

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

This executive summary provides highlights of the fifteenth meeting of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), held May 23 through 26, 2000 at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Each of the six subcommittees met for a full day on May 25, 2000. In addition, on May 23, 2000, members of the NEJAC participated in a fact-finding tour of several communities in Anniston, Alabama to learn about environmental issues and concerns of importance to those communities. The NEJAC hosted on May 23 a public comment period for general environmental justice issues. The NEJAC also hosted on May 24 a second public comment period which focused on community environmental health and environmental justice issues. Approximately 536 persons attended the meetings and the public comment periods.

The NEJAC is a Federal advisory committee that was established by charter on September 30, 1993 to provide independent advice, consultation, and recommendations to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on matters related to environmental justice. Mr. Haywood Turrentine, Laborers' District Council Education and Training Trust Fund (an affiliate of the Laborers' International Union of North America), serves as the chair of the Executive Council. Ms. Peggy Shepard, Executive Director, West Harlem Environmental Action Inc. and member of the Health and Research Subcommittee, serves as the newly appointed vice-chair of the Executive Council of the NEJAC. Mr. Charles Lee, Associate Director for Policy and Interagency Liaison, EPA Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), serves as the Designated Federal Official (DFO) for the Executive Council. Exhibit ES-1 lists the chair and DFO of the executive council, as well as the persons who chair the six subcommittees of the NEJAC and the EPA staff appointed to serve as the DFOs for the subcommittees.

OEJ maintains transcripts and summary reports of the proceedings of the NEJAC meetings. Those documents are available to the public upon request. The public also has access to the executive summaries of reports of previous meetings, as well as other publications, of the NEJAC through the World Wide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/main/ej/nejac/index.html> (click on the publications icon). The summaries are available in both English- and Spanish-language versions.

Exhibit ES-1

#### NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRS AND DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIALS

##### Executive Council:

Mr. Haywood Turrentine, **Chair**  
Ms. Peggy Shepard, **Vice-Chair**  
Mr. Charles Lee, **Designated Federal  
Official (DFO)**

##### Air and Water Subcommittee:

Dr. Michel Gelobter, **Chair**  
Ms. Annabelle Jaramillo, **Vice-Chair**  
Ms. Alice Walker, **co-DFO**  
Dr. Wil Wilson, **co-DFO**

##### Enforcement Subcommittee:

Mr. Luke Cole, **Chair**  
Ms. Savonala Horne, **Vice-Chair**  
Ms. Shirley Pate, **DFO**  
Mr. Robert Banks, **Alternate DFO**

##### Health and Research Subcommittee:

Dr. Marinelle Payton, **Chair**  
Ms. Rose Marie Augustine, **Vice-Chair**  
Mr. Lawrence Martin, **co-DFO**  
Mr. Chen Wen, **co-DFO**

##### Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee:

Mr. Tom Goldtooth, **Chair**  
Ms. Jennifer Hill-Kelley, **Vice-Chair**  
Mr. Daniel Gogal, **DFO**  
Mr. Robert Smith, **Alternate DFO**

##### International Subcommittee:

Mr. Arnoldo Garcia, **Chair**  
Mr. Alberto Saldamando, **Vice-Chair**  
Ms. Wendy Graham, **DFO**

##### Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee:

Ms. Vernice Miller-Travis, **Chair**  
Ms. Veronica Eady, **Vice-Chair**

## REMARKS

Ms. Sylvia Lowrance, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), noted that the meeting marked a “tremendously important milestone” in the progress of the NEJAC and its work with EPA. To address public health problems in communities, Ms. Lowrance explained, it is essential to have better science with regard to those health and environmental problems that face communities. She noted that there has been a void in addressing such issues and that the missing link has been health research. She then expressed her excitement about the program that the NEJAC would be focusing on during the meeting and made a commitment that EPA would follow-up on the work accomplished by the NEJAC during the meeting.

