

Prince George's County Environmental Justice Commission

December 3, 2019, 6pm
1801 McCormick Drive, 20774
Potomac Conference Room

(Attendees: Joe Gill, Dennis Borie, Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Evelyn Hoban, Tiffany Ganthier, Sacoby Wilson, Akosua Dosu, Franklin Shelton, Devon Dodson)

Welcome

- Agenda review

Action Plan Draft Outline Discussion

Draft outline content feedback

- Look at the Charleston, SC general plan as a model. Charleston incorporated EJ elements into the general plan

Priority area for addressing cumulative impacts:

- it was suggested to recommend the *air shed threshold approach*
- Ensure community engagement thru Council action
- EPA only recognizes data from FRM (or FEM) grade monitors Priority "Using HIA in land use decisions"
- Suggestion for industries to provide EIA reports that include best and worst case scenarios for their pollutant output and impacts for both minor and major sources (currently only major sources are required to report that)
- How do we ensure that the air quality permits are not granted by the state unless all of the County air quality requirements are met?
 - The state will not review the permit until it is approved by the County. We must make our permitting requirements more considerate of EJ issues (LULUs, Health Equity)
- It requires resources to enhance and incorporate HIA findings into decisions. Where do we get that additional funding and staff?
 - o Students at the UMD school of Public Health to carry out HIAs
- Ensure that the recommendations for EJ master plan incorporates/ collects/ gathers health data
- Create closed loop between health impacts and health and safety reports for projects
 - o Our proposal is to have the developer be required to collect health data for review by the health department and those conducting the health and safety reports

Prioritize "Public participation on HIA..."

- There should be an HIA threshold that requires environmental benefits agreements
- Can you require a benefits agreement from developers?
 - o If you are going to have an environmental/ health impact you can require things to offset the impact. From the legal perspective you have to be knowledgeable about how to be fair but it can be required

Environmental Benefits Districts

- Suggestion from a resident to use the Title IV requirements as a EJ community threshold- this has a 34% African American population threshold that will trigger further consideration of cumulative impacts in an area
- There should be a mechanism for accountability for funds provided for EBDs. How do we provide teeth and metrics for the impacts of EBD designated funds if they are granted by the County or state? How do we track the impacts of environmental benefits funded by the development or industry? Require a report? Retract funds when EBD goals/ promises are not met? This must be a clear recommendation
- EBD agreements should have safe guards to ensure the community will not be displaced when the benefits are provided to the communities.

There was a discussion of the Brandywine case.

- Identify fence line/ frontline communities

Discuss a plan for getting the final draft ready for 12/31 submittal

- First draft by Dec. 17th for Commission review

Additional Conversation

- Suggestions for EJ mitigation funding from toll lanes
- The EJ master plan would be strengthened by input from environmental economists who can help us determine the value and costs of environmental/ health impacts
 - o Tools are available to determine dollar value of impacts. Insurance agencies utilize such tools.
- We will come up with a publicity plan to ensure public awareness about the plan of action and create public accountability for the plan of action
 - o recommended that report be publicized via various outlets including Georgetown Climate Center
- A lot of development is occurring around metro centers
 - o recommended that Commission be mindful of how we word additional review process in recommendations to be considerate of developers concerned about length of permitting process

Closing