



Michigan Environmental Justice Plan

presentation for

National Association of Clean Air Agencies

May 24, 2011

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Environmental Justice Efforts Under Prior Administrations

- Workgroup established 1998
- Some EJ community groups withdrew from process March 1999
- Belief that environmental regulations protect everyone equally may have limited the effectiveness of the group
- Controversial cases may have limited the effectiveness of the group
- Recommended improvements to public outreach
- No EJ policy or plan resulted

EJ Efforts

Granholm Administration

- The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Environmental Advisory Council was charged by Director Steven Chester to make a recommendation to the Governor on Environmental Justice
- 2006 – the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) made those recommendations



Executive Directive 2007 - 23

- November 21, 2007 - **Executive Directive** from Governor Granholm
- Department shall develop and implement a **state environmental justice plan** to promote environmental justice in Michigan.
- No person may be denied the enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights because of religion, race, color, or national origin.



Executive Directive 2007 - 23

➤ **The plan shall establish:**

- Means to identify, address and prevent discriminatory effects and disproportionate impacts (“disparate impacts”)
- Policies and procedures for state operations
- Methods to assert disproportionate impacts and seek action
- Guidance for all state departments

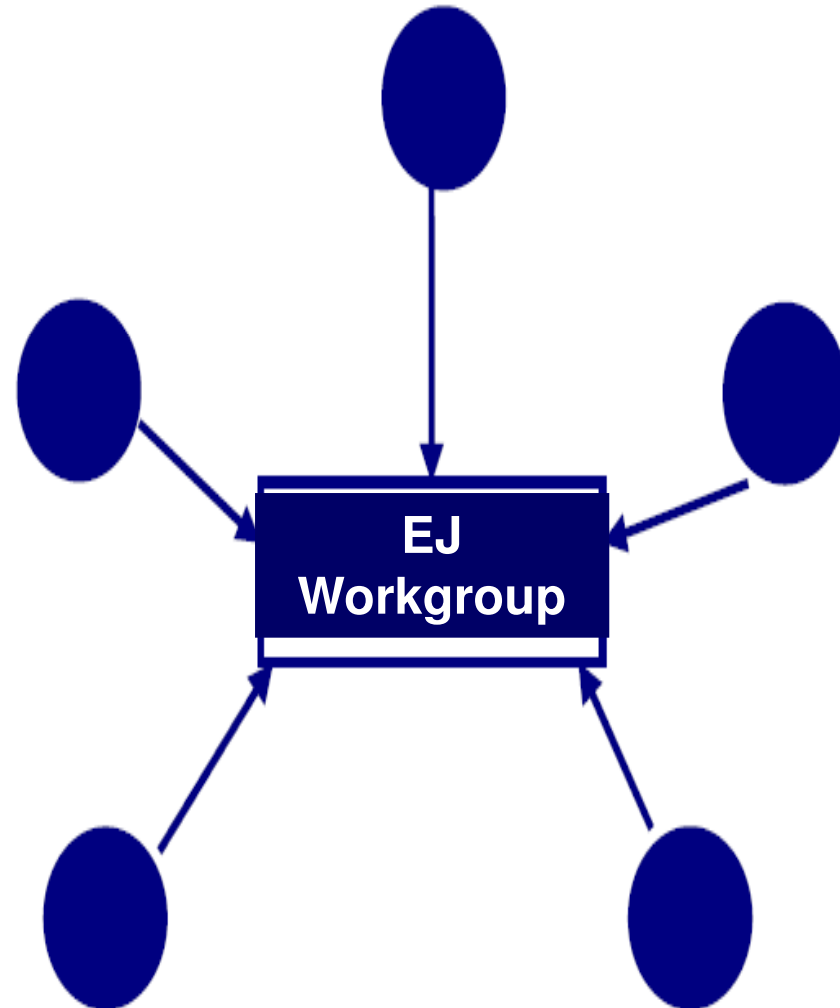
Implementation of Executive Directive 2007- 23

- July 1, 2008 - **Working Group** established consisting of representatives from government, industry, academia, grassroots organizations, etc.
- **Sub-groups** established to address plan components



Working Group Sub-groups

- Disparate impacts
- Petition process
- Public participation
- Integration into DEQ activities
- Inter-departmental integration
- Role of local govt



Implementation of Executive Directive 2007-23

- **May and June 2009 - Focus Groups** met in Detroit, Saginaw, Petoskey and Benton Harbor



