-economic data is broken down. Ms. Crimmins responded yes but at a higher level.

**Jerome Foster** asked if the agency planned to use the data from heat waves in the southeast and put it into the CEJST tool. Ms. Crimmins responded yes, it includes climate data (temperature and precipitation) for all regions. Mr. Foster also asked if there is a tool to assess the public's awareness in the report and how that awareness could be included in schools. Ms. Crimmins replied that the social science and justice chapter covers communication and the understanding of climate science. It does not evaluate how the NCAs are being used in schools. She added that there are plans to develop a climate literacy curriculum based on the findings of NCA5. Mr. Foster asked if teachers would get resources to separate the curriculum into high schools, not just at a collegiate level. Ms. Crimmins answered yes.

**Mr. Logan** asked if all experts or authors will be compensated for their time, and if so, would that include artists? Ms. Crimmins replied that none of the authors are paid; they are all volunteers.

**Vice-Chair Tilousi** suggested other indigenous organizations with whom the agency could consult. She asked if the assessment includes the effects of climate change on plants. Ms. Crimmins responded yes, there is an ecosystem and biodiversity chapter. There is also an appendix on indicators observed in nature.

**Ms. Waghiyi** suggested looking at sequestered persistent organic pollutants and their effects on the glacial melt and offered names of other Alaskan commissions they could consult with. She added to Vice-Chair Tilousi's comments about plant life changes in Alaska. Ms. Waghiyi asked if the report would help get resources to affected Alaskan communities. Ms. Crimmins responded that a lot of the changes are mentioned in the Alaska chapter as well as in the ecological and biodiversity chapter. She also added that the report does not contain any policy recommendations, but she hopes that the report could help develop those recommendations.

**Dr. Sheats** stated that he was very impressed with the addition of environmental justice in this report because it was not included in the NCA4. Ms. Crimmins stated that two-thirds of the authors are new and 75 percent of the participants in the workshops had never heard of the NCA before, so there's still a lot of room for improvement.

**Ms. Santiago** echoed the approval of more public feedback and community involvement and outreach in the process. She suggested reaching out to even more organizations to increase the exposure of the assessment. Ms. Crimmins agreed.

**Vice-Chair Flowers** asked if the assessment included depletion of groundwater levels, rising water tables, drying aquifers, and weather pattern changes. Ms. Crimmins replied yes, there is a water chapter, and the regional chapters contain locally specific information on water quality.

**DFO Robinson** informed the Council that she forwarded the presentation slides to everyone.

## **2.6 Public Business Session**

**Co-Chair Shepard** opened the floor for discussion of the charge and possible new workgroup to handle the charge with carbon management. **Dr. Wright** stated that Louisiana leads the pack with the number of permit applications and primacy applications, so this is particularly concerning since it's already called Cancer Alley. Since the money is mandated to be spent, she suggested that the duty of WHEJAC should be to make recommendations to protect the health of the communities affected and not try to stop it.

**Dr. Whyte** proposed amending the charge to replace the text with "what criteria should be applied to evaluate carbon management strategies and projects in ways that align with and advance environmental justice." **Mr. Cormons** agreed with the new language. He stated that the current language is jumping the gun in talking about the benefits of CCUS's experimental technology. He also worried about existing violating facilities adding the CCUS component and polluting even more. The WHEJAC should weigh in on how permitting should be approached with the infrastructure of the projects, he noted.

**Maria Lopez-Nunez** agreed with the new language, adding that we need to protect against experimental technologies. States that have a bad reputation for environmental justice should not be granted primacy for experimental technologies. **Ms. Adams** stated that she cannot in good faith, provide recommendations nor engage with frontline communities to support any project that does not have safeguards in place to protect people. She strongly agreed with the new language. **Vice-Chair Flowers** agreed with the new language to put up guardrails on CCUS. If the WHEJAC doesn't, who will, she asked.

**Maria Belen-Power** also agreed that the charge needs to be completely overhauled. The main component of Justice40 is to "do no harm." If we can't prove that this experimental technology is safe, then we can't accept this, she noted. **Ms. Roberts** also agreed with the proposed language and added that, with the original language, CEQ jeopardizes the integrity of the environmental justice groups represented on the WHEJAC in upholding "do no harm." Several members suggested other additions and changes. **Ms. Lopez-Nunez** commented that the words "permitting in order to issue or deny" are important in the proposed charge language. **Dr. Whyte** suggested adding that in parenthesis after "permitting" with "issuance and denial."

**DFO Robinson** suggested that many of the detailed changes could box them in, noting that many of the suggestions should be recommendations developed in response to the charge. **Ms. Belen-Power** stated that no one likes the charge, and they're just trying to shape it in a way to even engage with it. **Dr. Wright** agreed. She suggested that a workgroup should wordsmith it. **Co-Chair Moore** reminded the members that the WHEJAC cannot reject the charge but rather should modify and clarify it in a way as to be acceptable to WHEJAC.

**Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD**, suggested the proposed charge be broad in the framing to allow for flexibility. **Ms. Roberts** emphasized that the integrity and purpose of the WHEJAC must be paramount in dealing with charges sent to the WHEJAC. **Co-Chair Shepard** invited members to volunteer to be on the working group. Dr. Wright, Mr. Logan, Vice-Chair Flowers, Mr. Foster, Dr. Whyte, Dr. Morello-Frosch, and Co-Chair Shepard stated they are interested in serving on the workgroup. **DFO Robinson** stated the next steps will be to identify the lead member and set up the first meeting

**Dr. White-Newsome** stated that the concern regarding the integrity of the WHEJAC will be relayed to the Agency. She asked if the suggested revised charge can be shared with the Agency and the IAC. The revised charge now reads, "What criteria should be applied to the evaluation and permitting (in terms of issuance and denial) of carbon management strategies and projects in ways that align with and advance

environmental justice and protection for communities?" **Co-Chair Shepard** asked if the Agency could send timelines for the workgroup since permit and primacy applications and hearings are currently happening.

**Co-Chair Shepard** transitioned the business session to the workgroup updates.

The first comes from Climate Resilience Workgroup. **Ms. Lopez-Nunez** stated the name has changed to Climate Preparedness/Planning, Response, Recovery, and Impacts (CPPRRI). The focus was clarified to include intersecting the underlying problems in communities with climate change and adding how climate change is contributing to ecological and human trauma.

**Dr. Whyte** (Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations Workgroup) stated that their statement of purpose needs to respect the importance of indigenous peoples' rights regarding traditional foods and ecological knowledge. It was suggested that their charge language be modified to reflect environmental health and health impacts. **Vice-Chair Tilousi** stated that they are waiting for that approval from CEQ.

**Co-Chair Shepard** (Environmental Justice Scorecard Workgroup) stated that they are waiting for a data request from CEQ to address phase two of the charge. Dr. Whyte stated that there were suggestions to clarify the process of the scorecard development. Dr. White-Newsome stated that the deadline for agencies to return the data requested is mid-December. Co-Chair Shepard stated that there is a need for people with certain skills to help develop the scorecard further.

**Dr. Morello-Frosch** (CEJST Workgroup) stated that version 1.0 has been released, and there's been a lot of feedback provided. The workgroup will work on clarifying and updating the tool annually. The feedback included working through issues related to existing data sources, identifying new data sources, recommending methods for adding a cumulative impact metric, including a method to include communities that meet several criteria despite not meeting income criteria, and addressing language access and outreach in other languages. Dr. Wright commended the CEJST workgroup for doing a great job regarding race as not being a factor in developing the tool.

**Co-Chair Shepard** (Justice40 Workgroup) stated that the workgroup has reached sunset unless the need arises. She thanked the workgroup for their hard work.

**Co-Chair Moore** (Executive Order Revisions Workgroup) stated that they are heading toward the sunset of the group but will remain active in case an issue arises. Vice-Chair Tilousi and Mr. Logan stated that there has been word of new items from the White House, and they are just waiting for that information.

**Ms. Santiago** stated that she's concerned that some of the recommendations made to CEQ have not provided a way to implementation. She gave an example of follow-up conversations not happening. Dr. White-Newsome asked for clarity. Ms. Santiago restated the formal procedures for setting up a meeting that she explained had been "approved" by the WHEJAC. Dr. White-Newsome agreed that those conversations should be streamlined, and she will address the issue. DFO Robinson clarified that asking for a meeting as an individual is a different procedure than asking as a member of the WHEJAC body. The DFO can set up the meeting directly if it pertains to a conversation about WHEJAC recommendations. Dr. Morello-Frosch interjected that the WHEJAC voted for Ms. Santiago to meet with FEMA, so she asked why there is a different procedure if she's representing the WHEJAC. Mr. Logan suggested the Council develop a protocol for setting up these conversations directly.

**Mr. Logan** asked, in general, how WHEJAC members provide feedback and recommendations on the charge directly to the IAC rather than going through these routes as an individual. DFO Robinson explained the charge recommendation process.

**Co-Chair Moore** asked Ms. Santiago to restate her request, and she clarified her question. Dr. Wright suggested that, if the representative who attended the meeting knows what the request is and has gotten the request letter, he/she can just walk the request letter to the right agency directly or connect the two parties together. Co-Chair Shepard suggested that it might be better to arrange a meeting with an agency as a WHEJAC committee instead of as an individual. Dr. White-Newsome stated that she will meet with DFO Robinson to discuss the procedures for setting up official WHEJAC meetings with agency personnel.

**Ms. Belen-Power** asked what happens with public comments. She stated that it's been brought up before with some ideas, but yet the public commenters still hear nothing. She asked if CEQ and/or federal agencies are responding to public comments. Co-Chair Moore stated that that issue has been discussed previously, and it will be addressed at the beginning of the year. Dr. White-Newsome responded that IAC committees are discussing procedures currently, will use the public comments from this meeting as a test, and will brief the Council very soon on the results.

**Ms. Begay** expressed concerns about expanding the size of the WHEJAC when there are still a lot of issues to work out. Co-Chair Shepard stated that the potential increase in the number of members will be discussed next year. She asked Ms. Begay to email her concerns. She suggested an annual report as to what has worked and not worked. Mr. Foster suggested having not just a certain number of members but having different perspectives other than what's on the current council.

## **2.7 Closing Remarks**

**Co-Chair Moore** stated that they will “start the new year running.”

**Vice-Chair Flowers** stated that it was exciting to finally meet again in person, that she's personally seen changes in the right direction, and that she looks forward to what's to come.

