

The Issue Of Proximity

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LDEQ's Overall Goal

The agency's overall goal is to be a steward of the environment that goes above and beyond in protecting the environment and human health.



How We Will Meet That Goal

- Adhering to environmental laws and regulations while using our authority in a fair and equitable way
- Being accessible
- Being transparent
- Seeking first to understand then be understood
- LDEQ will use social media, traditional media, web applications, meetings, hearings, news releases, e-news and other means to impart information to the citizens of Louisiana
- Engaging the public- other than the usual cast of characters



The Issue of Proximity Environmental Justice

- We share EPA's vision of environmental equity: "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."



The Issue of Proximity Environmental Justice

- When a community is adjacent to a plant, the plant has an obligation to be a good corporate neighbor.
- Plant officials should ask themselves, “What can I do as a plant to enhance the quality of life of the surrounding community?”



Outreach

The most effective tactic is to ask the residents themselves. If a plant manager doesn't have a citizen's advisory group, he is not doing his job.



Buyouts

- One solution to plants locating close to communities is for the company to buy out residents in areas adjacent to or near the plant fence line.
- Buyout terms can be generous with 150 percent or more of market value being offered for homes in buffer zones.



Buyout drawbacks

- Even with a purchase price above fair market value, homeowners may find the offer is not enough for replacement value in nearby relocation sites.
- The community will disappear. Family homes will be lost, and cemeteries and historic sites that wind up being company property may no longer be open for public access.



What is Next

- EJ Screen-in our bases for decision
- Taking first steps in developing a state specific tool.
- Justice 40
- Equity Advisory Council
- ECOS EJ Panel
- How do we make industry a part of the conversation?



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