



## U.S. Department of the Interior

### **Response to Public Recommendations & Comments Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Listening Sessions (April-August 2011)**

The following chart contains a compilation of the public comments made at Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) sponsored stakeholder dialogue sessions conducted at various forums during the period of April-August 2011.

The responses provided below are solely those of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and are limited to DOI's areas of jurisdiction and special expertise.

This document will be made available at: <http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepc/environmental-justice.cfm>.

The DOI Environmental Justice Strategic Plan 2012-2017 (EJSP), Implementation Progress Report, EJ Directory, and Compendium of Resources are also available at: <http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepc/environmental-justice.cfm>.

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## EJ in America Conference, Washington DC (April 28, 2011)

#	Public Statements/Recommendations	DOI Responses
	General	
1	<p>The Federal government should recognize the lack of support community members receive from their elected officials and speak directly to community members.</p>	<p>The DOI and its bureaus reach out to and engage communities across the country on numerous topics in a variety of ways. One way that DOI reaches out to and engages communities is through the incorporation of public participation throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The DOI seeks to communicate effectively and have meaningful dialogue with interested parties and to incorporate local alternatives when possible.</p> <p>The DOI's bureaus utilize several methods to reach out to and engage stakeholders during the NEPA process including but not limited to networking with community and tribal leaders, press releases, notices, pamphlets, public scoping meetings, and the world wide web.</p> <p>The DOI has made a strong commitment to community involvement in the NEPA process particularly with emphasis on consensus based management. The DOI's NEPA regulations state that "bureaus should consider any consensus based alternative(s) put forth by those participating persons, organizations, or communities who may be interested or affected by a proposed action." Consensus based management is codified in the DOI's NEPA regulations at 43 CFR § 46.110, <a href="http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepec/nrm/index.cfm">http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepec/nrm/index.cfm</a>.</p> <p>The DOI also reaches out to and engages stakeholders during substantive decision making processes such as rulemaking and permitting. The DOI has held public listening sessions on a variety of topics across the country such as America's Great Outdoors (AGO). The AGO is a "21st century approach to conservation that is designed by and accomplished in partnership with the American people", <a href="http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/index.cfm">http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/index.cfm</a>.</p> <p>The DOI is a member of the National Oceans Council (NOC) whose focus includes working to implement the President's National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts and the Great Lakes. In 2011, the NOC held 12 regional public listening sessions across the country to involve the public in the stewardship of our nation's oceans. The DOI's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) lead several sessions, <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans">http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans</a>.</p> <p>In addition to engaging the public on nationwide programs and initiatives, the DOI engages communities at the local and regional levels. For example, the DOI is a member of the Gulf Coast</p>

		<p>Ecosystem Restoration Task Force who developed a strategy for long term ecosystem restoration for the Gulf Coast. The strategy was developed following extensive feedback from citizens throughout that region. “The strategy is the first restoration blueprint ever developed for the Gulf to include input from states, tribes, Federal agencies, local governments, and thousands of involved citizens and organizations across the region. The plan represents a commitment by all parties to continue to work together in an unprecedented collaboration to prepare the Gulf region to transition from response to recovery and address the decades-long decline that the Gulf’s ecosystem has endured”, <a href="http://www.epa.gov/gcertf/">http://www.epa.gov/gcertf/</a>.</p> <p>The DOI and its bureaus hold public listening sessions across the country on a variety of topics related to its areas of jurisdiction and expertise, to learn more about DOI and its bureaus please visit: <a href="http://www.doi.gov">http://www.doi.gov</a>. To learn about opportunities to partner with DOI, or let us know how we can best serve you please visit: <a href="http://www.doi.gov/public/index.cfm">http://www.doi.gov/public/index.cfm</a>.</p>
2	<p>Appalachia communities have a plan to improve the environment in the Appalachia communities. We must move from coal and mountain top mining because it is poisoning our communities.</p>	<p>The DOI’s Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT) works closely with community organizations to restore the health of local watersheds affected by surface coal mining. Through an innovative partnership between OSM, AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), the Citizen’s Conservation Corps of West Virginia, and local community sponsors, the ACCT addresses both the environmental and economic consequences of past coal mining.</p> <p>In 2007, OSM partnered with the Southwest Conservation Corps to establish the Western Hardrock Watershed Team (WHWT). In fiscal year 2011 alone, the ACCT and the WHWT placed 94 OSM/VISTA volunteers in rural mining communities for year-long service positions. <a href="http://www.osmre.gov/aml/vista.shtm">http://www.osmre.gov/aml/vista.shtm</a>.</p>
3	<p>We would like the Federal government to not just focus on the problems of mountain-top mining, but also focus on identifying solutions, particularly when it comes to energy. The energy discussion needs to start in Appalachia.</p>	<p>The DOI’s mission is “Protecting America’s Great Outdoors and Powering Our Future. The U.S. Department of the Interior protects America’s natural resources and heritage, honors our cultures and tribal communities, and supplies the energy to power our future”.</p> <p>The DOI supports this Administration’s energy strategy to include “all of the above” for energy production. The DOI’s support for energy development includes renewable energy.</p>
4	<p>When meeting with community stakeholders, agencies need to ensure that translators are present so that language differences do not become a barrier to communication.</p>	<p>The DOI EJSP includes a goal to “Ensure minority, low-income, and tribal populations are provided with the opportunity to engage in meaningful involvement in the Department’s decision making processes. Associated strategies include “Conduct public meetings, listening sessions, and forums in a manner that is accessible to and inclusive of minority, low-income, and tribal populations.”</p>

