

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

From: Erica <henrylaw@io.com>
To: Candace Carraway <carraway.candace@epamail.epa.gov...>
Date: 7/28/99 11:30am
Subject: msg from Rick Lowerre re: Citizen Involvement Plan

I have recently had the chance to learn of OAQPS' Citizen Involvement Plan. That is an excellent idea. I know that citizen training and capacity building are badly needed in Texas. To date, neither EPA nor TNRCC has made any significant effort to encourage or assist in citizen participation in Title V permit decisions. Instead, TNRCC is telling people that its program is very mechanical with little or no need for public input.

One idea not covered by your "plan" is the possibility that EPA can focus some of its grants—possibly environmental justice grants—on Title V permitting. Universities could do some training. Many local communities need resources to participate in Title V permit decisions.

I am sending you a letter I sent to EPA Region VI. It identifies some concerns with TNRCC's program for public participation. There are many additional problems with public access to information on public participation. The critical problem, however, remains to be the efforts by TNRCC to discourage public participation.

Let me know if I can assist you or provide additional information.

Sincerely,
Rick Lowerre

CC: Jole Luehrs <luehrs.jole@epamail.epa.gov>