

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
January 2013 Public Teleconference**

Meeting Notes

The Executive Council (Council) of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) convened for its 46th public meeting by teleconference on Wednesday, January 23, 2013, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time. These notes present highlights of the NEJAC members' deliberations and the issues raised during the public comment period.

Exhibit 1 lists the members of the Council who were in attendance, as well as those who were unable to attend the meeting. Appendix A presents a list of teleconference meeting attendees. Appendix B contains written statements that were submitted for the public comment period.

1.0 Welcoming Remarks

Ms. Victoria Robinson, NEJAC Designated Federal Officer, EPA Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), welcomed everyone to the teleconference. She reported that about 200 individuals had pre-registered to attend. She reviewed the meeting agenda, noting the focus of the call was for the Council to discuss the

Exhibit 1

NEJAC Executive Council

Members in Attendance

Teri E. Blanton, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth
Andrea Guajardo, Conejos County Clean Water, Inc.
Monica Hedstrom, White Earth Nation
Effenus Henderson, Weyerhaeuser
Savonala "Savi" Horne, Land Loss Prevention Project
J. Langdon Marsh, National Policy Consensus Center, Portland State University
Margaret May, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, and NEJAC Co-chair
Edith Pestana, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
John Ridgway, Washington State Department of Ecology
Nia Robinson, SisterSong
Fatemeh Shafiei, Spelman College
Nicky Sheats, Center for the Urban Environment, Thomas Edison State College
Paul Shoemaker, Boston Public Health Commission
Nicholas Targ, American Bar Association
Kimberly Wasserman, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
Elizabeth Yeampierre, UPROSE, Inc., and NEJAC Chair

Members Not in Attendance

Peter Captain, Sr., Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council
Stephanie Hall, Valero Energy Corporation
Vernice Miller-Travis, Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities
Paul Mohai, University of Michigan
Patricia Salkin, Albany Law School
Deidre Sanders, Pacific Gas & Electric
Kenneth Smith, City of Kingsland, Georgia
Horace Strand, Chester Environmental Partnership
Javier Francisco Torres, Border Environment Cooperation Commission

environmental impact and environmental justice challenges of storm surges on vulnerable communities in industrial waterfront areas. Specifically, she noted that EPA was interested in enhancing community resilience to environmental impacts and listening to community perspectives on how the Agency could help achieve waterfront justice.

Ms. Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE, Inc., stressed the urgency for EPA to act, given the change in climate and demographics in waterfront areas. She expressed appreciation to the NEJAC members for their efforts on this issue and to OEJ staff for organizing the Council meetings.

2.0 Update from Last NEJAC Teleconference

Ms. Robinson referred to the NEJAC's previous teleconference on November 14, 2012. She noted that the Council had discussed and agreed on revisions to three draft reports for submittal to the Agency. Specifically, the reports contained the NEJAC's recommendations to the EPA Administrator on environmental justice and permitting, the revised Model Guidelines for Public Participation, and the Agency's tribal and indigenous peoples environmental justice policy.

3.0 Panel Discussion: Environmental Impacts in Industrial Waterfront Communities Facing Environmental Justice Issues

Mr. Eddie Bautista and Mr. Juan Camilo Osorio, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYCEJA), shared a community perspective on the effects of storm surges on industrial waterfront communities. They referred Council members to presentation slides on the NYCEJA waterfront justice project (see Appendix C). Specifically, the project examined the threats associated with the proximity of hazardous waste sites – such as Class 2 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Superfund sites, active chemical bulk and major oil storage facilities, and facilities reporting toxic chemicals in the national Toxic Release Inventory – to significant maritime and industrial areas (SMIAs). They described the following ultimate goals of the NYCEJA waterfront justice project:

- “Design benchmarking mechanisms to establish good, better and best practices to reduce the vulnerability of industrial waterfront areas to climate change impacts.
- Create incentive-based pilot program for performance enhancement, focusing on the provision of technical and financial assistance to local industrial business.”

Mr. Bautista thanked the NEJAC for its newly-formed work group focused on storm surges. He noted that Superstorm Sandy had made the fears associated with potential risks along the industrial waterfront a reality. He encouraged the Council to also review the slides prepared by Dr. Nicky Sheats, Director of the Center for the Urban Environment and co-chair of the NEJAC Storm Surge Work Group, which reported study findings on the contribution of storm surges to cumulative impacts in environmental justice communities (see Appendix C).