		<p>In addition to the DOI's NEPA procedures and EJSP, further guidance is issued to DOI bureaus through Environmental Policy Memoranda (ECM). The DOI's ECM includes the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) EJ guidance which states under its general principles that "Agencies should, as appropriate, acknowledge and seek to overcome linguistic, cultural, institutional, geographic, and other barriers to meaningful participation, and should incorporate active outreach to affected groups."</p> <p>An example of incorporating the above outreach principles at DOI is the National Park Service's (NPS) use of a Spanish language interpreter at scoping meetings, and offering sign language interpreters for the recent Drakes Bay Oyster Company special-use permit in Drakes Estero, Point Reyes National Seashore, California. The NPS also made its fact sheet available in Spanish.</p>
5	<p>We are interested in telling the stories of the voices that are not being heard. We want to find out how we can work with the Federal government to identify who it is that we need to talk with to try and resolve problems within the communities that we are working.</p>	<p>The DOI environmental justice contacts are included in the Federal Interagency EJ directory, available at:  <a href="http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/interagency/directory.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/interagency/directory.pdf</a></p> <p>DOI also maintains its section of the directory at:  <a href="http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepc/upload/DOIEJContactsDirectory.pdf">http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepc/upload/DOIEJContactsDirectory.pdf</a></p> <p>Email the staff member above if you need assistance in identifying the appropriate DOI representative.</p>

### New Orleans Stakeholder Meeting, (May 11, 2011)

#	Public Statements/Recommendations	DOI Responses
	General	
1	<p>Federal and state agencies often fail to agree. Humans have a right to a healthy community. The government seems to be occupied with BP oil spill to the exclusion of other matters.</p>	<p>The DOI agrees with the commenter that humans have a right to a healthy community. The Secretary of the Interior has publically endorsed the DOI EJSP and states in part that "Every community deserves strong Federal protection against pollution and other environmental hazards." The Secretary further stated that "I believe environmental justice is achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and has equal access to the decision-making process, so they are assured a healthy environment in which to live, learn, work, and play. A part of our mission is to protect America's natural resources and heritage, and to honor our cultures and tribal communities. Our mission embodies the special relationship we have with the people of this great Nation. These issues are not remote or abstract, but are part of our everyday activities."</p> <p>The DOI's EJSP includes goals, strategies, and performance measures to help in the efforts of</p>