**Vice-Chair Tilousi** thanked everyone for their commitment and time to attend the meeting.

**Dr. White-Newsome** appreciated meeting everyone in person and working with the Council.

**DFO Robinson** thanked everyone on the Council and those working behind the scenes to make the meeting run smoothly. She adjourned the meeting.

**[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED]**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
[FRL-10359-01-OA; EPA-HQ-OA-2022-0050]**

**White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council; Notification of Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notification for a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby provides notice that the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) will meet on the dates and times described below. The meeting is open to the public. For additional information about registering to attend the meeting or provide public comment, please see “**REGISTRATION**” under “**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**” Pre-Registration is required.

**DATES:** The WHEJAC will convene a hybrid in-person public meeting with a virtual option on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at approximately 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The WHEJAC meeting will continue on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at approximately 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time. Meeting discussions will focus on several topics including, but not limited to, workgroup activity, proposed recommendations for the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) consideration, CEQ briefings, new charges, and interaction between the White House Interagency Council on Environmental Justice and WHEJAC. A public comment period relevant to the specific issues will be considered by the WHEJAC at the meeting (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**). Members of the public who wish to participate during the public comment period must register by **11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, November 23, 2022.**

**ADDRESSES:** The WHEJAC meeting will be held at the Westin Alexandria Old Town, 400 Courthouse Square in Alexandria, Virginia 22314-5700.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Victoria Robinson, WHEJAC Designated Federal Officer, U.S. EPA; email: [whejac@epa.gov](mailto:whejac@epa.gov); telephone (202) 564-6349. Additional information about the WHEJAC is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council#meetings>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Charter of the WHEJAC states that the advisory committee will provide independent advice and recommendations to the Chair of the CEQ and to the White House Interagency Council on how to increase the Federal Government’s efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice, including recommendations for updating Executive Order 12898.

The WHEJAC will provide advice and recommendations about broad cross-cutting issues related but not limited to issues of environmental justice and pollution reduction, energy, climate change mitigation and resiliency, environmental health and racial inequity. The WHEJAC’s efforts will include a broad range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory, community engagement, and economic issues related to environmental justice.

**REGISTRATION:** Individual registration is required for the virtual public meeting. No two individuals can share the same registration link. Information on how to register is located at <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council#meetings>. Registration to attend the public meeting is available throughout the duration of the meeting days. The deadline to sign up to speak during the in-person public comment period will close at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 23, 2022. When registering, please provide your name, organization, city and state, and email address for follow up. Please also indicate whether you are interested in providing an oral public comment during the meeting, or if you will submit written comments at the time of registration.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The WHEJAC is interested in receiving public comments on a variety of topics related to environmental justice. Every effort will be made to hear from as many registered oral public commenters during the time specified on the agenda. Individuals or groups making remarks during the oral public comment period will be limited to three (3) minutes. Please be prepared to briefly describe your comments; including your recommendations on what you want the WHEJAC to advise CEQ and the Interagency Council to do. Submitting written comments for the record is strongly encouraged. You may submit your written comments in three different ways; 1) by using the webform at <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/forms/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council-whejac-public-comment>; 2) by sending comments via email to [whejac@epa.gov](mailto:whejac@epa.gov); and 3) by creating comments in the Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OA-2022-0050 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Written comments can be submitted through December 14, 2022. All written comments should be sent to Victoria Robinson, EPA via email at [whejac@epa.gov](mailto:whejac@epa.gov).

**SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES OR REQUIRING ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE:** For information about access or services for individuals requiring assistance, contact Victoria Robinson at (202) 564-6349 or via email at [whejac@epa.gov](mailto:whejac@epa.gov). To request special accommodations for a disability or other assistance, please submit your request at least fourteen (14) working days prior to the meeting, to give EPA sufficient time to process your request. All requests should be sent to the address, email, or phone number listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Matthew Tejada  
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice  
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights



## Appendix B Registration List

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Erica	(She/Her)   Fractracker	Fractracker Alliance
Renee	Aboamshe	Migrant Clinician Network
Gerardo	Acosta	US EPA R6
Lisa	Adamson	Caan
Janise	Afolo	Newark Homes All
Vanessa	Agudelo	Westchester Alliance For Sustainable Solutions
Mary	Aguilera	A-Z Tackling Impacts of Plastic/Petrochemicals
Kait	Ahern	Lafayette College
Iqra	Ahmed	Edf
David	Ailor	American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute
Donald	Akanga	Michigan State University
Oluwadamilare	Akomolafe	Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University
Derek	Allen	Enercon
Shantha	Alonso	Doi
Michael	Altman	Usda-Nrcs
Susan	Alzner	Shift7
Whitney	Amaya	East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
Preshona	Ambri	Dc Environmental Justice Coalition
Jan Victor	Andasan	East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
Shannon	Anderson	Doe
Jl	Andrepoint	350.Org
Scott	Andrews	Aclima, Inc.
Shannon	Ansley	Portneuf Resource Council
Pamela	Anyanwu	Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
Joni	Arends	Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
Luke	Argleben	Hispanic Access Foundation
Lisa	Arkin	Beyond Toxics
Chandler	Armstrong - Dod Climate Assessment Team	Osd Sustainment & Acquisitions
Jessica	Arriens	National Wildlife Federation
Ernesto	Avelar	Nroc
Jo	Ayuso	Movement Education Outdoors
Scott Wilson	Badenoch Jr	Environmental Law Institute
Ryan	Bahnfleth	Esri
Cal	Baier-Anderson	EPA/Olem/Ffro
Cheryl	Bailey	USDA, Forest Service
Taaka	Bailey	MDEQ
Mandy	Baily	Florida Sea Grant
Bonnie	Bain	Salem Alliance For the Environment
Opal	Baker	Community
Miles	Ballogg	Balloggs T Day
Adam	Banig	United Mine Workers of America
Kevin	Barfield	Camden For Clean Air
Chuck	Barlow Jr	Sossi- Saving Our Sons & Sisters International

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Patrick	Barnes	Bfa Environmental
Claire	Barnett	Healthy Schools' Network
Xavier	Barraza	Valle De Oro Nwr EJ Leadership Team
Tarshire	Battle	Roots 2empower
Jodie	Bechard-Maró	Bristol Residents for Clean Air
Lauren	Becker	City Of Carbondale Government
Kathleen	Bell, EPA Region 2	US EPA Region 2
Peggy	Beltrone	Cat Creek Energy
K	Benally	Bureau Of Indian Education
Kent	Benjamin	Us EPA
Christine	Bennett	Mossville Community Member
Denise	Bennett	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Laura	Betts	Cleo
Laura	Betts	Cleo
Michaela	Bevillard	Haley & Aldrich, Inc
Genie	Bey	NOAA Climate Program Office
Stephanie	Bilenko	None
Pamela	Bingham	Self/Homeowner
Connie	Binkowitz	Center For Transforming Communities
Lindsay	Birt	Xylem
Uni	Blake	American Petroleum Institute
Karen	Blakelock (Usca)	Us Climate Alliance
Kathleen	Bland	Highlight Technologies
Andrea	Bogomolni	Na
Charles	Bolden	Solar Energy Industries Association
Dannie	Bolden	North Port St Joe Project Area Coalition
Jan	Boudart	Nuclear Energy Information Service
Chad	Bourgoin	Doe Hq Fecm
Terry	Bowers	Department Of Defense
Timmy	Boyle	Acase
Karen	Bradbury	U.S. Senate
Arnold	Bradford	Crossroads Collaborative
Amanda	Bradshaw	FERC
Mary	Braun (She/Her/Hers)	Newcc
Matthew	Brickey	Forsyth County Nc
Sage	Briscoe	Rewiring America
Julia	Brooks-Goodwin1	White House Community, Community Engagement Leader, Faith Based Community Leader
April	Brown	Racial Environmental Justice Cmte.
Erniko	Brown	Organized Uplifting Resources & Strategies
Janice	Brown	Na
Lucas	Brown	Us Digital Service
Amy	Browning	Tceq
Kelsey	Brugger	E&E News

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Sharunda	Buchanan	HHS/CDC/ATSDR
Alison	Burcham - Dod Climate Action Team	Osd Ousd A-S
Brian	Burkhart	Native Nations Center at The University of Oklahoma
Adriane	Busby	Friends Of the Earth
Stan	Buzzelle	US EPA
Lance	Caldwell	EPA Region 2
Reverend James L	Caldwell	Coalition Of Community Organizations
Stacey	Callaway	Ecology
Nikoosh	Carlo	Cnc North Consulting
Yamilett	Carrillo	San Diego Foundation
Winifred	Carson-Smith	Wy Carson Company
Alec	Castellano	Catholic Charities of The Diocese of Stockton
Elida	Castillo	Chispa Texas
Gloria	Castillo	Nm Hemp Coalition
Karina	Castillo	Miami-Dade County
Lilliana	Cervantes	Fish And Wildlife Service
Brian	Chalfant	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Dr Angela M	Chalk	Healthy Community Services
Amanda	Chapin	Environmental Protection Agency
Amelia	Cheek	Ierg
Edward	Chen	Soh/Doh/Cwb
Miranda	Chien-Hale	ECOS
Julie	Childers	None
Lauren	Childs-Gleason	Nasa
Zach	Church	U.S. EPA
Roger	Ciuffo	Us Air Force
Catherine	Clark	Us Department of Energy
Jill	Clark	La Department of Environmental Quality
Seanta	Clark	Doctors For America
Shirley	Clark	Grayling Ira Tribal Council
Jennifer	Cleary	Aham
Grace	Coates	Environment Texas
Deborah	Cohen	US EPA
Julia	Cohen	Plastic Pollution Coalition
Ingrid	Colbert	Department Of Energy
Montina	Cole	FERC
Alex	Cole-He/Him-Wv Sierra Club	Sierra Club
Marsha	Coleman-Adebayo	Macedonia Baptist Church
Baltimore	Compost Collective, Marvin Hayes, Program	Baltimore Compost Collective Program

