



Environmental Justice in Air Permitting

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Background and Development Approach

- Workgroup formed in July 2021 to develop an interim operating framework that provides practical recommendations for analyzing and addressing EJ in air permitting actions
- Considered EPA, state, local, and Tribal roles in CAA permitting
 - State & local agencies issue majority of CAA permits
 - CAA permits include construction and operating permits for major and minor sources
- Broad participation from EPA regional air permit contacts, OAR, OAQPS, OGC
- Designed to promote consistency in EPA's EJ approach to air permitting
- Work Products
 - Principles for addressing EJ concerns in air permitting
 - Additional tools

Principles for Addressing EJ Concerns in Air Permitting

- Eight guiding principles
- Supports regions to take immediate action to address EJ concerns as part of EPA's implementation of air permitting programs
- Encourages regions to work collaboratively and proactively with state, local and Tribal partners to implement EJ principles in their air permitting programs.
- Relies on existing CAA authorities to consider potential actions on a case-by-case basis
- Addresses Title VI requirements by referencing *Interim Environmental Justice and Civil Rights in Permitting Frequently Asked Questions* ("FAQ")

Principles for Addressing EJ Concerns in Air Permitting

1. Identify communities with potential environmental justice concerns
2. Engage early in the permitting process to promote meaningful participation and fair treatment
3. Enhance public involvement throughout the permitting process
4. Conduct an appropriately scoped environmental justice analysis
5. Minimize and mitigate disproportionately high and adverse effects associated with the permit action to promote fair treatment
6. Provide federal support throughout the air permitting process
7. Enhance transparency throughout the air permitting process
8. Build capacity to enhance the consideration of environmental justice in the air permitting process

Additional Tools

- Information on EJ comments submitted nationwide
- Variety of best practices information
- *EPA Legal Tools to Advance Environmental Justice*
- *Interim Environmental Justice and Civil Rights in Permitting Frequently Asked Questions*

Next Steps

- Further engagement with the states, Tribes, locals
- Issue principles for use and feedback via OAR memo to the regions