		<p>building and sustaining healthy communities. Our 2009-2011 Implementation Progress Report highlights many of DOI's accomplishments and progress toward carrying out the provisions of EO 12898.</p> <p>The DOI's AGO Fifty-State Report highlights programs in Louisiana such as the Urban Water Initiative (access to rivers, education, recreation, habitat restoration, technical assistance, and engaging youth), <a href="http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/ago50statereport.pdf">http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/ago50statereport.pdf</a>.</p> <p>As stated in our EJSP, although many of DOI's activities are not specifically labeled or titled EJ, they embody the spirit and intent of EO 12898 and help in the effort of focusing Federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities.</p>
2	EPA and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality need to coordinate better.	Not applicable
3	A recommendation to stop studying and assessing and start implementing to get results.	Not applicable
<b>Grants</b>		
4	Federal agencies need to work better with non-profits and offer more grants to non-profits.	<p>A list of DOI Resources are included in the Federal Interagency Community-Based Resource Guide available at:  <a href="http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/interagency/resource-guide.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/interagency/resource-guide.pdf</a></p> <p>The DOI also maintains its section of the Resource Guide at:  <a href="http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepe/upload/DOIEJResourceGuide.pdf">http://www.doi.gov/pmb/oepe/upload/DOIEJResourceGuide.pdf</a></p> <p>Additional information for non-profits is available at:  <a href="http://www.usa.gov/Business/Nonprofit.shtml">http://www.usa.gov/Business/Nonprofit.shtml</a></p>
5	Grants to universities and colleges need to have caps on their overhead and administrative costs.	Refer to the DOI response under item #4 above.
6	There was interest expressed in an EPA contract that would allow a contractor to	Not applicable

	help grassroots EJ organizations draft their grant proposals and help with the Quality Assurance/Quality Control process of their applications.	
7	More effort needs to be made to make sure that grants are going to communities and not to large institutions which then come to the communities to do the work for them without fair compensation, if any at all. If grants go to communities then more of an effort needs to be made to verify that communities have actually been involved in developing the proposal and not just listed in the proposal as a targeted constituency.	<p>The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Indian Education provide services to 1.7 million American Indians and Alaskan Natives, who are members of 566 federally recognized tribes. Nearly 90 percent of funds are spent at the local level and over 50 percent of the appropriations are provided directly to tribes and tribal organizations through grant, contracts and compacts.</p> <p>The Bureau of Reclamation (BR) strives to implement its 1998 Indian policy which includes a commitment to actively seek partnerships with federally recognized Indian Tribes to ensure that tribes have the opportunity to participate fully in the BR program as they develop and manage their water and related resources.</p> <p>Refer to the DOI response under item #4 above.</p>
	<b>Health</b>	
8	In Mossville, Louisiana, there is a need for community health centers. A commenter suggested that toxicologists be available in overburdened communities.	Not applicable
9	Communities lack basic needs such as a health clinic.	Not applicable
	<b>Superfund</b>	
10	Problems facing residents of Agriculture Street Landfill Community Superfund site include inability to meet new Louisiana requirements for raising house foundations which prevents their being able to acquire property insurance.	Not applicable
11	There are concerns in Mossville, Louisiana, regarding the lack of Federal government involvement to actively protect human rights. There had been a determination that	Not applicable

<p>Mossville was not eligible to be designated as a Superfund site, so the community needs new legal remedies. A human rights-based approach is needed in our environmental regulatory system.</p>	
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**Brooklyn Stakeholder Meeting, (May 12, 2011)**

#	Public Statements/Recommendations	DOI Responses
	General	
1	<p>As you revise your strategies or in some cases come up with a strategy for the first time, identify specific issues where it is absolutely necessary to cooperate with other agencies and include that in the strategy. Include within the implementation of that strategy some metric to measure how well you are cooperating and coordinating with those agencies.</p>	<p>The DOI’s EJSP includes a goal (goal #3) that “The Department will, on its own or in collaboration with partners, identify and address environmental impacts that may result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income, or tribal populations.”</p> <p>An associated strategy under this goal includes “Establish partnerships and collaborate with other Federal agencies to pool resources and assist communities in addressing environmental issues.”</p> <p>A performance measure was developed under this goal to determine the “number of partnerships with others, including educational institutions and tribes to share and benefit from specialized expertise in furthering EJ goals.”</p> <p>An example of Federal cooperation and collaboration is the USGS’s Oklahoma Water Science Center partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers in providing critical data to Oklahoma Indian Tribes related to the Tar Creek superfund site.</p> <p>The DOI in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (USDA), EPA, and the CEQ are leading the initiative of AGO (Includes three major place-based goals to focus collective conservation and recreation efforts of the Federal government: create and enhance urban parks and greenspaces, renew and restore rivers, and conserve large, rural landscapes). Part of the AGO’s goal is to provide recreation opportunities to underserved communities, <a href="http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/ago50statereport.pdf">http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/ago50statereport.pdf</a>.</p>