First Name	Last Name	Organization
	Manager	
Jasmin	Contreras	EPA
Diana	Conway	Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc
Talavi	Cook	Tewa Women United
Lisa	Cooke	US DPT FAA
Almeta	Cooper	Moms Clean Air Force
Karen	Cooper	Women For a Healthy Environment
Tina	Cordova	Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium (Tbdc)
Kelsey	Crane	Earthworks
Bria	Crawford	US EPA
Kelly	Crawford	N/A
Brandi	Crawford-Johnson	EJ Activist
Kimberly	Crisafi	EPA
James	Critchfield	US EPA
Marina	Cucuzza	USGS
Anita	Cunningham	Nc Disaster Survival and Resiliency School
Matt	Currie	Able
Constance	Dadich	Dbsa Metro
Lisa	Daniels	Windustry
Bryan	Davidson	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Susannah	Davidson	Us Army Corps of Engineers
Carletta	Davis	NAACP
Darien	Davis	Lcv
Ollie	Davison	Department Of Energy
Natalie	Dawson	Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan)
Cemelli	De Aztlan	Centro Fronterizo Del Obrero (Dba) La Mujer Obrera
Georgia	De La Garza	People's Tribune
Moñeka	De Oro	Mcca
Marian	Dean	USACE
Michelle	Deatrick	Women's March Ann Arbor, Our Revolution Michigan, Dnc Climate Council
Tim	Dehm	Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Candace	Desantis	Doi Bie
Rachna	Dhingra	Bhopal Group for Information & Action
Dominique	Diaddigo-Cash	Sierra Club
Kadiatou	Diarra	Dot_Fra
Leel	Dias	Ejn
Sisira	Dissanayake	Dubai Intercity Hotel
Lauren	Divine	Tribal Government of St. Paul Island
Benika	Dixon	Texas A&M University School of Public Health
Dana	Donovan	Women For a Healthy Environment
Sunny	Dooley	Self
Lori	Dowil	Corteva

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Melinda	Downing	Department Of Energy
Jacquelyn	Drechsler	N/A
Dana	Drugmand	Independent Journalist
John	Dunn	Freelance Writer/Book on Climate Change for University Press of Fla.
William	Dunn	Civic League for New Castle County (Vp)
Amanda	Dwyer	NOAA
Alex	Easdale	Southeast Climate & Energy Network
Jeannie	Economos	Farmworker Association Of
Shanna	Edberg	Hispanic Access Foundation
Karen	Edelstein.	Fractracker Alliance
Tanisha	Edwards	Firm
Stacey	Eichner	Environmental Action, Center for Biodiversity, Greenpeace, Endangered Species Coalition, Etc.
Jacquelyn	Elliott	N/A
Rasha	Elwakil	Westchester Alliance For Sustainable Solutions
Norman	Emerson	Emerson & Associates
Simone	English	FAMU
Herb	Engman	Idem
Chris	Espinosa	House Committee on Natural Resources
Manuel	Espinosa	The Phoenix Group
Monica	Espinosa	EPA Region 7
Anne Marie	Esposito	Department Of Energy
Laura M	Esquivel	Hispanic Federation
Michelle	Ethun	Dot
Dan	Etson	Us Army Garrison Fort Campbell
Mike	Ewall	Energy Justice Network
Elena	F   Nm   Nmtpwg   Nnmcab	Amigos Bravos   Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board
Cyrene	Farrar	Hseo
Donald	Farrell	Ask The Landlord Project
Ericka	Farrell	EPA
Carter	Fay	Georgia High School Democrats
Dr.	Faye Gerard (Bp)	Bp
Cynthia	Ferguson	DOJ Office of EJ
Arianne	Fernandez	Washington State Department of Ecology
Nicolette	Fertakis	EPA
Timothy	Fields	Mdb, Inc.
Denny	Fisher	Delaware Tribe
Megan	Fitzsimmons	Texas Tech University
Abigail	Fleming	Environmental Justice Clinic at Um Law
Jamie	Flood	Usda-Nal
Celeste	Flores	Clean Power Lake County
Mikaela	Foehr	Edf
Cat	Foley	Iec

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Leigh	Ford	Snake River Alliance
Michelle	Fox	Us Doe
Charles	Franklin	American Chemistry Council
Perdro	Fravien	Dhs, Nij, Internationals Public Safety, Department of Defense, And State
Tasha	Frazier	EPA
Geri	Freedman	The Peoples Justice Council
Denise	Freeman	U.S. Dept. Of Energy
Katrinia	Freeman	Keepvawarm
Leslie	Friedlander	EPA Safer Choice
Kirk	Frost	Individual
Meridith	Fry	EPA
Ali	Furmall	Washington State Department of Ecology
E	G	Jacobs
Arnita	Gadson	West Jefferson County Community Task Force
Brenda	Gallegos	Hispanic Access Foundation
Gretl	Galicchio/10,000 Hawks	10, 000 Hawks
Emily	Gallo	Hntb
Meaghan	Galvin	Faith Alliance For Climate Solutions
Robert	Gasior	The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, And Medicine
Sally	Gellert	Various
Linda	Giles	Transcription
Angela	Glass	Afcec
Olivia	Glenn	EPA
Rachel	Goldberg	Peace And Conflict Studies
Ruby	Goldberg	EPA
Leo	Goldsmith	Icf/Usgrcp
Maxine	Gomez	Public Citizen
Iris	Gonzalez	EPA Region 6
Jorge Enrique	Gonzalez Reyes	González Reyes & Cia.
Kenya	Goodson	Hometown Action
Lucas	Gorak	Arnold & Porter
Vanessa	Gordon	Usda
Jazzy	Graham-Davis	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
Cincilla	Grant	Dream.Org
Running	Grass	Three Circles Center
Lauren	Greenberger	Sugarloaf Citizens Association
John	Greene	Epri
Lila	Greiner	Greenroots
Caroline	Grey	Doe
Ardie	Griffin	Emerald Cities Collaborative
Elisabeth	Grinspoon	97034
Lisa	Griswold	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

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Lisa	Grogan-Mcculloch	Us Dept of Energy
Nadia	Gronkowski	Start Early
Adriana	Guerrero	Brown Girl Surf
Bernice	Gutierrez	Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium
Maria R.	Gutierrez	Afcec
Martha	Guzman	EPA
Liz	H	Ehs Support
Jill	Haberman	Sisters Of St. Francis Of Assisi
Jennifer	Hadayia	Air Alliance Houston
Camille	Hadley	Little Growers, Inc
Kristen	Haitaian	Freshwater Future
Stacey	Halliday	Beveridge & Diamond, Pc
Jason	Hallmark	The Climate Reality Project
Kareem	Hammoud, Us Climate Alliance	Us Climate Alliance
Leatra	Harper	Freshwater Accountability Project
Garry	Harris	Center For Sustainable Communities
Justin	Harris	Climate Equity Collaborative
Justin	Harris	National Wildlife Federation
Lauren	Harris	EPA
Reginald	Harris	US EPA Region 3
Jason	Harrison	National Wildlife Federation
Ryan	Hathaway	Department Of the Interior
Elsa	Haubold	Us Fish and Wildlife Service
Amanda	Hauff	US EPA
Ashley	Haugen	That Water Bead Lady
Sharon	Hausam	South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center
Heather	Haywood	Tceq
Anne	Heard	US EPA
Thomas	Hebert	Bayard Ridge Group Llc
Amakali,	Hehewutei	Exxon Mobil
Robert	Helminiak	Socma
Marilyn	Hemingway	Gullah Geechee Chamber of Commerce
Courtney	Herbolsheimer	EPA
Sandra	Hernandez	Latinos Unidos Siempre
Dee	Heroux	Spire
Isabella	Herrera	Ams
Allison	Herring	Kansas Dept Of Health and Environment
Bonnie	Herriott	Dhs/Cbp
Stephanie	Herron	Ejha
Taj	Herzer-Baptiste	Chair, College Democrats of America Environmental Caucus
Sam	Hess	Inside Washington Publishers
Tracy	Hester	University Of Houston Law Center
Gina	Hilton	Peta

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Martha	Hodge	Nc Department of Transportation
Samuel	Holmes	Us Sif: The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment
Brian	Holtzclaw	US EPA
Janice	Horn	Tennessee Valley Authority
Robert	Houston	US EPA
Kara	Hoving	Clean Air Task Force
Maung	Htoo	Conservation Advisory Council
Cindy	Hua	Downwinders At Risk
Secody	Hubbard	US EPA
Anna	Huff	The Meadows Center for Water and The Environment at Texas State University
Lillian	Humphrey	Environmental Protection Agency
Kathy	Humphreys	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Sarah	Hunkins	Western Organization of Resource Councils
Brandon	Hunter	Natural Resources Defense Council
Kim	Hunter	Engage Michigan
Kate	Hutchens	Michigan-Egle
Haley	Ilg	Marathon Petroleum Company
Anne	Jaffe Holmes	Federated Conservationists of Westchester County
Anjuli	Jain Figueroa	Doe
Denise	Jakobsberg	NIRS
William	James	Us Army Corps of Engineers
Lt	Janesa Licorish	HHS
Deborah	January-Bevers	Houston Wilderness
Tyler	Jenkins	EPW
Ayodele	Jibowu	Houston-Galveston Area Council
Julie	Jimenez	N/A
Paula	Joe	EPA
Bonita	Johnson	US EPA
Cassandra	Johnson	MDEQ
Cheryl	Johnson	People For Community Recovery
Dr. Sabrina	Johnson	Nrdc
Sabrina	Johnson	US EPA
Andrea	Jones	Georgia Wand
Jermain	Jones	Friends Of Detroit Club Pac
Karen	Jones	Whom It Concerns, Inc.
Luke	Jones, U.S. EPA	U.S. EPA
Belinda	Joyner	Concern Citizens of Northampton County/Clean Water For North Carolina
Erin	Julianus	U.S. Bureau Of Land Management
Edie	Juno	National Wildlife Federation
Lydia	Kachadoorian	Federal Railroad Administration
Ntale	Kajumba	EPA Region 4
Kiara	Kamara	Us Fish and Wildlife Service



First Name	Last Name	Organization
Simi	Kang	Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Meryem	Karad	Evergreen Action
Linda	Karr	Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates
John	Keane	Association Of Home Appliance Manufacturers
John	Keane	Aham
Joyce	Keith Hargrove	North Carolina DHHS
Bridget	Kelly	EPA
Cheryl	Kelly	U.S. Department of The Interior
Danielle	Kelton Sopko	Earthjustice
Brittany	Kendrick	Hydronomy
Larry	Keys	National Affordable Housing Management Association
Amna	Khan	Ceres
Lee	Killinger	Florida Crystals
Marley	Kimelman	Babst Calland
Denae	King	Texas Southern University
Marva	King	Retired EPA
John	Kinsman	Edison Electric Institute
Matt	Klasen	U.S. EPA
Abby	Klinkenberg	Bureau Of Reclamation / Oepc
Jeffrey	Knishkowsy	Usda
Marissa	Knodel	Boem
Marissa	Knodel	Boem
Breanna	Knudsen	Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Danielle	Koonce	Ejcan
Lise	Korson	The Bridge Institute
Philip	Kortekaas	Professional Graduate
Kristen	Kortick	Nikola Corporation
Ashley	Kosak	Green Aero
Amanda	Kraynok - Tceq	Tceq
Emma	Kurnat-Thoma	Georgetown University NHS
Saachi	Kuwayama	Environmental Defense Fund
Emily	Laflamme	Cnt
Mary	Laituri	None
Mary	Laituri	None
Katherine	Lajoie	Working On Waste
Pradeep	Laksiri	National Fisheries Solidarity Movement
Kim	Lambert	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Larry	Lambert	Delaware State Representative District 7
Larry	Lambert	Delaware House Of Representatives
Katie	Lambeth	Egle
Chloe	Leaverton	Us Fish and Wildlife Service
Catherine	Lee	Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Gingle	Lee	EPA

