

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

November 23, 1999

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Pre-meeting report for the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

FROM: Charles Lee Charles Lee
Designated Federal Official
National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

TO: Executive Council of the NEJAC
Panelists for the November 30, 1999 NEJAC meeting
Interviewees for the subject report
Speakers at the November 30, 1999 NEJAC meeting

It is with great pleasure that I forward to you the attached report, "Environmental Justice in the Permitting Process, A Report on Stakeholders' Views." The report was written in preparation for the upcoming National Environmental Justice Advisory Council meeting of November 30-December 2, 1999 (Crystal City, Virginia). The Office of Environmental Justice contracted with Professor Fran Dubrowski to prepare this report based upon a series of interviews with EPA senior management, permitting staff, and external stakeholders in the community, academia, industry and state, local and tribal government.

The report is meant to assist you in your deliberation over the following major issue question for this NEJAC meeting.

In order to secure protection from environmental degradation for all citizens, what factors should be considered by a federal permitting authority, as well as state or local agencies with delegated permitting responsibilities, in the decision-making process prior to allowing a new pollution-generating facility in a minority and/or low-income community that may already have a number of such facilities?

This report is intended to add to your understanding of different perspectives on this complex issue and contribute to greatly enhancing the robustness of the policy dialogue at the NEJAC meeting. The Office of Environmental Justice hopes that this will be accomplished.