		<p>The current administration has charged this Department as well as other Federal agencies to streamline and cooperate on many issues affecting the American people through the issuance of several Executive Orders (EO). One example is EO 13604 “Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects.” This EO in part charges Federal agencies to significantly reduce the time required to make decisions in permitting, while improving environmental and community outcomes. The cooperation among Federal agencies in the permitting process is critical to the Nation’s infrastructure. The DOI is a membership agency.  <a href="http://permits.performance.gov/sites/all/themes/permits2/files/federal_plan.pdf">http://permits.performance.gov/sites/all/themes/permits2/files/federal_plan.pdf</a>.</p> <p>Another example in which DOI is a membership agency is EO 13575 “Establishment of the White House Rural Council.” This EO is intended to “enhance the Federal Government’s efforts to address the needs of rural America.” Included among the mission and function of the council is the requirement to “identify and facilitate rural economic opportunities associated with energy development, outdoor recreation, and other conservation related activities.”</p> <p>The DOI is also a membership agency in the initiative of “Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs.” The mission of the commission includes “strategies to increase public and private-sector collaboration, and community involvement in improving the health, education, environment, and well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.”</p> <p>To view the above mentioned EOs in their entirety as well as others related to Federal streamlining and cooperation, please visit:  <a href="http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/obama-subjects.html">http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/obama-subjects.html</a>.</p>
2	<p>Barriers: Take some time to do barrier analysis and barrier identification. What is it at the local level? What is it that inhibits those sorts of synergies (community-based or -focused approach) at the community level?</p>	<p>The DOI through its NEPA and planning processes engages in early scoping to help identify all stakeholders and interested parties.</p>
3	<p>Question about the scientific basis of the targets that are set by this interagency task force and by the administration. Do you represent the Obama Administration, and how are the</p>	<p>The DOI as well as all Federal agencies work with, support, and represent the current administration.</p>

	<p>targets set for the important work that you have to do and that we would like to support? What is the connection of the IWG to the priorities and goals of the Obama Administration, and specifically as it relates to climate change?</p>	<p>The DOI has developed an EJ strategy to “use scientific information to plan effectively for changes that could disproportionately affect minority, low-income, or tribal populations.”</p> <p>A few examples of DOI’s activities and programs that address climate change include the BIA funding support of the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC). Work with the LCC includes developing strategies to address adaptation and mitigation for climate change on Indian lands.</p> <p>The Fish and Wildlife’s (FWS) Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit Agreement has been used to study the Sunhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and the impacts of climate change on the Penobscot Indian Nation’s hunting and fishing.</p> <p>The DOI’s commitment to address climate change adaptation will be outlined in its upcoming 2012 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP). The plan “will include guiding principles for the Department to follow in an effort to anticipate and adapt to challenges posed by climate change. The plan will facilitate the Department in adapting our natural and cultural resources management activities, accounting for changing conditions and avoiding or minimizing impacts to people and built assets, working with tribes in their adaptation efforts, and providing scientific information and tools to support the range of activities and programs we oversee in the face of climate change.” The DOI’s 2012 SSPP will soon be available at: <a href="http://www.doi.gov/greening/">http://www.doi.gov/greening/</a>.</p>
4	<p>Agencies should build into procedural scheduling the ability to stay closely in touch with the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), including having some presence possibly at their meetings twice a year. Agencies need to work together in the communities, and the states need to see that at the environmental level, at the public health level, and in at the agricultural level.</p>	<p>The DOI staff including its officials have attended and participated in several NEJAC meetings. The DOI will continue in its efforts to maintain an open dialogue with all stakeholders in an effort to lessen environmental burdens to all communities, <a href="http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/nejac/index.html">http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/nejac/index.html</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Partnerships</b></p>	
5	<p>There is no cross-agency attempt to try to grapple with Significant Maritime Industrial Areas. We need the Federal government to partner with the city of New York and EJ</p>	<p>The Harlem River is a pilot site for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. The partnership aims to support river restoration in seven U.S. cities. On the Harlem River, our NPS and FWS along with the EPA and USDA are assessing ways to</p>

activists to come up with all sorts of resources that we need to be able to make our communities as resilient as possible.

both restore the river and increase public access to it. Partners include the State of New York, New York City, the Harlem River Alliance, as well as several Federal agencies; <http://www.urbanwaters.gov/>.

There are 10 National Parks with 22 unique destinations in New York City and northern New Jersey. The National Parks of New York Harbor include nearly 27,000 acres and welcomes more than 12 million visitors each year. The parks offer year-round programs, recreational opportunities, natural habitats, historic buildings, and museum collections.