Mr. John Hankinson, Deputy Regional Administrator, EPA Region 4, reported that in 1996, EPA Region 4 had been reorganized dramatically to better serve communities that have environmental justice concerns. Mr. Hankinson stressed that the reorganization had been designed not only to serve such communities better, but also to improve the manner by which the region conducts its daily activities related to environmental justice. In other words, he clarified, the reorganization is structured to ensure that concerns related to environmental justice become integrated into all activities and across all media programs. He expressed agreement with Ms. Lowrance that it is extremely important to have the best science possible upon which to base judgements related to the environmental health of a community. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Hankinson stressed the necessity that EPA work with other agencies and other programs that not only focus on environmental issues, but also deal with all issues that must be addressed if communities are to be healthy.

Mr. Barry Hill, Director, EPA OEJ, began his presentation by welcoming all participants to the meeting of the NEJAC on public health, noting that it was appropriate that the meeting be held in Atlanta, Georgia, the home of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Mr. Hill then placed the meeting in perspective by reminding the participants that the mission of EPA is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment -- the air, water, and land upon which all life depends. Therefore, he declared, the issue of protecting the public health is of great importance to the Agency. Mr. Hill commented that, while the Agency has made great strides in safeguarding the natural environment, EPA has not been as successful in protecting human health. That is why, he explained, the EPA Administrator, through OEJ, had requested that the NEJAC focus a meeting on the issue of public health. The Agency, he emphasized, is seeking the advice and recommendations of the NEJAC, a multi-stakeholder advisory committee, on how better to address issues related to public health.

Continuing, Mr. Hill explained that the underlying question the panelists and the members of the NEJAC should address is whether there is a direct correlation between impacts on the environment and public health. Many people would agree that a direct correlation exists, he noted; adding however, that when asked to demonstrate the connection, communities, scientists, and public health officials are unable to do so because the science does not yet exist. Mr. Hill then provided a list of questions related to demonstrating the direct correlation between the environment and public health that were to be posed over the course of the meeting:

- If not now, when will sound science be available?
- Are [government agencies] making great strides in that direction?
- How far do [government agencies] have to go to satisfy not only the scientists and public health officials, but also the concerned public?
- What must Federal, state, and local government agencies do to focus their attention and considerable resources on demonstrating the direct correlation?
- How can communities become more involved in demonstrating the direct correlation by developing and using community-based health research models?
- How can industry be of assistance in using its considerable resources to participate in the dialogue of demonstrating the direct correlation?

Mr. Michael McCabe, Deputy Administrator of EPA, expressed his appreciation to Mr. Turrentine for his leadership of the NEJAC and to the members of the Executive Council for the time and effort they spend on important issues related to environmental justice. Mr. McCabe then noted that the NEJAC had been providing crucial and important advice to the EPA Administrator for the past seven years and has had a direct effect on many of the Agency's initiatives, such as its Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative. Mr. McCabe stated that he now would request that the NEJAC provide help and guidance related to the role of risk assessments and the cumulative effects of environmental contamination on communities.

Continuing, Mr. McCabe updated the members of the Executive Council on several activities at EPA related to environmental justice. He announced that EPA's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) soon was to release two new draft guidance documents to clarify for government agencies and the public the compliance requirements set forth under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI). He then announced the Integrated Federal Interagency Environmental Justice Action Agenda developed by the Interagency Work Group on Environmental Justice. Mr. McCabe explained that the goal of the action agenda is to bring together the resources of 11 of the 17 Federal agencies called upon in Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice to help environmentally and economically distressed communities.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. McCabe explained that, under the leadership of the EPA Administrator, the Agency had been and would continue to be guided by the vision of a new partnership – economic prosperity and protection. Mr. McCabe expressed the Agency's belief that economic expansion and environmental protection are goals that must be achieved together. Experience, he noted, has demonstrated that an investment in the environment is an investment in job creation and in raising healthy children. Over the past seven years, he emphasized, EPA has been guided by the belief that principles of environmental justice must be rooted in the understanding that all people share the planet and all share the future; therefore, all must share the responsibility of environmental protection.