The following key points were raised during the Council's discussion:

Mr. John Ridgway, Manager, Washington State Department of Ecology, recommended that NYCEJA consider including in its study stored chemicals that are not reported under the Toxics Release Inventory. He noted the existence of large quantities of stored chemicals in warehouses that are not required to be reported to EPA under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) but are often reported to states, local fire departments, and local emergency planning committees (LEPCs). Mr. Bautista and Mr. Osorio expressed appreciation for the comment but also noted challenges associated with accessing such data due to concerns about accessibility to potential terrorists.

Dr. Fatemeh Shafiei, Associate Professor of Political Science, Spelman College, suggested the U.S. Chemical

Safety and Hazard Investigation Board as a source for information and data regarding chemical accidents. She noted her past work on a project with the Board and EPA Region 4 that found a correlation between emergency preparedness and reduced chemical accidents.

Ms. Kimberly Wasserman, Coordinator, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, asked whether New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or other agencies had conducted soil and water sampling immediately after the storm water receded to determine the presence of residual contamination from Superfund and Brownfield sites near the waterfront. Mr. Bautista stated that NYCEJA had urged the state for such testing, however, the devastation was so widespread that immediate testing was not a priority. He noted that EPA conducted soil and ground water testing two weeks after the storm. Mr. Osorio added that testing should be conducted before a severe weather event to allow a strong baseline of data for comparison.

Ms. Yeampierre expressed concern that communities were not sufficiently engaged in emergency response planning activities following Superstorm Sandy. Mr. Bautista pointed out that EPA Region 2 and partner organizations that stepped in to help should be acknowledged for their efforts. He noted that a Regional Environmental Justice Assembly would be held to discuss ways to improve collaborative response to storms. Ms. Yeampierre agreed that community resilience had to begin at the grassroots level.

Ms. Robinson noted that the NEJAC's Storm Surge Work Group would examine waterfront issues in the northeast as well as across the country, and present its findings during upcoming Council meetings. She reported that Ms. Yeampierre and Dr. Sheats were co-chairs of the work group and that other work group members would represent various stakeholder groups.

4.0 Draft Letter about EPA's Working Draft Policy on Environmental Justice for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

Ms. Monica Hedstrom, Environmental Affairs Manager for White Earth Nation and co-Chair of the NEJAC Indigenous Peoples Work Group, described the process undertaken by the work group during its review of the Agency's tribal policy. Specifically, the work group members read and discussed a working draft of the policy and developed a response letter.

NEJAC members agreed that the letter was well written, thanked the work group for its efforts, and via a consensus vote agreed to submit the letter to the EPA Administrator.

5.0 Public Comment

Prior to the teleconference, the following three individuals submitted written statements on the specified topics. All written statements are included in Appendix B.

- **Ms. Lynne Bonnett, New Haven Environmental Justice Network**, New Haven, Connecticut. Topic: Combined sewer overflow during significant storm events. (Ms. Bonnett also provided verbal comments during the meeting.)
- **Mr. Marvin S. Robinson, II, Quindaro Ruins/Underground Railroad-Exercise 2013**, Kansas City, Kansas. Topic: Environmental justice along the riverfront of Missouri River, and Administrator Lisa Jackson's departure.
- **Ms. Jean Mendoza, Friends of Toppenish Creek**, White Swan, Washington. Topic: Community representation on Ground Water Advisory Committee for the Lower Yakima Valley in south central Washington.

In addition to written public comments, seven individuals commented verbally during the teleconference. Key points from their comments are summarized below:

Ms. Lynne Bonnett, New Haven Environmental Justice Network, New Haven, Connecticut, expressed concern about the effect of combined sewer overflow during significant storm events. Ms. Yeampierre and Ms. Robinson assured Ms. Bonnett that the NEJAC Storm Surge Work Group would consider ways that EPA could address her concerns.