The DOI and the City of New York signed an unprecedented agreement between the NPS and the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation to cooperatively manage 10,000 acres of Federal and city-owned parks in and around Jamaica Bay to promote visitation, education programs, scientific research and opportunities for outdoor recreation. By increasing access to outdoor recreation for youth, this supports this Administration’s national “Let’s Move Outside” initiative. Let’s Move Outside promotes active, healthy lifestyles by expanding and promoting opportunities for active recreation on public lands and waters to help children reconnect with the outdoors and develop healthy habits.” Let’s Move in Indian Country is “a comprehensive initiative dedicated to solving the problem of obesity within a generation, so that children born today will grow up healthier and able to pursue their dreams.” For more information visit: <http://www.letsmove.gov/lets-move-outside> and <http://www.doi.gov/letsmove/indiancountry/index.cfm>.

Gateway National Recreation Area has an on-going partnership with the American Heart Association for a summer ambassador Program formerly called Tu Parque! Tu Salud! now renamed, Your Park! Your Health! Interns introduce new visitors to hiking, kayaking, sailing and overnight camping. Activities promote fitness, fun and learning through exploration of natural and historic sites in Jamaica Bay. Additional information is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/npnh/index.htm>; <http://www.nps.gov/gate/index.htm>; <http://www.nps.gov/gate/parknews/seamless.htm>; <http://www.letsmove.gov/blog/2011/02/25/new-york-city-gets-moving/>.

6 What is the relationship between EPA and HUD in Not applicable

	<p>addressing environmental issues in public housing? A recycling project was done at Grant Houses, which was very successful, but not enough attention was given to it by either agency.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>What is the plan for capacity building or providing capacity building for particularly vulnerable communities around the country? Have you considered partnering with regional offices like EPA's region 2 or state agencies to do that kind of capacity building for the staff in those agencies so they can act as a resource for community-based organizations in a sort of train-the-trainer approach?</p> <p>The DOI has several grant and technical programs that can help communities build capacity to develop and maintain environmental, economic, and healthy sustainable communities.</p> <p>The EJ IWG Resource Guide incorporates several grant and technical opportunities available to tribal governments, states, organizations, academic institutions, and communities,  <a href="http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/interagency/index.html#resources">http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/interagency/index.html#resources</a>.          DOI Examples include:</p> <p><u>BIA</u>          Indian Economic Development (Financial)  <a href="http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/IEED/index.htm">http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/IEED/index.htm</a></p> <p><u>FWS</u>          Tribal Wildlife Grants (Financial)  <a href="http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html">http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html</a></p> <p><u>BR</u>          Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program  <a href="http://www.usbr.gov/native/index.html">http://www.usbr.gov/native/index.html</a></p> <p><u>Bureau of Land Management (BLM)</u>          Environmental Quality and Protection Resource Management (Financial)  <a href="http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/directory/wo-280_dir.html">http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/directory/wo-280_dir.html</a>;  <a href="http://www.grants.gov">http://www.grants.gov</a></p> <p><u>NPS</u>          Groundwork USA Pilot Funding (Financial and Technical)  <a href="http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/whoweare/wwa_partners_GW.html">http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/whoweare/wwa_partners_GW.html</a>.</p> <p>Youth Programs:  <b>Employment and Volunteer Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Youth Conservation Corps (ages 15-18)</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Public Land Corps (ages 16-25)</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Programs for Boy Scouts (ages 7-18)</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Programs for Girl Scouts (ages 5-18)</a></li> </ul>

