

Interim Report of the Environmental Justice Task Force

Submitted to:
Albuquerque-Bernalillo County
Air Quality Control Board
December 12, 2007

Presented by:
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Scope of the EJ Task Force

- Develop recommendations to implement EJ objectives of the Task Force
 - Immediate, short term and long term recommendations
- Identify barriers to implementing recommendations
 - Data availability, training, existing statutes
- Develop EJ checklist or identify other qualitative analyses for consideration of air quality impacts on EJ communities
- Identify existing models for analyzing cumulative impacts



EJ Task Force Members

- Jens Deichmann, AQCB Chair
- Maria Dominguez, AQCB Attorney
- John DuFay, APS (school system)
- Doug Heatherly, Vulcan Materials (industry)
- Lora Lucero, Land Use Attorney (planner)
- Margaret Menache, UNM Environmental Scientist (toxicologist)
- Amy Miller, PNM (industry)
- Felicia Orth, NMED hearing officer
- Marla Painter, Affected Community Member
- Debby Potter, AQCB member
- Kitty Richards, BC Office of Environmental Health
- Tom Scharman, NM Dept. of Health, Epidemiologist
- Israel Tavarez, City of Albuquerque, Air Quality Division
- Joe Valles, Affected Community Member



Materials Presented/Reviewed

- *Intersection between EJ and Land-use Planning*, Salkin, PE
- *Private Property – Correcting the Half-truths*, Freyfogle, ET
- *Environmental Justice*, Lucero, L
- *The Rise and Demise of the NM Environmental Quality Act, Little NEPA*
- *Hospitalization and Mortality in Albuquerque Zip Codes*, Scharman, T
- *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective*, California Air Resources Board
- *Health Effects of Airborne Particulate Matter*, Lippmann, M
- *Mountain View Battles Another Cement Permit*, Albuquerque Journal, Rodriguez, Juan Carlos



EJ Task Force Problem Areas – How Do We:

- Assure that Permitting Processes Adequately Address Local Health Concerns?
- Improve Air Quality Monitoring and Assess Impact of Existing Permits on Air Quality?
- Address the Overlap between Land-use and Air Quality Issues?
- Improve Community Outreach and Public Notification?
- Improve Statutes and Regulations?



Matrix Example – Objective

- Objective 2: Identify opportunities to strengthen outreach and education efforts in all communities, especially disproportionately affected communities, so that all residents can fully participate in public processes and share in the air quality benefits of City and County programs.



Matrix Example – Issue/Problem

- (1) There are differing opinions on the AQCB's authority to consider EJ, cumulative impacts and public comment on health as part of the decision making process.
- (2) Affected communities do not feel that their input is considered in decisions that directly impact them.



Matrix Example – Strategy/Action

- (1) Amend relevant statutes and regulations that outline methods for consideration of EJ, cumulative impacts, and public comment.
- (2) Require inclusion of all stakeholders, including industry, agencies and community members, early in the permit negotiation process to identify and resolve all concerns.



Observations

- Many of the issues and strategies transcend the individual objectives.
- Many of the same general issues/problems are stated with different emphasis in the matrix.
- The trust and rapport of Task Force members has continued to grow.

