

The Evolution of Environmental Justice in Region 6

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Executive Order 12898, February 16, 1994

- “Federal Actions to address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations”



EO 12898

- Directs federal agencies to ID and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or env. effects of their actions on minority and low income populations, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law.
- The order is also intended to promote nondiscrimination in federal programs and provide minority and low-income communities' access to public information and public participation.



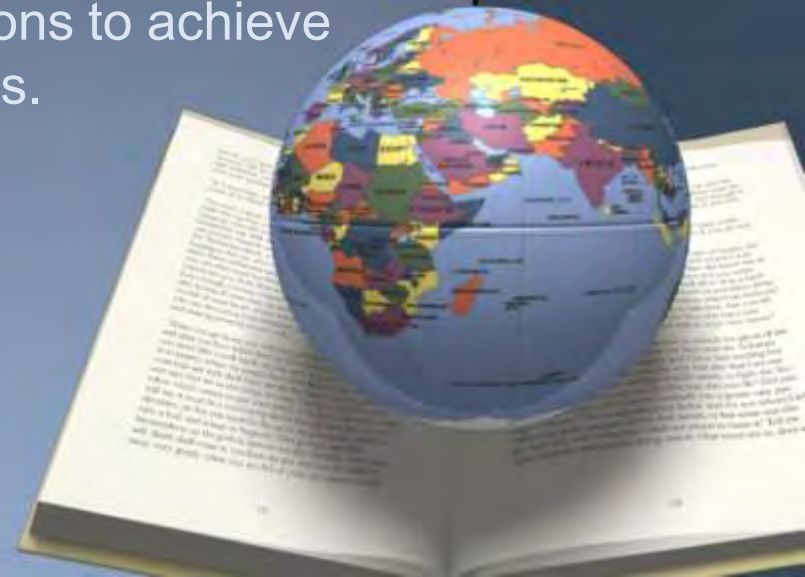
EPA Defines EJ as:

- 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 env laws, regulations and policy.



Plan EJ 2014 Goals

- Protect the environment and health in overburdened communities;
- Empower communities to improve their health and environment, and;
- Establish partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal governments and organizations to achieve healthy and sustainable communities.



Plan EJ 2014 Focus Areas

- Incorporating EJ into rulemaking; considering EJ in permitting;
- Advancing EJ through compliance and Enforcement; and, Fostering administration-wide action on EJ



Progress to date:

- ✓ Awareness;
- ✓ Multiple community-specific examples;
- ✓ ...much work remains....

****need to move from being reactive to being proactive-need institutionalized changes**



Plan EJ 2020

- WIP;
- *“measurably improving the health of people and the communities they live in...”*



What does success look like?

- Transparency;
- Robust community involvement opportunities/discussions;
- Education/outreach;
- Cleaner air, water land;
- Healthy, livable communities;

(Perceived harms can include not benefiting from prosperity)



Examples of “Best Practices” for industry:

- Community Advisory Panels;
- Educational outreach & assistance;
- Educational scholarships;
- Jobs training;



Future areas of emphasis:

- Continued focus on opportunities for community involvement and transparency;
- Partnerships with federal, state and local agencies; colleges/universities; industry groups, etc.;
- Measurable results for healthier, more livable communities



Questions?