#### **PANELS ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MODEL**

In its continuing effort to provide independent advice to the EPA Administrator in areas related to environmental justice, the NEJAC focused its fifteenth meeting on a specific policy issue -- environmental justice and its relationship to community-based environmental health research. On Wednesday, May 24, 2000, the members of the NEJAC received a series of presentations from panels comprised of representatives of various stakeholder groups. The presentations were designed to provide insight into the issues raised and concerns expressed about the relationship of environmental justice and public health. Exhibit ES-2 identifies the individuals who participated in the panel discussions.

Mr. Lee began the panel presentations by introducing members of EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) and Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC), who had been invited to participate in the meeting of the NEJAC. Members representing the SAB were Mr. Henry Anderson, Wisconsin Division of Public Health and Mr. Hilary Inyang, Center for Environmental Engineering Science and Technology, University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Members representing CHPAC were Ms. Willa Fisher, Bremerton-Kitsap County, Washington State Health District and Rabbi Dan Swartz, Children's Environmental Health Network.

The panel presentations included:

- ▶ *Panel 1: Overview: To what extent might an integrated community-based public health model that includes assessment, intervention, and prevention contribute to disease prevention and health improvement in environmental justice communities?*— This panel provided a historical overview of health issues found in communities that have environmental justice concerns and how a holistic integrated view of disease prevention and health improvement has evolved.

**PANEL PRESENTATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
AND DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MODEL**

The fifteenth meeting of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council focused on Federal efforts to secure disease prevention and health improvement in communities in which there are health disparities that may be the result of, or be exacerbated by, disproportionate effects of environmental pollutants and certain socioeconomic and cultural factors. During the meeting, the members of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC) received comments and information related to environmental justice and public health from the individuals identified below.

***Panel 1 – Overview***

***To what extent might an integrated community-based public health model that includes assessment, intervention, and prevention contribute to disease prevention and health improvement in environmental justice communities?***

Robert Bullard, Ph.D.	Environmental Justice Resource Center, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia
Richard Moore	Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Patrick Kinney, Ph.D.	Columbia University School of Public Health, New York, New York

***Panel 2 – Lessons from the Field***

***What strategies and areas of research should be pursued to achieve more effective, integrated community-based health assessment, intervention, and prevention efforts?***

Ray Campion	Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center, Houston, Texas
David Carpenter, M.D.	University of Albany School of Public Health, Rensselaer, New York
Katsi Cook	Akwesasne Mohawk Nation, Berkshire, New York
Carlos Porras	Communities for a Better Environment, Huntington Park, California

***Panel 3 – Socioeconomic Vulnerability***

***How can consideration of socioeconomic status and cultural factors (a) contribute to a better understanding of health disparities and cumulative and disproportionate environmental effects; and (b) be incorporated into community health assessments?***

Michael Callahan	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Cumulative Risk Technical Review Panel, Washington, D.C.
Walter Handy, Ph.D.	Cincinnati Health Department, Cincinnati, Ohio
Samara Swanston, J.D.	Greenpoint-Williamsburg Watch Project, Brooklyn, New York

***Panel 4 – Key Federal Initiatives***

***What strategies should be developed, implemented, and evaluated so as to insure substantial participation, integration, and collaboration by Federal agencies, in partnership with impacted communities; public health, medical and environmental professionals; academic institutions; philanthropic organizations; state, tribal, and local governments; and the private sector?***

Henry Falk, M.D.	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Atlanta, Georgia
Jon Kerner, Ph.D.	National Cancer Institute, Rockville, Maryland
Michael Rathsam	Indian Health Services, Manlius, New York
Michael Sage	National Center for Environmental Health, Atlanta, Georgia
Charles Wells	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Atlanta, Georgia
Harold Zenick	EPA Office of Research and Development, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

