ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- How can DEQ prevent Environmental Injustice?
- EJ is often a gap issue.
- Pillars of EJ
  - Disparate Impacts
  - Meaningful Public Involvement
    - Collaboration
    - Problem Solving
    - Relationship Building

GOVERNOR ENGLER'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

- Workgroup with subgroups established 1998.
- Some EJ community groups withdrew from the process March 1999 because they felt the process itself was not practicing fair treatment.
- 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.

GOVERNOR GRANHOLM ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

- November 21, 2007 - Executive Directive 2007-23.
- Directed DEQ to develop and implement a state environmental justice plan - FLAWED.
  - Missed complexity of EJ issues.
- Workgroup crafted 2009 plan.
- Director Humphries directed DEQ staff to draft consensus plan
  - Petition process was removed.
- Signed by Director Humphries on December 17, 2010 – Not actively implemented, viewed as previous administration's plan.

GOVERNOR SNYDER ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

- Director Wyant directed DEQ staff to engage with EJ community to identify objectives and metrics.
- Process identified Meaningful Public Participation as an area DEQ could have an impact on.
- DEQ worked with EPA to improve DEQ EJ Program.
  - Compliance with 40 CFR Part 7 (Title VI):
    - DEQ Policy and Procedure 09-024, October 2015.

GOVERNOR SNYDER ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

- DEQ Policy and Procedure 09-024:
  - Collect, maintain, and provide information showing compliance with 40 CFR Part 7 to EPA.
  - Nondiscrimination Compliance Coordinator
  - Grievance Procedures - track , investigate and respond.
  - Notice of Nondiscrimination

GOVERNOR SNYDER ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

- DRAFT revisions to Public Participation Policy #09-007:
  - Improve Community Relations
  - Limited English Proficiency
  - Accessibility
  - Continuous Improvement
  - Identify and Use Best Practices

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- AQD History
- Evolution of the Process Based on Public Feedback
- Key Enhancements

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- What are the rules and statutory requirements?
  - Federal Regulations
  - State Regulations
  - State Rules
- What actions by the Air Quality Division require public comment?
  - New Source Review Permit to Install (PTI) Applications
  - Renewable Operating Permits (ROP)
  - Consent Orders
  - State Implementation Plans
  - Rules Packages, etc.

CASE STUDIES

- Detroit Renewable Power
  - Background
  - Hearing
  - Informational Session

- Detroit Salt
  - Background
  - Decision and Final Permit Conditions

OUTREACH ACTIVITY EXAMPLES

- Staff participation in environmental focus groups.
- Addition of 48217 air monitor in 2016 and 3 new Detroit (Delray) community monitors in 2018.
- Regularly interacting with and soliciting ideas from concerned residents.
- EJ representatives serve on Air Advisory Council.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to improve our process
  - Start Early
    - Access Information
  - Collaborate
    - Plain language documents.
    - Advisory capacity.
  - Facilitate
- Other ideas?

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