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Seth	Leitman	Green Empire Solutions
Maggie	Leon-Corwin	Institute For Public Policy Research and Analysis
Kristen	Lepore	Orho/Hhs
Alana	Lewis	Dream.Org
Andrew	Lewis	UCLA
Jamal	Lewis	Rewiring America
Mel	Lewis	American Rivers
Robin	Lewis	Ipl Dmv
Sheila	Lewis	EPA/EJECR
Paige	Lieberman	EPA
Esther	Lin	Us Department of Agriculture
Julianne	Liu	Nasa Develop
C	Liv	Hhs
Balena	Lloyd	EOP
Trina	Locke	Doi, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust Services
Autumn	Locklear	Nc DHHS
Olivia	Lopez	Ocean Conservancy
Paulina	Lopez-Santos	Environmental Council of The States
Linda	Loubert	Morgan State University
Thea	Louis	Clean Water Action
Laquita	Lozano	Afcec/Czr-Ageiss
Zakiyyah	M.	Black Millennials for Flint
Kathryn	Maccormick	Dominion Energy
Rebecca	Mackenzie	Acts Now
Jeffrey	Macmullen	NJDEP
Caitlin	Macomber, Wri (She/Her)	Wri
Rayan	Makarem	Clean Air Now
Ellen	Manges	US EPA
Harry	Manin	House Oversight
Krista	Mantsch	Gao
Larissa	Mark	EPA
Karen	Martin	N/A
Michael	Martinez	Us Dept. Of The Interior
Michelle	Martinez	University Of Michigan
Sofia	Martinez	Cccwmmc
Matthew	Marzano	Epw
Charles	Mason (PG&E) He/Him	Pacific Gas & Electric
Jill	Mastrototaro (She/Her)	Audubon Delta
Arsenio	Mataka	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Renee	Mazurek	River Network
Audrey	Mccalley	American Cleaning Institute
Shana	Mccracken	Recology
Nick	Mcgee	Exxon Mobil

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Allen	Mcgill	N/A
Barbara	Mcguinness	Usda Forest Service
Caitlin	Mchale	National Mining Association
Elijah	Mckenzie Jackson	Waic Up
Emily	Mckinney	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shannon	Mcneeley	Pacific Institute
Nicole	Medina	Environmental Protection Agency
Matthew	Mehalik	Breathe Project
Liat	Meitzenheimer	Fresh Air Vallejo
Karen	Mejia	N/A
Caroline	Mellor	Department Of Ecology, State of Washington
Atenas	Mena	Clean AIRNow
Magaly	Mendez, Hud-Olhchh, She\Her\Hers	Hud
Johnny	Mendoza	Usda Nracs
Danielle	Mercurio	Vnf
Kevin	Messner	Association Of Home Appliance Manufacturers (Aham)
Karla	Meyer	USAF
Victoria	Miglietta	Marine Corp
Abigail	Mihaly	Inside Washington Publishers / Inside EPA
Melissa	Miles	New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance
Cindy	Miller	Led Spirit Inc
John	Miller	Cowen
A	Miranda	Md Dept Of the Environment
Bennett	Moase	None
Lena	Moffitt	Evergreen Action
Rob	Moir	Ocean River Institute, Inc
Ed	Monachino	Rti International
Camille	Moore	Www.Aabe. Org
Chris	Moore	Eastman
Danilo	Morales, Doer. He, His, Him.	Doer
Kt	Morelli	Breathe Free Detroit
Katie	Morgan	N/A
Olivia	Morgan	None
Olivia	Morgan	None
Adam	Morse	Array Engineering
Brandon	Morton	Dallas College
John	Mueller	Private Citizen
Lucy	Mullany	Eureka Recycling
Elisa	Munoz	Young Democrats of Puerto Rico
Gus	Myhrberg	Caan
Amanda	Nadjkovic	Federal Railroad Administration
Earthea	Nance	Us EPA Region 6

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Ellu	Nasser	Environmental Defense Fund
Molly	Nation	Aaas Hosted by the EPA
Jean-Claude	Ndongo	Florida Atlantic University
Aubrey	Newton	Liuna Nw
D.P.	Neyhart	N/A
Jaughna	Nielsen-Bobbit	Bioimpact, Inc.
Amelia	Nishimura	State Water Resources Control Board
Ekene	Nnadozie	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
James	Nolan	Western States Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (WS PEHSU) At UCSF
Marven	Norman	Center For Community Action and Environmental Justice
Avriel	Null	Tva
Leanne	Nurse	The Nature Conservancy
Maya	Nye, Coming Clean	Coming Clean
Bridget	O'carroll	None
Teraine	Okpoko	Teraine Okpoko P.C.
Lauren	Oliver	American Association for The Advancement of Science
John	Oluwaleye	Delaware Division of Public Health Community
Frankie	Orona	Society Of Native Nations
Delores	Orr	East Village Association
Lizeth	Ortega Luna	Solidarity Strategies
T.J.	Osborne	Dream.Org
Hope	Oshaughnessy	Save The Quiet Corner
Kelsey	Owens	U.S. Dot
Nadine	Owens	Our Brothers Keeper
Jennifer	Owen-White	Valle De Oro Nwr
Sharon	Oxendine	Us EPA
Heather	Pacheco	House Of Representatives
David	Padgett Tennessee State University	Associate Professor
Damian	Padilla	Georgetown Climate Center
Madhavan	Pallan	Un/Us Fg (Ai + Qc)4good #Hnpw (Un)
Juan	Palma	Blm
Monica	Palmeira	The Greenlining Institute
Cynthia	Palmer	Moms Clean Air Force
Jason	Park	National Environmental Caucus of The Young Democrats of America
Florence	Parker	Oki Regional Council of Governments
Philip	Parker	EPA
Ana	Parras	Tejas
Bryan	Parras	Sierra Club
Brian	Parrish	N/A
Kevin	Patel	Oneupaction International

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Rachel	Patterson	Evergreen Action
Jack	Perenick	Ydaec
Idalia	Perez	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Cynthia	Peurifoy	Regenesis Institute
Claudia	Pineda Tibbs   They- Them-Elle	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Ty	Pinkins	The Pyramid Project
Jamie	Piziali	US EPA
Lydia	Ponce	Society Of Native Nations
Kathy	Pope	Environmental Protection Network
Ericka	Popovich	Maryland Forest Service
Alex	Porteous	U.S. EPA
Jen	Powis	Earthjustice
Paul	Presendieu	City Of New Rochelle
Andrea	Price	EPA R4
Candice	Price	Urban American Outdoors
Shayla	Ragimov	Bsp
Juliette	Randazza	Front And centered
Sarah	Rascon	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
Pat	Rathmann	Pesc
Joanna	Ratigan	Lewis-Burke Associates
Alberto	Rechany	Self
Dawn	Reeves	Inside EPA
Hannah	Reid	Evergreen Action
Sean	Reilly	E&E News
Davina	Resto	Epn
Jerry	Riggs	Enercon
Rodrigo	Rimando	Us Department of Energy
Deanne	Rios-Gomez	Atlantic Climate Justice Alliance/Climate Reality
Alyssa	Roberts	Ceq
Denise	Robinson	(Ejcan) Environmental Justice Community Action Network
Emily	Rodden	New Castle Prevention Coalition
Lucia	Rodriguez	Hispanic Access Foundation
Telissa	Rodriguez	Mobilizegreen
Caroline	Roe	Usda
Jessica	Roff (She/Her)	Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (Gaia)
Bridget	Rogers	Peta
Daniel	Rosenberg	Nrdc
Alexis	Rourk Reyes	US EPA
Alison	Rubio	Department Of the Air Force
Eric	Ruder	Iec
Lakeitha	Ruffin	Usda-Natural Resources Conservation Service
R	S	EPA
Andrea	Salazar	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Fernando	Salazar Martinez - Tceq	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Elyse	Salinas	US EPA
Veronica	Saltzman	Clean Air Task Force
Dr Dwight	Sanders Se	Federal Reserve Board
Dharma	Santos-Santiago	Greenlatinos
Melissa	Sargent	Ecology Center
Stephanie	Sayo	Puget Sound Partnership
Megan	Scanlin	Dod Ctr
Lynn	Schloesser	American Council of Engineering Companies
Elise	Scholl	EPA
Larry	Schooler	Kearns & West
Dean	Scott	Bloomberg Environment
Viktoria	Seale	Nreca
Matthew	Sehrsweeney	EPA
Jennifer	Selgrath	NOAA Cinms
Joy	Semien	Texas Southern University
Hazel	Shapiro	Self-Employed
Danielle	Sharpe	CDC
Adrian	Shelley	Public Citizen
Nicole	Shintani	Hawaii State Energy Office
Gina	Shirey	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Ms.	Shirley	Agency For Humanity
Megan	Shortridge	Ohio EPA
Linda	Shosie	Environmental Justice Task Force Tucson
Thomas	Showalter	National Youth Employment Coalition
Brad	Sims	Exxon Mobil Corporation
La Shella	Sims	Retired Community Organizer
Nicole	Singh	Oregon DEQ
Helen	Sizemore	Dem Club
Carolyn	Slaughter	Appa
Christopher	Smith	Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
Grace	Smith	EPA
Jonathan	Smith	Earthjustice
Mark	Smith	Choctaw Nation Of Oklahoma
Megan	Smith	Shift7
Megan	Smith	Shift7
Noble	Smith	Ceejh
Sandra	Smithers	New Castle Prevention Coalition
Andrea	Snyder	Pew Charitable Trusts
Jennifer	Sokolove	Water Foundation
Dan	Solitz	Private Citizen
David	Southgate	Un Nuevo Amanecer Inc
Karen	Spencer	Na
Yolonda	Spinks	Mcap