- ▶ *Panel 2: Lessons from the field: what strategies and areas of research should be pursued to achieve more effective, integrated community-based health assessment, intervention, and prevention efforts?*— This panel of community-based practitioners presented recommendations based on their experience of the strategies and targeted research that would most effectively advance at this time an integrated community-based health assessment, intervention, and prevention model.
- ▶ *Panel 3: Socioeconomic vulnerability: how can consideration of socioeconomic status and cultural factors: (a) contribute to a better understanding of health disparities and cumulative and disproportionate environmental effects; and (b) be incorporated into community health assessments?*— Members of the panel explored the extent to which socioeconomic vulnerabilities might be incorporated into community health assessments for populations already suffering health disparities. In addition, members of the panel offered recommendations about research priorities for the development of policy in areas of socioeconomic vulnerability, cumulative risk, and disproportionate environmental effects.
- ▶ *Panel 4: Key Federal initiatives: what strategies should be developed, implemented, and evaluated so as to insure substantial participation, integration and collaboration by Federal agencies, in partnership with impacted communities; public health, medical and environmental professionals; academic institutions; philanthropic organizations; state, tribal and local governments; and the private sector?*— Senior officials from EPA and other Federal public health agencies offered perspectives and provided overviews of their respective agencies' efforts to address environmental justice and community-based public health needs.

## PRESENTATIONS

The Executive Council also heard presentations by the following individuals:

- ▶ Ms. Ann Goode, Director, EPA OCR, updated the members of the Executive Council on the status of the *Title VI Interim Guidance for Investigating Administrative Complaints Which Challenge Permitting Decisions* (interim guidance). She announced that EPA soon would publish in the Federal Register two new draft guidance documents related to Title VI for public comment review.
- ▶ Mr. Alan Hecht, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of International Activities (OIA), offered a brief overview of issues related to the U.S.-Mexico border to be addressed in the next year. He also provided an update on activities related to addressing recommendations from the Roundtable on Environmental Justice on the U.S./Mexico Border held in National City, California in August 1999.
- ▶ Mr. William Muszynski, Deputy Regional Administrator, EPA Region 2, provided an update on the efforts of EPA Region 2 to improve and protect the environment in Puerto Rico. Mr. Muszynski announced that the creation of a new NEJAC subcommittee on Puerto Rico had been approved by the EPA Administrator.
- ▶ Ms. Marla Hendriksson, Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Human Resources, EPA Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM) reported on Executive Order 13125 on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the White House initiative on those populations. She explained that the order had been issued in an effort to improve the quality of life of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in this country through increased participation in Federal programs.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

On May 23, 2000, members of the NEJAC participated in a fact-finding tour of several communities in Anniston, Alabama. Such fact-finding tours provide members of the NEJAC information about the environmental concerns of local communities in the areas in which meetings of the NEJAC are held. In Anniston, the fact-finding tour focused on community health issues associated with contamination of soil with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) caused by local industry.

On May 25, 2000, the members of the Health and Research and Waste and Facility Siting subcommittees of the NEJAC participated in a joint session to discuss the investigation conducted by ATSDR in November 1999

of exposure to hazardous pollutants in Mossville, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The Air and Water and Waste and Facility Siting subcommittees also held a joint session on May 25, 2000, to discuss EPA's draft guidance on toxic loadings reduction.

In the weeks before the May 2000 meeting of the NEJAC, EPA hosted delegates representing the South African environmental justice community to an intensive program conducted in the southeastern United States. The delegates from South Africa also participated in the meeting of the International Subcommittee of the NEJAC held on May 25, 2000.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS**

The NEJAC hosted public comment periods on May 23 and 24, 2000. More than 60 people participated in the two public comment periods. Significant concerns expressed during the public comment periods included:

- ▶ Many commenters continued to request that the NEJAC establish a work group to address environmental justice issues faced by communities located near Federal facilities. Commenters expressed concern about the lack of enforcement of environmental laws and regulations by Federal agencies.
- ▶ Several commenters questioned the length of time taken and the amount of analysis conducted by Federal agencies before a health issue is acknowledged. In addition, commenters expressed concern about the lack of interim measures taken by Federal agencies to address those health effects on communities.
- ▶ Several commenters continued to express concern about the lack of enforcement of Title VI related to the siting of facilities. Commenters recommended that EPA examine issues related to Title VI to prevent discrimination related to health disparities in minority and low-income communities.
- ▶ Several commenters requested that Federal agencies improve funding and other resources allocated to communities that are adversely effected by contamination. Commenters recommended that Federal agencies increase their involvement with communities to establish partnerships. In addition, several commenters urged that EPA reestablish the Community/University Partnership grant program.
- ▶ Several commenters also recommended that Federal agencies collaborate and coordinate efforts to ensure that public health issues related to communities adversely effected by environmental contamination are addressed. Commenters also requested that Federal agencies provide training to medical professionals on the health effects of environmental contamination, particularly from pesticides. Commenters also expressed concern about the lack of access to health care.
- ▶ Many commenters expressed serious concern about the continued exposure of migrant farm workers to pesticides. Commenters suggested that research on pesticides and exposure to pesticides has been insufficient and requested that EPA examine the process by which pesticides are registered, as well as research into alternatives to reduce the nation's dependence on pesticides, especially methly bromide.