		<p>- <a href="http://www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/index.htm">Partner with the National Park Service (for organizations)</a> <a href="http://www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/index.htm">http://www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/index.htm</a></p> <p>Additional information may be available at: <a href="http://www.grants.gov">http://www.grants.gov</a>.</p> <p>The DOI will continue to address the issue of capacity building for communities as well as its staff through training, and in working on issues at the regional level.</p>
	<p><b>Communication of information</b></p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>There must be a clearer way for EJ organizations to find out what agency is responsible for which permitting processes when trying to tackle polluting industries.</p>	<p>The DOI is comprised of 10 distinct bureaus, each with a unique and diverse mission as well as specific areas of jurisdiction and special expertise.</p> <p>The DOI manages millions of acres of Federal lands, including national parks, and national wildlife refuges.</p> <p>Examples of a few of our bureau’s permitting activities include but are not limited to:</p> <p><u>BLM</u> (manages public land resources for a variety of uses, such as onshore energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, and timber harvesting); <a href="http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html">http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html</a></p> <p><u>BOEM</u> (offshore oil and gas leases, and renewable energy development); <a href="http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/index.aspx">http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/index.aspx</a></p> <p><u>OSM</u> (regulates surface coal mining , and/or performs an oversight role); <a href="http://www.osmre.gov/rcm/rcm.shtm">http://www.osmre.gov/rcm/rcm.shtm</a></p> <p>To learn more about DOI’s bureaus, their missions, and areas of jurisdiction and special expertise, please visit: <a href="http://www.doi.gov">http://www.doi.gov</a>.</p> <p>To find information on all Federal agencies, visit: <a href="http://www.usa.gov/">http://www.usa.gov/</a>.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Encourage the IWG, when coming to Indian country, or when near Indian committees, to give us a lot of time and notice ahead of time, so we can reach out to all of our networks and make sure that we are getting people to your meetings.</p>	<p>The DOI will work with the EJ IWG to help ensure that Indian committees receive timely notification of meetings.</p>

10	Keep thinking about how you get the information out that things are moving forward, such as the new innovative programs and things like the weatherization programs. Certain people are hearing about it, but it is taking a while to get down to the grassroots. Keep trying to figure out more ways to better communicate and communicate with people who don't have Internet access.	Not applicable
<b>Weatherization</b>		
11	Weatherizing homes is very important, but there are restrictions on who can take advantage of this weatherization opportunity because of an ancient rule that says if you had any assistance from the weatherization program, even if they just came into your home and caulked it, put caulking around the doors, that you are ineligible.	Not applicable
<b>Other</b>		
12	There is a concern over contamination of public housing with elemental mercury in Latino/Peruvian communities.	Not applicable
13	Acidification of our oceans is going to deplete the food chain there and affect fishing communities around the world, and people depend on them for protein.	<p>The DOI is a participating agency on the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Acidification. The DOI's marine and coastal responsibilities include 84 marine and coastal national parks, 180 national wildlife refuges, and numerous threatened and endangered species. To learn more please visit: <a href="http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/iwgoa/pages/activities.html">http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/iwgoa/pages/activities.html</a>.</p> <p>The BIA assists tribes in protecting Indian treaty and subsistence rights. The <u><a href="#">BIA Wildlife and Parks Program</a></u> funds tribal activities in the areas of fisheries, wildlife, outdoor recreation, and public use management, conservation enforcement and related fields. The <u><a href="#">Fish Hatchery Operations &amp; Maintenance Programs</a></u> provide funding to fish-producing Tribes in support of associated hatching, rearing and stocking programs. <a href="http://inside.bia.gov/Org/BIA/OTS/NaturalResources/FishandWildlife/index.htm">http://inside.bia.gov/Org/BIA/OTS/NaturalResources/FishandWildlife/index.htm</a></p> <p>The FWS prepares DOI-wide guidance on fish consumption advisories: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/">http://www.fws.gov/</a>.</p> <p>Our EJSP includes a strategy to use scientific information to plan effectively for changes that could disproportionately affect minority, low-income, or tribal</p>

		populations.
14	What qualifies a community as being a distressed community? Allegedly there are all kinds of assistance if you are a distressed community. HUD shouldn't be using zip codes to determine what a distressed community is.	Not applicable
15	In relation to goods movement through waterfront communities by boat versus trucks, a commenter asked if the DOT is also in charge of marine transportation, if there is an overlap with other agencies, and if so, whether any collaboration ever occurs.	Not applicable

**New England Asthma Regional Council, Worcester, MA (May 17, 2011)**

#	Public Statements/Recommendations	DOI Responses
	General	
1	Recognize the importance of not just what needs to be done but who is doing the work. Agencies should ensure that money goes into communities for getting contracts and creating jobs.	The DOI complies with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) in the award and management of government contracts.
2	These forums are encouraging but agencies need to go further to look at cumulative impacts. What are the cumulative impacts in EJ communities?	The DOI incorporates cumulative impact analysis into its NEPA process codified 43 CFR § 46.115. DOI's responsible officials must analyze the effects in accordance with 40 CFR §1508.7 and in accordance with relevant guidance issued by CEQ.
3	The availability of municipal resources from Federal agencies needs to be communicated better so that those working in states can get access to that information.	Refer to the DOI response under #4 in the May 11, 2011 section above.
	Weatherization	
4	Provide more flexibility in funding, require more training for contractors and line workers for proper installation, and create standards that are clear that installers and others must take.	Not applicable
5	Job training programs need to be deeper in the community. Communities need to understand what they can safely do for themselves to weatherize where they live. Establish weatherization training centers.	Not applicable
6	Indoor/outdoor linkages are not being recognized. There is a need to look	Not applicable