Purpose of Focus Groups

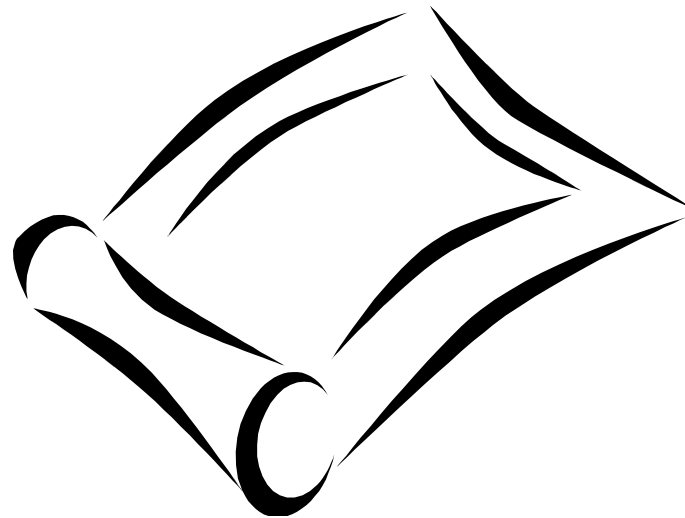
Gain Input Regarding:

- Community Environmental Justice Issues
- Recommendations for State Environmental Justice Plan



Implementation of Executive Directive 2007-23

- **December 16, 2009 – draft state EJ plan released for public comment**



Draft EJ Plan Components

- Public participation
- Integration into DNRE activities
- Disparate impacts
- Interdepartmental Working Group
- Petition process
- Role of local units of government

Disparate Impacts

Draft Plan Proposes a Two Part “Trigger” System:

1. Area

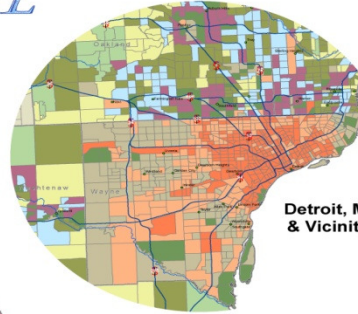
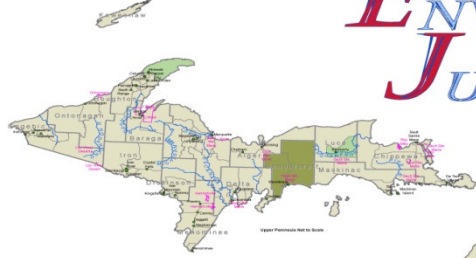
- Demographics
- EJ Seat

2. Project type and size

- Generate public interest
- “Major”

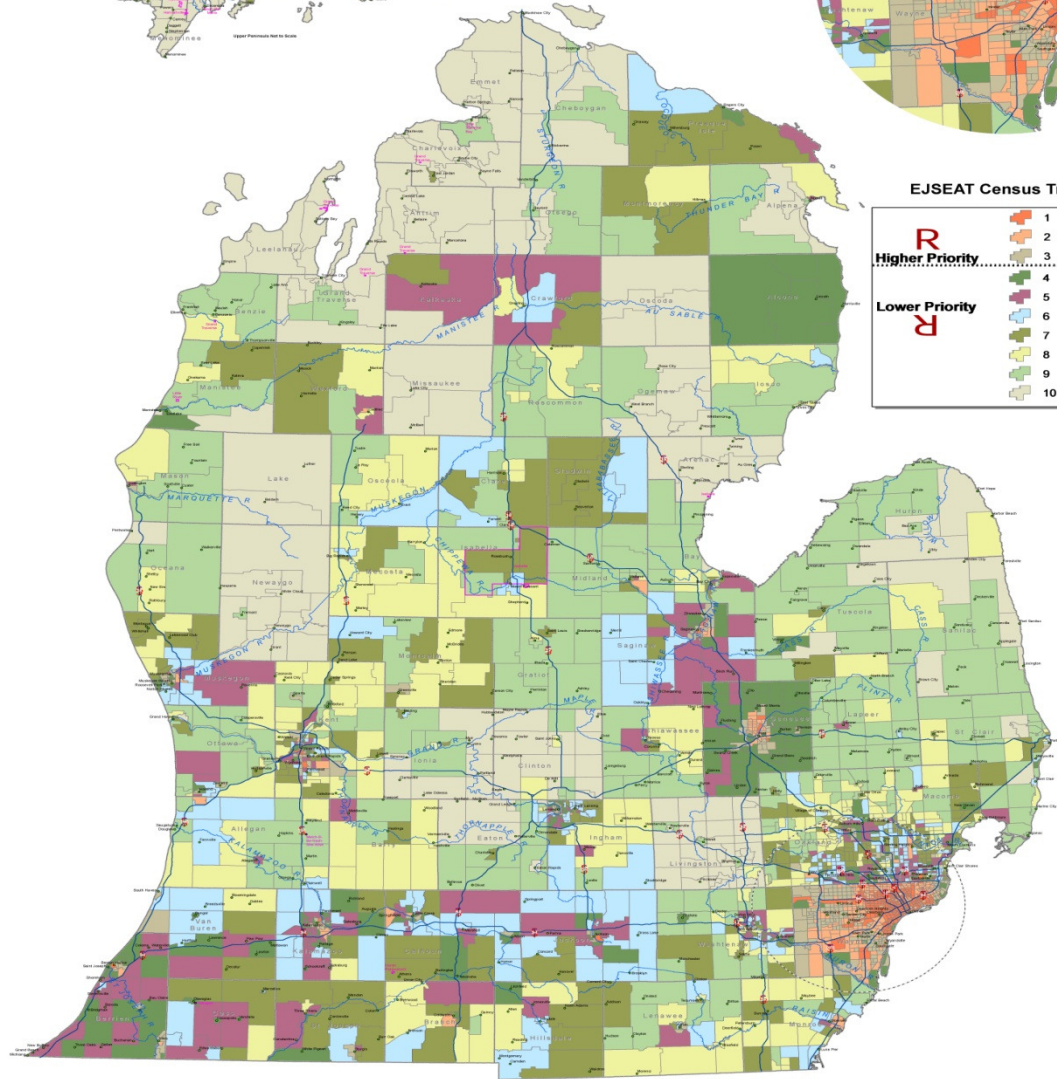
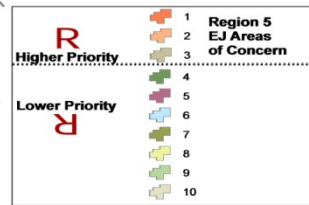
Region 5 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