### **COMMON THEMES**

During the meetings of the Executive Council and its subcommittees, the members of the NEJAC discussed a wide range of issues related to environmental justice. Specific concerns of and commitments made by the NEJAC are outlined below. Members:

- ▶ Expressed concern about the apparent lack of involvement by many Federal agencies to address issues related to environmental justice as required by Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice.
- ▶ Questioned the apparent disregard by Federal agencies of community input related to addressing potential health effects caused by contamination.
- ▶ Expressed concern about the use of chemicals and their effects on workers.

- ▶ Expressed concern about the backlog of administrative complaints filed under Title VI at EPA. In addition, members expressed concern about the time frame for submitting comments on the two new draft guidance documents related to Title VI.
- ▶ Recommended that Federal agencies form partnerships and collaborate to effectively address issues related to public health and environmental justice.

Members of the NEJAC continued to express frustration at the inability of the NEJAC and EPA to assist those who have provided testimony at public comment periods of the NEJAC about environmental justice concerns related to Federal facilities, as well as actions by other Federal agencies. Members expressed concern about the lack of compliance on the part of other Federal agencies to implement Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice.

Members of the NEJAC questioned why Federal agencies continue to disregard members of the communities' input related to addressing potential health effects caused by contamination. The members pointed out that communities are in the best position to inform government agencies of issues related to public health that affect their communities.

Members of the NEJAC discussed the use of chemicals in the workplace and the effects of exposure on workers, particularly the use of pesticides and their effects on migrant farm workers. Members expressed concern about the lack of enforcement of regulations related to pesticide use.

Members of the NEJAC continued to express concern about EPA's ability to process in a timely manner administrative complaints filed under Title VI. Members urged EPA OCR to accelerate the process and resolve as many cases as possible before the end of the current Presidential administration. Members of the NEJAC also expressed concern that community groups may not have sufficient time to read the documents and provide comments to OCR in an informed manner.

Members of the NEJAC discussed that Federal agencies should form more partnerships to address the public health issues faced by communities and caused by environmental contamination. Members expressed their belief that through such partnerships Federal agencies can collectively develop strategies to assess, prevent, and intervene in matters related to public health problems caused by environmental contamination.

### **SUMMARIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Summarized below are the deliberations of the members of the six subcommittees of the NEJAC during their meetings held on May 25, 2000.

#### ***Air and Water Subcommittee***

- ▶ Members of the subcommittee continued discussions initiated during the December 1999 meeting of the subcommittee on the effects and regulation of public utilities as related to environmental justice. The subcommittee agreed to develop a resolution in which the NEJAC recommends that EPA regulate mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.
- ▶ The subcommittee heard presentations on the environmental and health effects of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO). The subcommittee submitted to the NEJAC a proposed resolution developed jointly with the Enforcement Subcommittee recommending that EPA commit additional resources to regulate CAFOs.
- ▶ The subcommittee heard presentations and provided input on urban air initiatives around the country.
- ▶ The subcommittee also created a joint work group with the Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee to review EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response's (OSWER) draft guidance on reducing toxic loadings.

- ▶ Members of the subcommittee also agreed to expand the subcommittee's work group on fish consumption to include members of the Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee. The work group would investigate the health effects on indigenous populations of the consumption of contaminated fish.

