

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Theme #2: Informing policy and decision making to protect environmental health

EPA works to achieve its mission to protect human health and the environment through a variety of actions and decisions. Examples include regulatory activities (e.g., standard setting, permitting, enforcement, information/data collection, site cleanup). Other actions include programmatic activities, policy-making, scientific research, outreach, and education. For the most part, the Symposium will focus on addressing disproportionate environmental health impacts within the regulatory decision making context.

EPA typically applies a variety of analytical approaches, such as human health risk analysis, technology feasibility studies, and cost-benefit analysis, which provide the necessary inputs (e.g., health effects, costs and benefits estimates) to support regulatory decision making. A number of sessions at the Symposium will explore existing legal, decision, and analytical frameworks, including those used by EPA to identify opportunities to incorporate consideration of environmental justice in environmental regulatory decision making.

Related Sessions

March 18, 2010

3:15 – 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions

- Legal Authorities for Incorporating Environmental Justice/Disproportionate Impacts Considerations Into EPA's Decision Making

Purpose: Given the importance of the law in achieving environmental justice, this panel will explore the application of legal authorities to address disproportionate health and environmental impacts in EPA's regulatory decision-making process. Opportunities for considering disproportionate impacts in the context of rulemaking, permitting, enforcement, and state compliance will be discussed. Further, emerging non-regulatory approaches will be explored as vehicles for addressing disproportionate burdens of environmental exposures, vulnerabilities, and health impacts.

Session Chair: **Suzi Ruhl**, Office of Environmental Justice, EPA

Speakers:

Carol Ann Siciliano, Office of General Counsel, EPA

Nicholas Targ, Partner, Holland & Knight, LLP

Kenneth J. Warren, Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin

- Analytical Frameworks for Assessing and Addressing Environmental Health Impacts To Inform Decision Making

Purpose: Presenters will provide an overview of decision making frameworks, such as Health Impact Assessment, Global Burden of Disease, and Health Equity Screens that explicitly allow for meaningful participation and consideration of multiple risk factors. Examples of applications of

these frameworks in decision making will be discussed and also how they have been used to address issues of equity.

Session Chair: **Rajiv Bhatia**, Director, Occupational and Environmental Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health

[Transportation, Cumulative Health Effects, and Environmental Justice \(PDF\)](#)

[Health Impact Assessment, Cumulative Effects, and Environmental Justice](#)

Speakers:

Jonathan Heller, Director and Co-founder, Health Impact Partners

[Quantifying inequalities in the global burden of disease due to environmental factors: perspectives from the Global Burden of Disease Comparative Risk Assessment](#)

Ngozi T. Oleru, Director, Environmental Public Health Division, Public Health Seattle/King County

[King County Equity Impact Review Tool](#)

Aaron J. Cohen, Principal Scientist, Health Effects Institute

[Quantifying inequalities in the global burden of disease due to environmental factors: perspectives from the Global Burden of Disease Comparative Risk Assessment](#)

3:15 – 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions (continued)

- Incorporating and Addressing Environmental Justice/Disproportionate Impacts in EPA's Decision Making Process Using a Risk Assessment Framework

Purpose: Risk assessment is EPA's primary science-based framework for decision making. Risk assessment informs decision making at EPA in multiple ways including prioritization of decisions, rules/standard setting, cleanup of sites, permitting, enforcement, other policy decision, program planning. This session includes examples of how environmental justice concerns or disproportionate environmental health impacts/risks have been addressed or incorporated in risk assessment approaches

Session Chair: **Stan Barone**, Office of Research and Development, National Center for Environmental Assessment, EPA

Speakers:

Marie Lynn Miranda, Associate Professor, Environmental Sciences and Policy, Duke University

Debbie Lowe Liang, Region 9, EPA

Rachel Morello-Frosch, Associate Professor, Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California, Berkeley

[Environmental Justice Screening Method: Integrating Indicators of Cumulative Impact into Regulatory Decision-making](#)

Matt Small, Region 9, EPA

Zach Pekar, Office of Air and Radiation, EPA

[Challenges in Assessing Risk for Disproportionately-Impacted Populations in the Regulatory Context \(the examples of lead and mercury\)](#)

- Incorporating and Addressing Environmental Justice/Disproportionate Impacts in EPA's Decision Making Process Using an Economic Analysis Framework

Purpose: The panel provides an overview of the use of economic analysis in EPA's rule making analysis, as well as a discussion of how economists approach the analysis of disproportionate impacts. The session begins with an overview of the traditional tools for benefit-cost analysis and analyzing *efficiency*. Then, the session will also discuss how economists consider *equity* followed by a case-study analysis from a recent regulation. The panel concludes with alternative methods for analyzing distributional considerations in benefits analysis.

Session Chair: **Kelly B. Maguire**, Economist, National Center for Environmental Economics, EPA

Speakers:

Charles Griffiths, Senior Economist, National Center for Environmental Economics, EPA

[Including Environmental Justice in Economic Analyses at the EPA](#)

Jonathan Levy, Mark and Catherine Winkler Associate Professor of Environmental Health and Risk Assessment, Harvard School of Public Health

[Addressing Distributional Issues in Environmental Health Benefits Analysis](#)

[Strengthening Environmental Justice Research and Decision Making: A Symposium on the Science of Disproportionate Environmental Health Impacts](#)

Maureen Cropper, Professor of Economics, University of Maryland

[Incorporating Equity Concerns into Benefit Cost Analysis](#)

- Late Breaking Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation Session

Session Chair: **Keeve E. Nachman**, Science Director for Food Production, Health and Environment, Center for a Livable Future

Speakers:

Richard D. Schulerbrandt Gragg, Associate Professor/Associate Director Environmental Sciences Institute, Director, Center for Environmental Equity and Justice (CEEJ), Florida A&M University

Leah R. Williams, Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

Heather Tanana, Quinney College of Law, University of Utah

Martha Keating, Children's Environmental Health Initiative, Duke University

Katie Lundquist, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Minnesota