May 2008



Detroit, MI
& Vicinity

EJSEAT Census Tract Rank



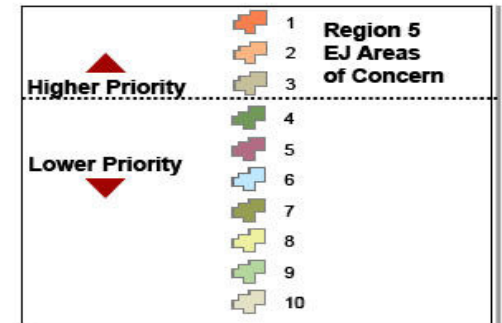
Michigan

EJSEAT



Detroit, MI
& Vicinity

EJSEAT Census Tract Rank



EJSEAT



Interdepartmental Integration

- **Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG)**
Chaired by Director of MDNRE
- Co-chaired by Director of Civil Rights
- Other departments represented:
 - MDCH, MDOT, MEDC, MDA, MSHDA,
DELEG



Duties of IWG

- Review and consider petitions filed.
- Develop action plans to address complaints accepted through petition.
- Identify state departments to develop EJ plans and assist in creating plans.
- Create state performance goals for EJ and review progress toward goals including an annual report.
- Establish an environmental justice advisory council.

Petition Process

- Petition may be filed with 50 signatures of which at least half must be from the impacted community requesting assistance
- Petition is submitted to Interdepartmental Working Group
- Possibilities: Health Study, Coordinated state action plan on existing or proposed issue

Draft EJ Plan - Comments

- **April 9, 2010** – Public comment period closed
- **May 17, 2010** – Working Group meets to discuss comments on draft plan. Comments were typically polarized.
- **July 29, 2010** - DNRE Director Rebecca Humphries instructed EJ Coordinator to re-draft a plan that would gain consensus from the EJ Working Group.



Re-Drafted EJ Plan Components

- Disparate Impacts (minimized permitting connection)
- Integration Into DNRE Activities (minimized permitting connection)
- Public Participation
- Tribal consultation (new)
- Inter-agency Cooperation (new – included redefined IWG)
- Role of Local Units of Government (removed any references to local EJ funding)

(The Petition Process chapter and concept was removed)

“Final” EJ Plan

- **December 17, 2010** - Director Rebecca Humphries issued the “final”:

*Environmental Justice Plan
for the
State of Michigan
and*

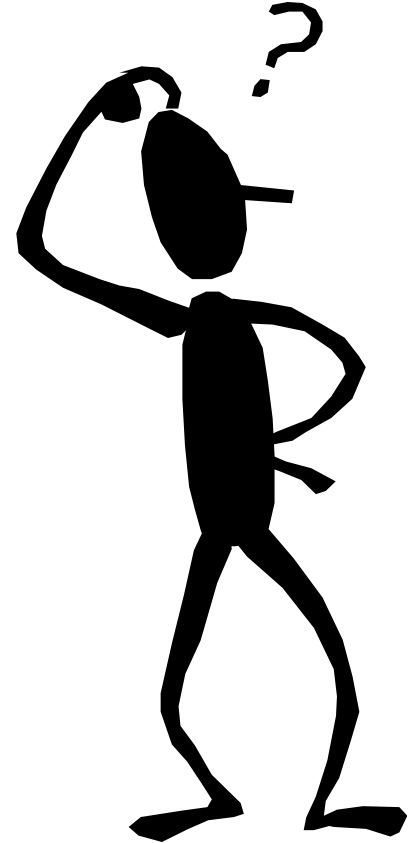
Department of Natural Resources and Environment.





Thank You!

Questions?





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