

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

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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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