	more carefully at areas around houses to determine exposures that are outside but seeping inside.	
	Housing	
7	First time homebuyers need simplified rules to purchase homes, a simplified application and assistance process, and a one-stop shop for housing purchase assistance.	Not applicable
8	An EPA CARE coordinator noted problems in assessing environmental conditions of 100 buildings in Springfield, MA.	Not applicable
	Air Quality	
9	Massachusetts is in the non-attainment zone for ozone, but the state is not trying to get into compliance. EPA has a role that they haven't played to work with the state to reach compliance.	Not applicable
	Rules	
10	Concerned was expressed with where EPA is heading for the new PM2.5 NAAQS. There had been a request for an earlier opportunity for EJ communities to connect with the Agency before guidance is issued for PM 2.5. The area most affected by high spikes in PM2.5 are EJ communities. If EPA does not change yearly average and 24 hr averaging then there will not be effective reduction in exposure and health effects. Air monitors capture the 24 hr average but asthma attacks are triggered during the highest peaks in poor air quality. Air monitors and the resulting regulations are not capturing the impacts for persons with asthma triggers.	Not applicable
11	What is happening with the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule, and when will it be updated?	Not applicable
12	How will integration of asthma programs allow states and local programs to put their hands on resources and continue to do the work that they do now?	Not applicable
13	There is a feeling that asthma and other respiratory diseases are being balkanized [fragmented] by budget cuts.	Not applicable
	Other	
14	There is concern that the FY12 budget cuts would create financial burdens to all states. Only about 50% of states would be able to maintain their programs. How will integration of programs allow states and local programs to put their hands on resources and continue to do the work that they do now? Where will practitioners be able to look for support and funding for comprehensive asthma support work in the future? Clarification of what the world will look like in the future and how to navigate these concerns will be	Not applicable

	helpful. Suggestion: EPA/HHS/HUD joint funding opportunities.	
15	EJ should include occupational justice.	Not applicable
16	Faith-based organizations are a missed opportunity if we don't continue to work closely with them. They are in the best position to reach the maximum number of community stakeholders.	Not applicable
17	Older adults (65+) are a priority population, and they have the second highest hospitalization rate in the state (MA). As a growing population they need a lot more help.	Not applicable
18	Tufts University is studying exposure to inflammatory biomarkers. There is a large gap in EJ discussion about near highway impact and health exposures. Consistent across the developed world. CA children's health study researchers find increases in asthma and liver problems. Highest levels of cardiovascular problems. Has effect on other impacts. Research shows that cardiovascular impacts are much higher. 9% of US population lives within close proximity to highways or other transportation centers. 16% of EJ communities live in the same areas. How soon can you take action?	Not applicable
19	A request for support for a youth Green Drive Project in Rhode Island.	Not applicable

### Stakeholder Dialogue Meeting, Boston, MA (June 21, 2011)

	Public Statements/Recommendations	DOI Responses
	General	
1	One of the goals or objectives is to bring back that human side and element – this is the beginning looking at all of the programs and fitting this element in. Improve the quality of where we live and not move us out.	Not applicable
2	There is a lingering concern and pessimism that Federal agencies aren't really serving communities.	<p>The DOI mission embodies service to the American people in part by “protecting America’s natural resources and heritage, honors our cultures and tribal communities, and supplies the energy to power our future.”</p> <p>Several ways in which the DOI serves communities are documented in DOI’s Fifty-State Report on AGO. “The initiative fosters a 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to conservation that is designed by and accomplished in partnership with the American people (many of the projects identified seek to create, expand, or improve parks, trails,</p>