### ***Enforcement Subcommittee***

- ▶ Members received presentations that focused on health issues and how health data and indicators should be used by EPA to target enforcement efforts and resources in communities deemed to be the most vulnerable to exposure. Members of the subcommittee expressed concerns and asked questions about universal health indicators and targeting enforcement indicators.
- ▶ The Enforcement Subcommittee reviewed and approved amendments, submitted by the Air and Water Subcommittee, to a proposed resolution on CAFOs. Members also discussed developing a more comprehensive report that would outline and further describe concerns about and issues related to the enforcement of the operation of CAFOs.
- ▶ The members of the subcommittee discussed at length the health effects and other environmental justice issues related to the lack of enforcement of Title VI. Ms. Goode discussed OCR's outreach strategy for receiving comments on EPA's new draft guidance documents related to Title VI. Noting that the backlog of administrative cases filed under Title VI continues to increase, members of the subcommittee discussed options for decreasing the backlog of cases.

### ***Health and Research Subcommittee***

- ▶ The subcommittee held an Interagency Forum to discuss building collaborations between agencies and communities to address health care issues. The discussions of the Interagency Forum included clarifying the role of each agency, establishing areas of priority for research, and identifying a strategic plan to consider the next steps toward improving public health; implementation, development, and evaluation of future community-based health assessments; and pollution prevention and intervention issues in minority and low-income communities.
- ▶ Members of the Community Health Assessment Work Group of the subcommittee presented a report on their evaluation of the Decision Tree Framework for Community-Directed Environmental Health Assessment.
- ▶ Members of the subcommittee agreed to prepare for consideration by the Executive Council of the NEJAC a proposed resolution to make recommendations to EPA for the future development of the decision tree framework as a priority for EPA.

### ***Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee***

- ▶ In response to continued concerns expressed during earlier public comment periods of the NEJAC, members agreed that policies delineating the authority and jurisdiction of government agencies are unclear about issues related to environmental health in Indian country. Members discussed the need for each agency to better define their areas of authority and to exercise increased collaboration to better protect the health of tribal members in Indian country.
- ▶ Members of the subcommittee recommended that EPA staff responsible for environmental health in Indian country need increased training related to cultural issues and the unique government structures in Indian country.
- ▶ Members of the subcommittee discussed the need for applicable baseline data of environmental health in Indian country. Members agreed that Indian Health Services of HHS must ensure the availability of data specific to each tribe and involve tribal communities in decisions about environmental health. Further, tribal communities must understand the benefits of health research, receive accredited training, and preserve individual confidentiality during the research.

- ▶ Related to infrastructure, members of the subcommittee discussed the need for innovative sustainable technologies in Indian country and the development of proper funding or financial mechanism to provide training, education, and technical assistance to tribal members in the operation and maintenance of facilities.

### **International Subcommittee**

- ▶ The members of the International Subcommittees heard presentations from farmworkers about living conditions of farmworkers; reports on pesticide pollutants and effects on Lake Apopka, Florida; and reports from representatives of EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), and the Office of Enforcement. Recommendations for improving the health of farmworkers included increasing training and awareness of pesticides among both farmworkers and people in the medical care industry, enforcing compliance of pesticide regulations, and involving more agencies and stakeholders in these discussions. The members of the subcommittee agreed to create a Farmworker Work Group to examine these issues.
- ▶ The members of the International Subcommittee discussed the follow-up activities to the Roundtable on Environmental Justice on the U.S./Mexico Border meeting held August 1999 in National City, California. Representatives of EPA regions 6 and 9 provided updates on activities to address the recommendations that were developed at the meeting. To effectively implement the recommendations, the members of the International Subcommittee agreed to create a work group.
- ▶ The members of the International Subcommittee participated in an extensive dialogue with a delegation of representatives from South Africa in which ideas were exchanged related to environmental justice. In addition, members of the South Africa Work Group of the subcommittee provided updates on the work group's progress.