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Patricia A.	Spitzley	Racer Trust
Gianna	St. Julien	Tulane University Law School
Cynthia	Stahl	US EPA
Joanna	Stancil	USDA-Fs
Lucy	Stanfield	US EPA
Erin	Stanley	Eastside Community Network
Darius	Stanton	American Cleaning Institute
Chad	Stephens	Sierra Club
Jane	Stephenson	N/A
Lisa	Stuart	Us Department of Labor
Donnette	Sturdivant	EPA, R4
Julie	Suhr Pierce	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alice	Sung	Greenbank Associates
Katy	Super	Ejha
Jeanette	Swain	Collins Park Civic Association President
Jeremy	Symons	Symons Public Affairs
Eileen	Takata	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kristi	Tally	Kd7 Enterprises Inc
Lisa	Tanh	Nasa Develop
Rina	Taviv	Des
Carol	Taylor	Genesis
Yunxia	Taylor	Deloitte Tax Llp Retired
Amy	Teague	USGS
Susan	Thomas	Just Transition Northwest Indiana
Tami	Thomas-Burton	EPA-R4
Carrie	Thompson	Meadows Center For Water and The Environment
Darlene	Thompson	GSA
Cara	Thuringer	The Chisholm Legacy Project
Stefania	Tomaskovic	Coalition For Environment, Equity, And Resilience
Jackie	Toth	Good Energy Collective
Ava	Traverso	Snake River Alliance
Igor	Tregub	Calssa
Michael	Trunzo	Shenker Russo & Clark
Thomas	Tuoti	Treesmatter
Emily	Turkel	Calpine Corporation
Morgan	Turner	Colorado Center On Law and Policy
Sarah	Turner	N/A
Bianca	Valdez	Kearns & West
Carmen	Valdez	Heal Utah
Enrique	Valdivia	Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc
Angel	Valenzuela, Nps	National Park Service
Jv	Valladolid	Ironbound Community Corp
Paige	Vарner	EPA
Felix	Vazquez	FERC

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Cristina	Villa	Department Of the Interior
Rebeca	Villegas	National Wildlife Federation
Victoria	Vinall	Ceq
Katie	Vogle	EPA
Tina	Volz-Bongar	Bongarbiz
Toto	Vu-Duc (She/Her)	City Of Watsonville
Carla	Walker	World Resources Institute
Jim	Walsh	Food & Water Watch
Michelle	Ward	Federal Government
Shelby	Ward	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Paul	Warfel	Meag Power
Alejandra	Warren	Plastic Free Future
Kayleigh	Warren	Tewa Women United
Kearni	Warren	Energy Justice Network
Matthew	Warren	Plastic Free Future
Phillip	Washington	Usda
Sheree	Watson, Usgs	U.S. Geological Survey
Chief Darby	Weaver	Choctaw Nation Of Indians
Ellen	Weininger	Grassroots Environmental Education
Angus	Welch	U.S. EPA
Eric	Werwa	Department Of the Interior
Jacob	Whitacre	DOE
Chris	White	Ase Chicago
Ruth	White	Www.Hococlimateaction. Orgm
Yolanda	Whyte	Dr. Yolanda Whyte Pediatrics
Wesley	Wiggins	U.S. EPA
Wesley	Wiggins	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Odette	Wilkens	Wired Broadband, Inc.
Brooke	Williams	Southern Company Services
Corey	Williams	Independent
Courtney	Williams	Safe Energy Rights Group
Cynthia	Williams	Maltawell Holdings, Inc.
Jane	Williams	California Communities Against Toxics
Martha	Williams	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rebecca	Williams	Vermont Dec
Belinda	Williams-Collins	City Of Deland
Dana	Williamson	US EPA
A	Wilson	Nyeljp
Kendall	Wimberley	Student
Martin	Wolf	Yale Center For Environmental Law and Policy
Kristin	Wood	Dot



First Name	Last Name	Organization
Leah	Wood	Washington State Department of Health
Allison	Woolverton	Earthworks
Sara	Wylie	Doe Office Of Economic Impact and Diversity
Macrina	Xavier	Air Force
Jessica	Xiao	N/A
Breanna	Xiong	Private Citizen
Dominick	Yacono	Federal Government
Debra	Yergen	Hmis
Naomi	Yoder	Healthy Gulf
Matthew	Young	Beechwood Inc.
Ian	Zabarte	Native Community Action Council
Afia	Zakiya	Africatown Heritage Preservation Foundation
Rachel	Zander	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Yan	Zhou	Argonne National Laboratory
Gregory	Zimmer	Gfl Environmental Inc.
Elvis	Zornic	Ministry Justice United State
Ronald	Zorrilla	Outdoor Promise
Adriana	Zuniga	The University of Arizona
Mario	Zuniga	Us EPA
Jamie	Zwaschka	Environmental Protection Network
Anhar.Karimjee	0	Us Doe
Jguthrie	0	Usfws
Molly.Mulloy	0	Ehs Support
Mpointdexter	0	Dnc & Mass Democratic Black Caucus
Rec0	0	Nreca

I, Richard Moore, Co-Chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, certify that this is the final meeting summary for the public meeting held on November 30 – December 01, 2022, and it accurately reflects the discussions and decisions of the meeting.



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Richard Moore

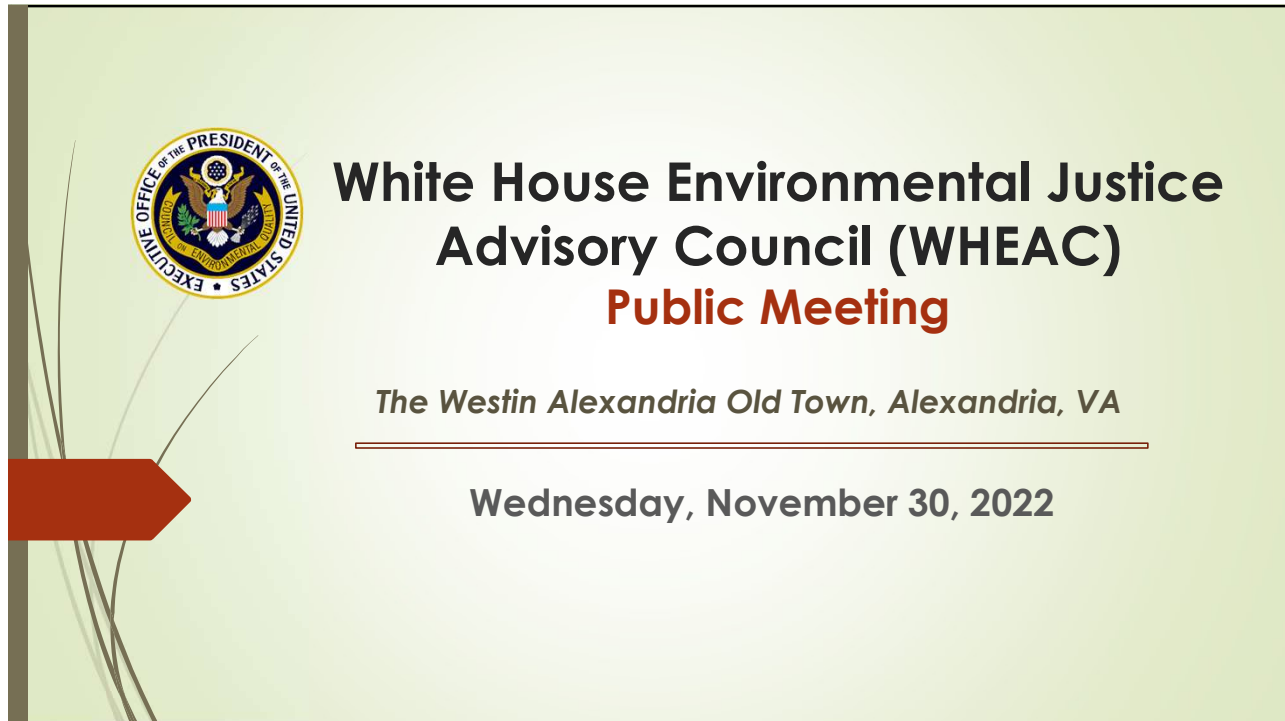
I, Peggy Shepard, Co-Chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, certify that this is the final meeting summary for the public meeting held on November 30 – December 01, 2022, and it accurately reflects the discussions and decisions of the meeting.




---

Peggy Shepard

# Appendix C Meeting Presentation Slides



The slide features a light green background with a decorative graphic of tall grass on the left side. A red arrow points to the right, partially overlapping the grass. In the top left corner is the official seal of the Executive Office of the President of the United States, Environmental Justice. The main title is centered in bold black text, with 'Public Meeting' in red. Below the title, the location and date are listed in a smaller, italicized font.



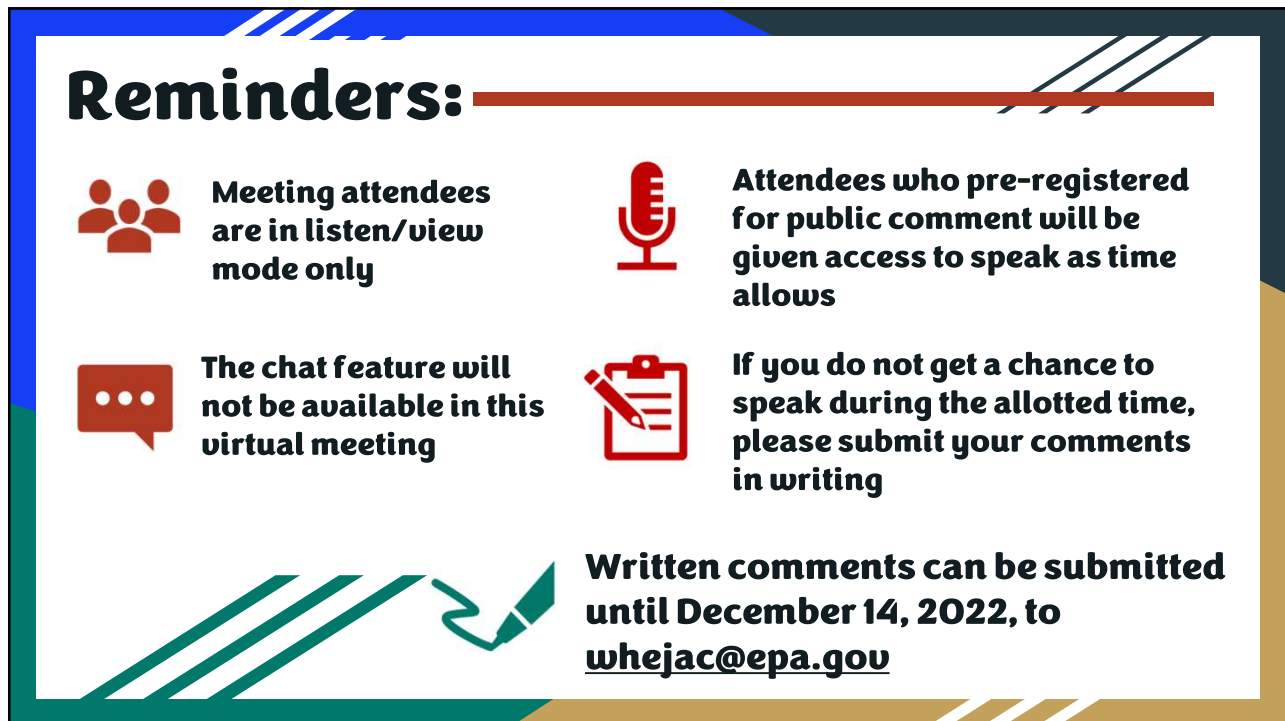
## White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEAC) Public Meeting

*The Westin Alexandria Old Town, Alexandria, VA*

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Wednesday, November 30, 2022


1



The slide has a white background with a blue and green decorative border. The word 'Reminders:' is written in large, bold black font at the top left. Below it are four items, each with a red icon and a text block. The first item has an icon of three people. The second has a microphone icon. The third has a speech bubble icon. The fourth has a clipboard icon. At the bottom right, there is a green arrow pointing to the right, followed by text about written comments.