		<p>recreational access, and open space for people to get outdoors in places near to where they live or work.”  <a href="http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/ago50statereport.pdf">http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/ago50statereport.pdf</a>.</p> <p>Another way that DOI serves communities is by leveraging its resources to enable communities to participate in the First Lady’s “Let’s Move Outside”, and “Let’s Move in Indian Country Initiatives.” These initiatives are dedicated to solving the problem of obesity within a generation, so that children born today will grow up healthier and able to pursue their dreams,  <a href="http://www.doi.gov/letsmove/index.cfm">http://www.doi.gov/letsmove/index.cfm</a>.</p>
3	Maintaining and improving roads is part of economic recovery of sustainability.	Not applicable
4	IWG strategies need to factor in climate adaptation and mitigation.	<p>The DOI’s EJ Strategy includes a strategy for enhancing mitigation and monitoring efforts in the planning processes to lessen any disproportionate environmental, social, and economic impacts on minority, low-income, and tribal communities.</p> <p>The DOI’s USGS operates a National Climate Change and Wildlife Center, that “works closely with natural resource agencies and scientists inside and outside government to gather the information and build the tools managers need to help fish and wildlife and their habitats and eco-systems adapt to climate change”,  <a href="http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/">http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/</a>.</p> <p>Another way the DOI addresses the issue of climate change is through the LCC. The LCC is a network of public-private partnerships that provide shared science to ensure the sustainability of America’s land, water, wildlife and cultural resources (science support for conservation), <a href="http://www.doi.gov/lcc/index.cfm">http://www.doi.gov/lcc/index.cfm</a>.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Interior signed a Secretarial Order (No. 3289) on September 14, 2009, entitled, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources. The order established a Climate Change Response Council, which is coordinating activities within and across DOI bureaus to develop and</p>

		implement an integrated strategy for climate change response by the Department.”
5	Various communities have suggested that “goods movement” be a focal point for further analysis and discussion.	Not applicable

### Stakeholder Dialogue Meeting, Biloxi, MS (August 30, 2011)

#	Public Statements/Recommendations	DOI Responses
	General	
1	Several stakeholders asked the agency representatives how they planned to address language barriers with affected communities. One referred to outreach to the Vietnamese community as “non-existent” and urged agencies to improve their communication in the African American, Latino, Asian, and Cajun communities, beginning with understanding their respective cultures and reaching out using each specific language.	<p>The DOI’s EJ strategy includes providing opportunities for involvement, establishing working partnerships, providing the public with information, and conducting public meeting and forums in a manner that is accessible to and inclusive of minority, low-income, and tribal populations.</p> <p>Refer to response under item #4 to the April 28, 2011 section above.</p>
2	Stakeholders asked why local fishermen were not aware of available government funds. Then there was a comment that local officials in Biloxi were misusing allocated funds (e.g., building a new library instead of rebuilding the infrastructure in affected communities).	Not applicable
3	There is a need for timely follow up from and regular (e.g., quarterly) community meetings with agency representatives.	The DOI and its bureaus will work with the EJ IWG in participating in regional meetings and forums as appropriate and practicable.
4	There is concern about the sustainability of fisheries in the region and the livelihood of local fishers.	<p>The FWS’s Fisheries Program works to “protect, restore and enhance the nation’s fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.fws.gov/habitat/">http://www.fws.gov/habitat/</a>. To learn more about the FWS in the lower Mississippi region please visit:</p> <p><a href="http://www.fws.gov/lowermississippiriver/">http://www.fws.gov/lowermississippiriver/</a>. To learn more about FWS in the Gulf Coast please visit:</p> <p><a href="http://www.fws.gov/gulfcoast/">http://www.fws.gov/gulfcoast/</a>.</p>
5	There is a need for Federal agencies to engage with state and local governments to address environmental injustices.	The DOI strives to engage all stakeholders including Federal, state, community, local, and tribal governments.

6	There is concern about limited access to health care for members of environmental justice communities.	DOI: Not applicable
7	The need for small business development, especially among fishers who may not know any other trade.	DOI: Not applicable
8	A request for commitments from each agency member.	
9	There's a "translation problem" in English as well because the community is unaware of many of the programs and efforts described by the agencies. "You are not getting the message out to the people who need it." Also, why was EPA Region 6 not present at the meeting?	DOI: Not applicable
10	A request for an explanation on the absence of shrimp in the local area and the availability of Federal assistance to fishers.	DOI: Not applicable
11	The root problem concerns a responsible party that used oil dispersants that poisoned and killed the fisheries. Commenter asked why EPA backed off for the ban of the Corexit dispersant; and why NOAA backed up a report that "falsely claimed" that the fishers were responsible for observed turtle deaths.	DOI: Not applicable