### **Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee**

- ▶ Members of the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Work Group of the subcommittee explained the purpose of the work group which includes but is not limited to ensuring that principles related to environmental justice and community outreach efforts are meaningfully incorporated into the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative policies and plans. In addition, the work group will be asked to provide recommendations on plans to redevelop Superfund sites for productive and appropriate reuse. The following concerns were identified by the work group: education of Remedial Project Managers and others about the opportunities that the program presents and the need for a potentially responsible party (PRP) representative on the work group.
- ▶ Members of the subcommittee participated in a joint session with the Health and Research Subcommittee and representatives of Mossville Environmental Action Now (M.E.A.N.), GreenPeace International, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, ATSDR, Louisiana Chemical Association, and EPA Region 6. The purpose of the discussion was to facilitate the discussion of environmental justice issues in the City of Mossville, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. As a result of discussions in the joint session, community participants and Federal representatives agreed to work together to formulate a plan to further investigate the possible dioxin exposure of residents in Mossville and neighboring communities.
- ▶ In addition, the members of the subcommittee discussed preparing for consideration by the Executive Council of the NEJAC the following resolutions: (1) Request that EPA intercede with the U.S. Department of Defense to clean up Nomans Island, Weymouth, Massachusetts and to work with the Wampanoag Tribe in this process and (2) EPA support the creation of a NEJAC work group to assist ATSDR and EPA in following public participation protocols and to focus on bringing about resolution to issues of concern to the Mossville, Louisiana community.

## **SUMMARY OF APPROVED RESOLUTIONS AND LETTER TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR**

This section summarizes resolutions and letter to the EPA Administrator that were discussed by the subcommittees and approved by the Executive Council of the NEJAC during the meeting. Appendix A provides the full text of each resolution that was approved by the Executive Council.

The NEJAC approved the following resolutions:

- ▶ The NEJAC recommends that EPA address environmental justice issues related to persistent organic pollutants (POP) and their effects on indigenous populations.
- ▶ The NEJAC supports EPA's efforts to regulate mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.
- ▶ The NEJAC recommends that EPA work with other agencies to study the incidence of multiple chemical sensitivity in minority communities and low-income communities, especially those heavily impacted by environmental pollutants.
- ▶ The NEJAC urges EPA to commit additional resources to remedy pollution and environmental justice issues associated with the siting and expansion of large-scale CAFOs in low-income communities and in Indian country.
- ▶ The NEJAC requests that EPA approve the creation of a work group of the Executive Council of the NEJAC to address environmental justice issues related to Federal facilities.
- ▶ The NEJAC request that EPA approve the request of the Health and Research Subcommittee to extend the term of the subcommittee's working group that has been developing the Decision Tree Framework for Community-Directed Environmental Health Assessment to maintain continuity of the development of the framework.

The NEJAC also approved the following letter to the EPA Administrator:

- ▶ The NEJAC urges EPA to address potential health effects caused by the promulgation of Tier 2 regulations.

The NEJAC also approved the following work groups of the International Subcommittee to address issues related to environmental justice:

- ▶ Farmworker Work Group of the International Subcommittee to address environmental concerns related to the conditions under which farmworkers work.
- ▶ Follow-up to the Roundtable on Environmental Justice on the U.S.-Mexico Border Work Group of the International Subcommittee to continue to address recommendations developed at the roundtable meeting held in August 1999 in National City, California.

The members of the Executive Council of the NEJAC also approved the Framework for Community-Directed Environmental Health Assessment that was developed by the Working Group on Community Environmental Health Assessment of the Health and Research Subcommittee.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the NEJAC is scheduled for December 11 through 14, 2000, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. Planned activities will include two opportunities for the public to offer comments. Exhibit ES-3 identifies the dates and locations of future meetings as well as the issues the NEJAC plans to address. For further information about this pending meeting visit NEJAC's home page on the Internet at: [http://www.epa.gov/oeca/main/ej/nejac/conf\\_ne.html](http://www.epa.gov/oeca/main/ej/nejac/conf_ne.html) or call EPA's toll-free environmental justice hotline at 1-800-962-6215.

Exhibit ES-3

**FUTURE MEETINGS OF  
THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Issue</u></b>
December 11-14, 2000	Arlington, Virginia	Interagency Environmental Justice Implementation
July 16-19, 2001	Baltimore, Maryland	Environmental Justice and Pollution Prevention
December 3-6, 2001	Seattle, Washington	Subsistence Consumption and Water Quality Standards