## Reminders:

-  Meeting attendees are in listen/view mode only
-  Attendees who pre-registered for public comment will be given access to speak as time allows
-  The chat feature will not be available in this virtual meeting
-  If you do not get a chance to speak during the allotted time, please submit your comments in writing

 Written comments can be submitted until December 14, 2022, to [whejac@epa.gov](mailto:whejac@epa.gov)

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# TODAY...

Welcome

WHEJAC Member Roll Call

Agenda Overview

Logistics Overview

3

# Welcome

## WHEJAC Leadership



**Victoria Robinson**, Designated Federal Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Richard Moore**, Co-Chair  
Los Jardines Institute

**Peggy Shepard**, Co-Chair  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

**Catherine Coleman Flowers**, Vice-Chair  
Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice

**Carletta Tilousi**, Vice Chair  
Havasupai Tribe



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# WHEJAC Member Roll Call

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## WHEJAC Members from the West



### **Angelo Logan**

East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

### **Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD**

Professor, UC Berkeley

### **Viola Waghiyi**

Environmental Health and Justice Program  
Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics

### **Miya Yoshitani**

Senior Strategist, Asian Pacific Environmental Network



6

## WHEJAC Members from the Midwest



**Kim Havey**  
Director, Division of Sustainability  
City of Minneapolis

**Kyle Whyte, PhD**  
George Willis Pack  
Professor, Environment and Sustainability  
University of Michigan

**Hli Xyooj**  
Founder  
Advancement of Hmong Americans



7

## WHEJAC Members from the Southeast



**Tom Cormons**  
Executive Director  
Appalachian Voices

**LaTricea Adams**  
Founder, CEO & President  
Black Millennials for Flint

**Harold Mitchell**  
Founder  
ReGenesis

**Beverly Wright, PhD**  
Founder and Executive Director  
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice



8

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Director, People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources

**Jade Begay**

Director, Climate Justice Campaign  
NDN Collective

**Robert Bullard, PhD**

Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy  
Texas Southern University

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9

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Associate Executive Director  
GreenRoots

**Jerome Foster II**

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Waic Up

**Nicky Sheats, PhD**

Director, Center for the Urban Environment  
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**Maria López-Núñez**

Deputy Director, Organizing and Advocacy  
Ironbound Community Corporation

**Michele Roberts**

Co-Coordinator  
Environmental Justice and Health Alliance  
Chemical Policy Reform



10



## WHEJAC Member from Puerto Rico



**Ruth Santiago**  
Attorney, Comité Dialogo  
Ambiental and El Puente  
Latino Climate Action Network



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## Opening Remarks



Brenda Mallory, Chair  
Council on Environmental Quality  
White House

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## **A Conversation with John Podesta**



Senior Advisor to the President  
for Clean Energy Innovation and  
Implementation

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## **An Overview: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**

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### **Zealand Hoover**

*Senior Advisor for Implementation  
U.S. EPA*

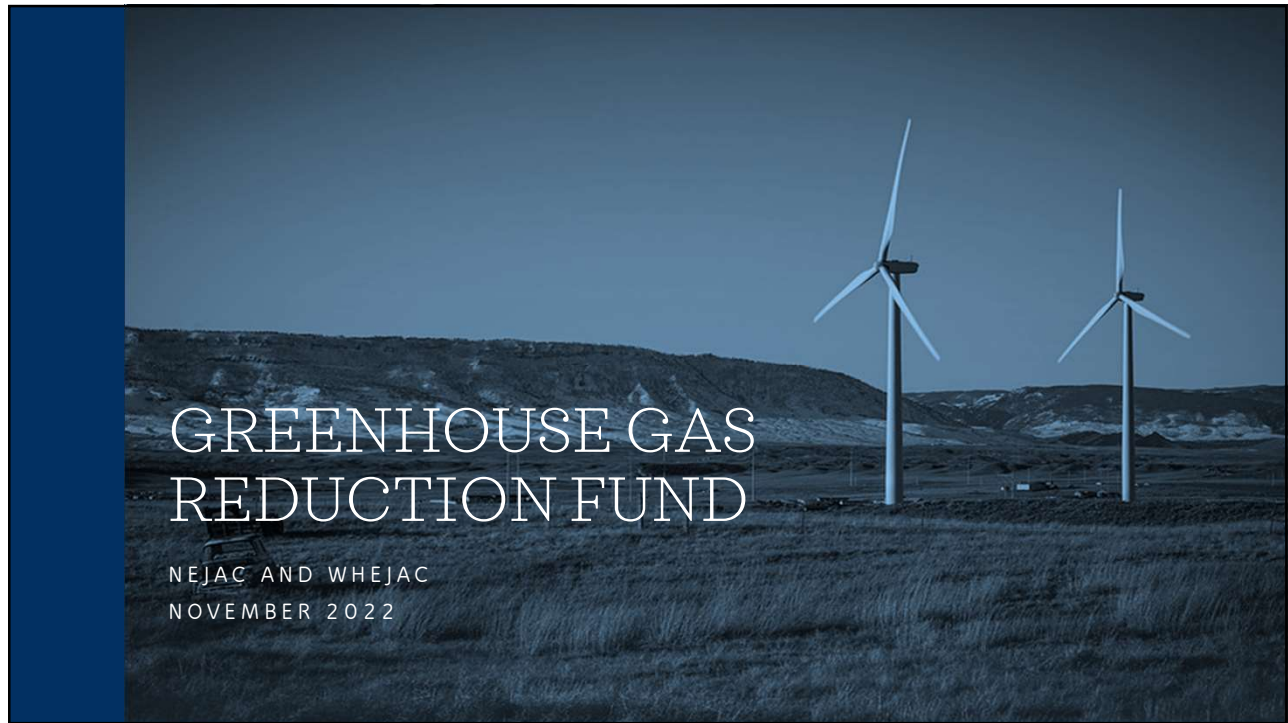
### **Alejandra Nunez**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Mobile Sources  
U.S. EPA, Office of Air and Radiation*


### **Jahi Wise**

*Special Assistant to the President for  
Climate Policy and Finance*

14



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## CONTEXT: STATUTORY PARAMETERS

	Funding stream #1	Funding streams #2 and #3	
<b>Funding</b>	\$7 billion in competitive grants	\$11.97 billion and \$8 billion in competitive grants	<b>Key Statutory Deadlines:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin making grants on a competitive basis within 180 days of enactment (2/12/23)</li> <li>Funding available until September 30, 2024</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Recipients</b>	States, municipalities, Tribal governments, and 'eligible recipients' (see righthand column)	<i>Eligible recipients</i> defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A nonprofit that provides capital, including by leveraging private capital</li> <li>Does not take deposits other than from repayments and other revenue from using these grant funds</li> <li>Is funded by public or charitable contributions</li> <li>Invests in or finances projects alone or with investors</li> </ul>	
<b>Use of Funds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide eligible applicants with funding that can be used as subgrants, loans, other forms of financial assistance, and technical assistance</li> <li>Distributed technologies on residential rooftops is specifically mentioned as an allowable use, in addition to zero-emission technologies</li> </ul>	Funds for financial and technical assistance in projects that reduce or avoid GHG and other forms of air pollution. <i>Eligible recipients shall make:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct investments in qualified projects</li> <li>Indirect investment through funding and technical assistance to establish new or support existing public, quasi-public, and nonprofit entities that provide financial assistance to qualified projects at the state, local territorial, or Tribal level, as well as community lenders</li> </ul>	
<b>Conditions and Carve-Outs</b>	Funds must enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy or benefit from zero-emission technologies and carry out GHG reduction activities	\$8 billion for qualified projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities	

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## DISCUSSION: LOW-INCOME AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

---

1. **What should EPA consider when defining “low income” and “disadvantaged” communities for purposes of this program?** What elements from existing definitions, criteria, screening tools, etc., - in federal programs or otherwise - should EPA consider when prioritizing low-income and disadvantaged communities for greenhouse gas and other air pollution reducing projects?
2. **What kinds of technical and/or financial assistance** should the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grants facilitate to ensure that low-income and disadvantaged communities can participate in and benefit from the program?
3. **What kinds of technical and/or financial assistance** should the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grants facilitate to support and/or prioritize **businesses owned or led by** members of low-income or disadvantaged communities?

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## DISCUSSION: ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

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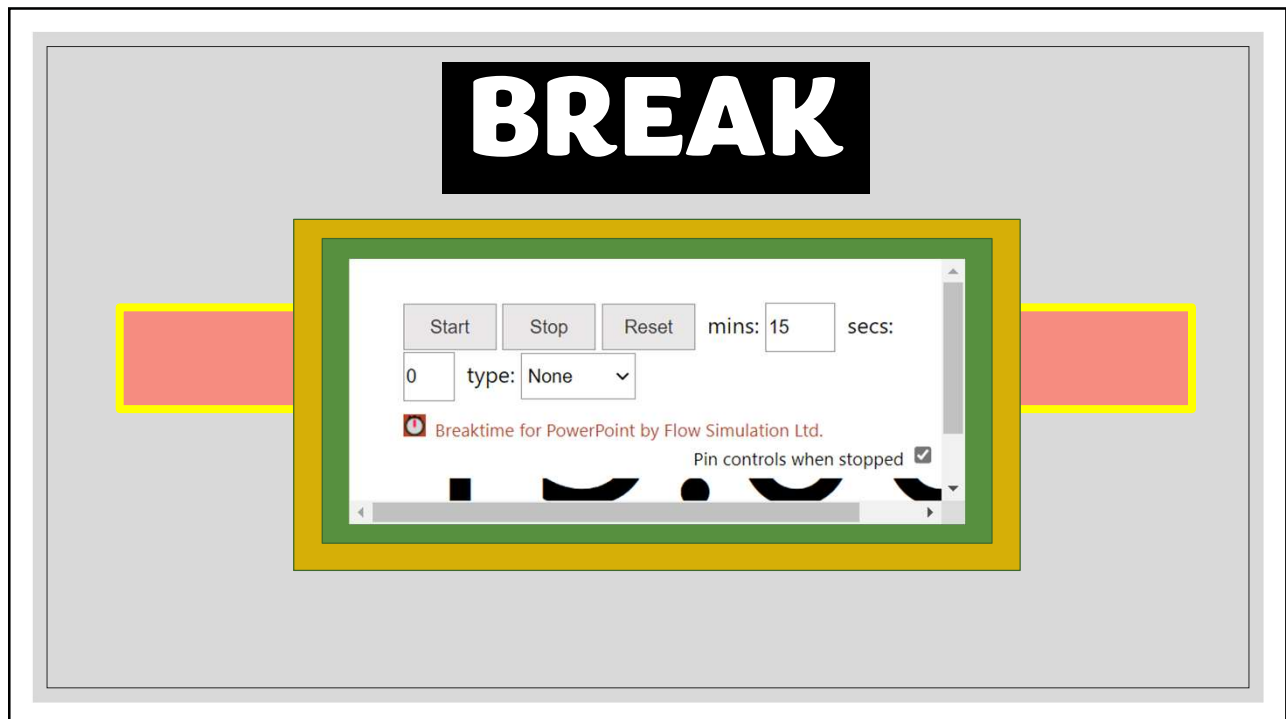
1. **What types of projects should EPA prioritize** under sections 134(a)(1)-(3), consistent with the statutory definition of “qualified projects” and “zero emissions technology” as well as the statute’s direct and indirect investment provisions? Please describe how prioritizing such projects would:
  - a) maximize greenhouse gas emission and air pollution reductions;
  - b) deliver benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities;
  - c) enable investment in projects that would otherwise lack access to capital or financing;
  - d) recycle repayments and other revenue received from financial assistance provided using
  - e) the grant funds to ensure continued operability; and
  - f) facilitate increased private sector investment.
2. **Please describe what forms of financial assistance** (e.g. subgrants, loans, or other forms of financial assistance) are necessary to fill financing gaps, enable investment, and accelerate deployment of such projects.

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## DISCUSSION: ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

1. What types of entities (as eligible recipients and/or indirect recipients) could enable Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grants to support investment and deployment of greenhouse gas and air pollution reducing projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities?







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# Public Comment Period

03:00

 Attendees who pre-registered for public comment will be given access to speak as time allows	 Each commenter has <b>three (3) minutes</b> to speak	 For the benefit of interpreters, please speak clearly and slowly
 If you do not get a chance to speak during the allotted time, please submit your comments in writing	 Written comments can be submitted until December 14, 2022, to <a href="mailto:whejac@epa.gov">whejac@epa.gov</a>	 Comments will help the WHEJAC form better recommendations to CEQ/IAC

For the benefit of interpreters, please speak clearly and slowly

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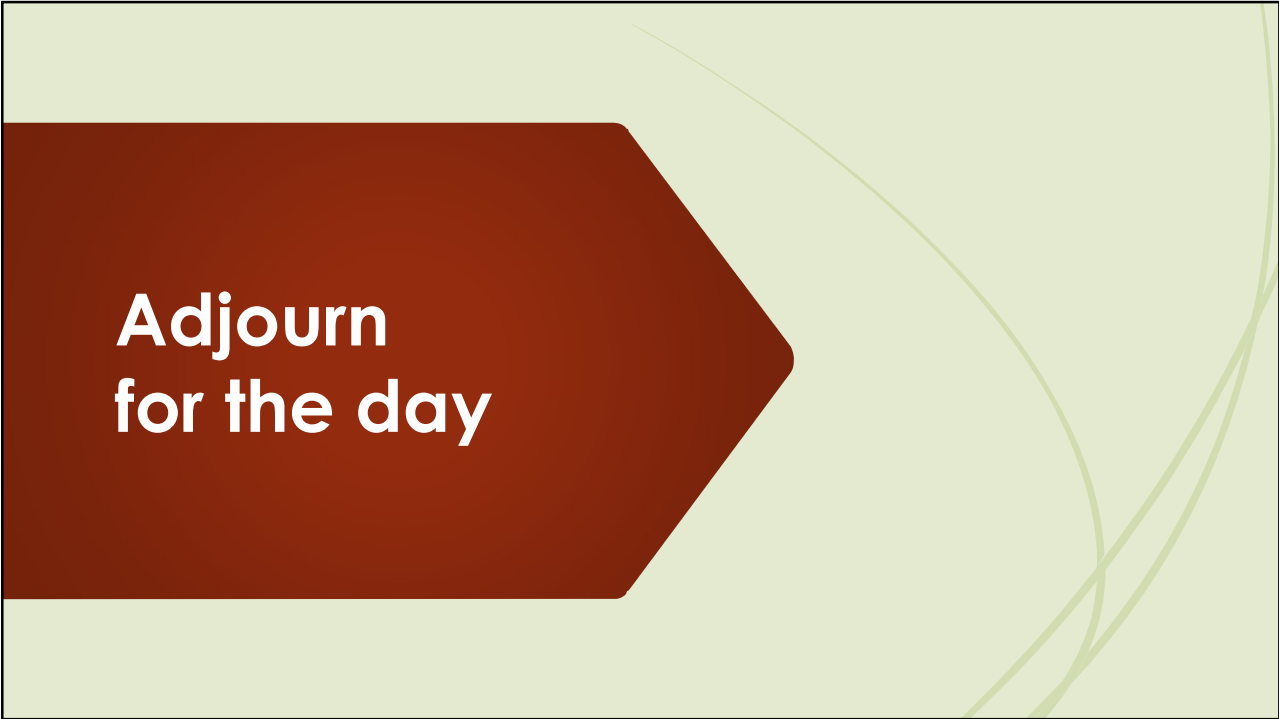
## REMINDER

### Written comments can be submitted through December 14, 2022 in 3 different ways

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- 1
→
By using the webform at: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/forms/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council-whejac-public-comment>
- 2
→
By creating comments in the Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OA-2022-0050 at: <http://www.regulations.gov>
- 3
→
By emailing comments to: [whejac@epa.gov](mailto:whejac@epa.gov)

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THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 1, 2022  
DAY 3

1



**White House Environmental Justice  
Advisory Council (WHEJAC)  
Hybrid Public Meeting**

*The Westin Alexandria Old Town, Alexandria, VA*

---

Thursday, December 1, 2022

2



## Welcome & WHEJAC Member Roll Call

---

- **Victoria Robinson, Designated Federal Officer**  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- **Richard Moore, Co-Chair**  
Los Jardines Institute
- **Peggy Shepard, Co-Chair**  
WE ACT
- **Catherine Flowers, Vice-Chair**  
Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice
- **Carletta Tilousi, Vice-Chair**  
Havasupi Tribe

3

## WHEJAC Member Roll Call

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## Welcome & Opening Remarks



### WHEJAC Leadership

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Attorney, Comité Dialogo  
Ambiental and El Puente  
Latino Climate Action Network



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## Land Acknowledgement

Led by Carletta Tilousi, WHEJAC Vice Chair  
Havasupi Tribe  
Arizona

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**CEQ**

**Updates and Remarks**



Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome  
Senior Director for Environmental Justice  
Council on Environmental Quality

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**Addressing Legacy Pollution:  
A Federal Panel Discussion on Cleanup Efforts**

<b>Federal</b>	<b>Community Voices</b>
<p><b>Carlton Waterhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator</b> <i>Office of Land and Emergency Management U.S. EPA</i></p> <p><b>Brian Jordan, Cleanup Program Manager</b> <i>Office of Environment and Energy Resilience U.S. Department of Defense</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Patrick Breyse, Director, National Center for Environmental Health</b> <i>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Margaret Venuto, Epidemiologist</b> <i>Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security U.S. Department of Energy</i></p>	<p><b>Viola Waghiyi</b> <i>WHEJAC Member Alaska Community Action on Toxics</i></p> <p><b>Mary Martinez White</b> <i>Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium</i></p>

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**White House Environmental Justice  
Interagency Council (WHEJIC) Public Meeting  
“Addressing Legacy Pollution: A Federal Panel  
Discussion on Cleanup Efforts”**

**Alexandria, Virginia  
December 1, 2022**

Margaret Venuto, DrPH, MPH, MA  
Office of Domestic and International Health Studies,  
EHSS 13 Office of Health & Safety, US DOE



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**Department of Energy (DOE)  
Interagency Agreement with the  
Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry (ATSDR)**

**Public Health Assessment and  
Community Engagement  
DOE Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion  
Plant  
Piketon, Ohio**



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**Department of Energy**  
**Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security (EHSS)**

**☐ Mission**

- Responsible for health, safety, environment, and security;
- Providing corporate-level leadership and strategic vision to coordinate and integrate these vital programs.
- Responsible for policy development and technical assistance; safety analysis; and corporate safety and security programs.
- **EHSS**
  - The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) health and safety programs help ensure protection of workers and the public from the hazards associated with Department operations.

Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security

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**ATSDR Public Health Assessment and  
Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site**

**☐ Mission**

- To investigate environmental exposures to hazardous substances in communities and take action to reduce harmful exposures and their health consequences.

**☐ Organization**

- Division of Community Health Investigations
- Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences

**☐ Priorities**

- Reduce the health impact from exposures to harmful chemicals in communities.
- Protect vulnerable populations (such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly) from the health risks of harmful exposures.
- Advance environmental science and medicine.

Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### Congressional Mandate

- ATSDR is directed by congressional mandate to perform specific functions concerning the effect on public health of hazardous substances in the environment.
- Functions include:
  - public health assessments of waste sites;
  - health consultations concerning specific hazardous substances;
  - health surveillance and registries;
  - applied research in support of public health assessments;
  - information development and dissemination, and
  - education and training concerning hazardous substances.

Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### Overview

- Interagency Agreement (IAA) between DOE and the ATSDR for ATSDR to:
  - conduct independent public health assessment evaluations, and
  - Public Health Action Plan (PHAP) for DOE the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion site;
- ATSDR public health assessment process evaluate:
  - environmental data and information to determine whether exposure to hazardous substances might cause harm to people living or working near sources;
  - determines whether other public health actions are warranted to prevent or reduce exposures.
- IAA activities span fiscal years 2022-2024 at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant facility in Piketon, Ohio.

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

WBS	Task Name	Start	Finish	Status
1.0	Parties agree on scope of work; sign IAA	12/1/2021	3/1/2022	Completed
2.0	Receipt of ISP validated complete dataset	4/6/2022	6/13/2022	Completed
3.0	Public Health Assessment Process - Document Review and Data Analysis	6/13/2022	11/30/2022	Completed
3.1	Exploratory data analysis and QA/QC	6/13/2022	10/31/2022	Completed
3.2	Community outreach and gather community health concerns, public availability session	6/16/2022	11/15/2023	Completed
3.3	Identify information gaps	6/13/2022	10/31/2022	Completed
3.4	Analyze data and evaluate exposure scenarios	10/31/2022	11/30/2022	Completed
4.0	Prepare Draft Report	11/30/2022	1/31/2023	In progress
5.0	Review and pre-Clearance of Draft Report	1/31/2023	4/30/2023	To be completed
6.0	Conduct DOE Data Validation Draft (DVD) review	4/30/2023	5/31/2023	To be completed
7.0	Address DOE comments and prepare for eClearance	5/31/2023	6/30/2023	To be completed
8.0	e-Clearance	6/30/2023	9/30/2023	To be completed
9.0	Release cleared document, potentially for a 45-day Public Comment Review	9/30/2023	11/15/2023	To be completed
9.1	Public meeting	9/30/2023	11/15/2023	To be completed
10.0	Address public comments and revise/update document	11/15/2023	12/15/2023	To be completed
11.0	Review, clear, and release the Final document	12/15/2023	3/31/2024	To be completed

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### Overview

- Evaluations are guided by the public health assessment process:
  - Source: ATSDR Public Health Assessment Guidance Manual;
- Evaluation will serve as a model for future similar ATSDR projects with DOE;
- Community engagement sessions are conducted to gather and disseminate public information;
- DOE will consider all ATSDR recommendations recognizing ATSDR as experts in the field of public health assessment evaluations of hazardous substance found at waste sites, and in other sources of pollution present in the environment.

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### Portsmouth Project Overview

- Environmental data from air monitoring obtained during the demolition of the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Pike County, Ohio;
- Focus on the co-located monitoring beyond the project boundary.

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### Data Sources

- 3 primary sources of data used in public health assessment:
  - Environmental data;
  - Community health concerns;
  - Health outcome data.

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### Partners

- Portsmouth Site
- Ohio Department of Health
- Pike County Health Department Health
- Ohio University

### Data Elements

- Air Monitoring Data
- Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Datasets
- Environmental sampling data (from 2019)
- Independent Sampling Data

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### Previous Activities:

- Nov 1996 - ATSDR released a Public Health Assessment (PHA) for the U.S. DOE Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in Piketon, Pike County, Ohio.
- July 2019 - ATSDR provided a written Technical Assistance (TA) to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Bureau Environmental Health and Radiation Protection regarding recent reports that trace amounts of uranium, neptunium and plutonium were detected in the community near the Portsmouth facility. The ODH requested the written TA from ATSDR.
- April 2022 - DOE and ATSDR participated in an IAA Meet-and-Greet.

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### ❑ Previous Activities:

- June 2022 - ATSDR met with Ohio University (OU) representative Pike County Health Department Health to discuss the activities specified in Interagency Agreement between ATSDR and DOE.
  - activities included in the public health assessment process:
    - analyzing the data;
    - preparing the report; and
    - engaging the community.
- ATSDR discussed previous work at the Portsmouth site, including the 2019 technical assistance provided to Ohio Department of Health (reviewed data at Zahn’s Corner Middle School) and the 1996 Public Health Assessment of the Portsmouth site (off-site).

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### ❑ Previous Activities:

- ATSDR began reviewing the following environmental sampling datasets for the independent public health evaluation of communities near the Portsmouth site:
  - DOE RAP-3 data, DOE Portsmouth;
  - ODH air monitoring data (2018, 2019, 2020); and
  - Pike County Community Comprehensive Sampling Evaluation data (Independent Sampling Data).

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

- ☐ **Activities Completed During 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2022:**
  - ATSDR met with representatives from DOE, Ohio Dept of Health, and Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office and did a site tour of the Portsmouth facility and its off-site borders.
  - ATSDR held 5 public availability sessions for community members and a meeting with representatives from the Scioto Valley-Pikeon Area Council of Governments (COG).
  - ATSDR explained to the community members, the COG, and Ohio Department of Health, DOE's request for ATSDR to conduct a public health evaluation of recent off-site radiological monitoring and sampling data.
  - ATSDR explained how community members and local and state officials can support ATSDR in conducting this evaluation.
  - ATSDR received the latest air monitoring data from the Ohio Dept of Health for the 3rd and 4th quarter 2021.

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

- ☐ **FY 2023**
  - ATSDR anticipates completing and releasing any public health technical document(s) that evaluates potential human exposures and health effects at Portsmouth.
  - ATSDR will prepare a document detailing all findings from the evaluation (i.e., health assessment reports, summary fact sheets, action plans, etc.) and will release the cleared document for public comment.

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## ATSDR Public Health Assessment and Community Engagement – Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Site

### FY 2024

- ATSDR will hold public meetings after releasing the public comment version of the document.
- The public meetings may include community engagement sessions to present, explain, and discuss the data evaluation results with local officials, the public, and stakeholders, and address questions or concerns from the public.
- ATSDR anticipates addressing public comments and revising the document accordingly. ATSDR anticipates completing all activities by releasing the final version of the document.

Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security

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# Thank you!

## Contact Information

Email: [Margaret.Venuto@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Margaret.Venuto@hq.doe.gov)

Tele: 301.903.0947

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## New Charge: Carbon Management

**Shalanda Baker**

*Director and Secretarial Advisor on Equity  
U.S. DOE Office of Economic Impact and Diversity*

**Robin Morris Collin**

*Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice  
U.S. EPA*

**Sara Forbes**

*Director for Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration  
White House Council on Environmental Quality*

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# LUNCH

90:00

Start Stop Reset mins: 90 secs: 0 type: None

Breaktime for PowerPoint by Flow Simulation Ltd. Pin controls when stopped

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**The National Climate Assessment  
Overview & Opportunities for Engagement**



**Allison Crimmins**  
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy  
US Global Change Research Program

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**BREAK**

**15:00**

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Breaktime for PowerPoint by Flow Simulation Ltd. Pin controls when stopped

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A slide with a light green background and a large dark red arrow pointing right. The text "Public Business Session" is inside the arrow, and "WHEJAC Workgroup Updates" is to the right of the arrow.

**Public Business Session**

**WHEJAC  
Workgroup Updates**

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A slide with a light green background. A dark red arrow points right from the left edge. The title "Climate Resilience Workgroup" is centered at the top. Below it, names and affiliations of workgroup members are listed in two columns.

**Climate Resilience Workgroup**

**Maria Lopez-Nunez, Co-Chair**  
*Ironbound Community Corporation*

**Miya Yoshitani, Co-Chair**  
*Asian Pacific Environmental Network*

**Jade Begay**  
*NDN Collective*

**Catherine Coleman-Flowers**  
*Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice*

**Angelo Logan**  
*East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice*

**Richard Moore**  
*Los Jardines Institute*


**Rachel Morello-Frosch**  
*University of California, Berkeley*

**Juan Parras**  
*Texas Environmental Justice Advisory Services (T.E.J.A.S.)*

**Michele Roberts**  
*Environmental Justice and Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform*

**Hli Xyooj**  
*Advancement of Hmong Americans*

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## Indigenous Peoples & Tribal Nations Workgroup

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**Carletta Tilousi, Co-Chair**  
*Havasupai Tribe*

**Dr. Kyle Whyte, Co-Chair**  
*University of Michigan*

**Susana Almanza**  
*People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources (PODER)*

**Jade Begay**  
*NDN Collective*

**Viola Waghiy**  
*Alaska Community Action on Toxics*

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## Environmental Justice Scorecard Workgroup

---

**Dr. Kyle Whyte, Co-Chair**  
*University of Michigan*

**Peggy Shepard, Co-Chair**  
*WEACT for Environmental Justice*

**Dr. Robert Bullard**  
*Texas Southern University*

**Maria Lopez-Nunez**  
*Ironbound Community Corporation*

**Richard Moore**  
*Los Jardines Institute*

**Rachel Morello-Frosch**  
*UC Berkeley*

**Dr. Beverly Wright**  
*Deep South Center for Environmental Justice*

**Michele Roberts**  
*Environmental Justice and Health Alliance for  
Chemical Policy Reform*

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# Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) Workgroup

**Catherine Coleman Flowers, *Chair***  
*Center for Rural Enterprise and  
Environmental Justice*

**Dr. Nicky Sheats, *Vice Chair***  
*Center for the Urban Environment*

**Jade Begay**  
*Director, Climate Justice Campaign  
NDN Collective*

**Juan Parras**  
*Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services*

**Michele Roberts**  
*Environmental Justice and Health Alliance for  
Chemical Policy Reform*

**Dr. Rachel Morello-Frosch**  
*UC Berkeley*

**Jerome Foster II**  
*Waic Up*

**Viola Waghiyi**  
*Native Village of Savoonga Tribal Citizen*

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## Closing Remarks



**Richard Moore, Co-Chair**  
*Los Jardines Institute*

**Peggy Shepard, Co-Chair**  
*WE ACT*

**Catherine Flowers, Vice-Chair**  
*Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental  
Justice*

**Carletta Tilousi, Vice-Chair**  
*Havasupi Tribe*

**Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome**  
*Senior Director for Environmental Justice  
White House Council on Environmental Quality*

**Victoria Robinson**  
*Designated Federal Officer, U.S. EPA*

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**Adjourn**

**Thank You!**



## **Appendix D Written Public Comments**

**Meeting summary will be updated to include written comments once they have been compiled.**