Mr. Vincent Martin, Human Synergy, Detroit, Michigan, asked about the Agency's plans to address the effect of cumulative pollution sources on vulnerable communities during heavy storm events. Mr. Martin noted "alarming" findings from a recent presentation by NEJAC member Dr. Paul Mohai, during which Detroit's antiquated sewer system was alleged to allow untreated water to enter the Great Lakes. Mr. Martin urged EPA to "step up their game" by imposing stricter standards. Dr. Sheats reported that, in New Jersey, he and others were advocating for state policy to address cumulative impacts. Ms. Yeampierre commented that, in addition to storm surges, other climate conditions like heat and drought also have harmful effects on vulnerable populations.

Ms. Peggy Shepard, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, New York, New York, talked about the need for community resiliency in low-income, climate affected communities. She noted the devastation of running water systems and the effect on public housing residents during Superstorm Sandy. She called for EPA to develop a program similar to its Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program that aims to promote community resiliency as part of the Agency's community engagement efforts. Ms. Edith Pestana, Administrator, Environmental Justice Program, Office of the Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, recognized the need for cities and states to quickly restore electricity, and heating and cooling systems during severe weather events. Ms. Yeampierre added that one lesson learned from Superstorm Sandy was the need to plan for helping people in wheelchairs and on respirators during emergencies.

Ms. Chandra Taylor, Southern Environmental Law Center, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, spoke about coal ash disposal and related drinking water contamination. She referred the Council to www.southeastcoalah.org for more information about the issue. Mr. Ridgway asked about EPA's efforts to regulate coal ash disposal. Ms. Robinson committed to adding Mr. Ridgway's question to the list for Agency follow up. Dr. Sheats commented that coal ash was not considered a hazardous waste but should be. Ms. Savi Horne, Executive Director, Land Loss Prevention Project, noted that coal ash was a major problem throughout the south. She urged EPA to "weigh in" on this issue. Ms. Teri Blanton, Fellow, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, added that Kentucky was ranked one of the highest states for coal ash disposal and urged EPA to move forward in promulgating a rule for its disposal and deciding whether it should be considered a toxic waste. Ms. Andrea Guajardo, Executive Director, Conejos County Clean Water, Inc., noted that coal ash was also a huge issue for coal-fired power plants in the west.

Ms. L. Vanessa Frazier, Howardville Community Betterment, Howardville, Missouri, raised the issue of citizen notification during emergency responses. She commented that communities could do a better job in responding to emergencies if they were able to mobilize themselves. She reported that, during an ice storm in 2009, many communities across Missouri were without resources for up to 30 days, which resulted in deaths among infants and seniors. She recognized the importance of establishing Community Emergency Response Teams. She added that the occurrence of extreme tornadoes and floods were increasing as a result of climate change.

Mr. Richard Moore, Los Jardines Institute (The Gardens Institute), Albuquerque, New Mexico, expressed concern about the recent hiring of a new OEJ director. He explained that his comments were on behalf of community organizations in New Mexico and throughout the southwest. Specifically, he noted that the NEJAC was not consulted about the hiring. Mr. Moore emphasized that the objection was not personal, and he questioned the experience of the new OEJ director in interacting with environmental justice communities. Ms. Yeampierre confirmed that EPA had not consulted with NEJAC during its process to fill the position. Ms. Guajardo commented that the director had helped her organization in the past.

Ms. Michele Roberts, Environmental Justice and Health Alliance, Washington, D.C., commented on the toxicological review of inorganic arsenic as part of the Agency's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program. She noted her recent participation in a public stakeholder workshop to inform EPA's IRIS assessment. That workshop, she said, left her with "great concerns" about the environmental justice community's involvement in the process. She provided the following recommendations to EPA:

- Consider acute exposure to arsenic.
- Consider mixtures of chemicals when looking at the potential impact of arsenic in communities.
- Use existing public health data to inform the toxicological review.
- Consider the genotoxicity of arsenic (i.e., harmful effect on genetic material).
- Involve a more diverse community in the review process.

6.0 Farewell to Administrator Jackson and Retiring NEJAC Members

On behalf of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, Ms. Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, expressed appreciation for the service of the following retiring NEJAC members:

- Mr. John Ridgway, Manager, Information Management and Communications Section, Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program, Washington State Department of Ecology.
- Dr. Paul Mohai, Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan.
- Dr. Lang Marsh, Fellow, National Policy Consensus Center, Portland State University.
- Dean Patti Salkin, Professor of Law, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Touro College.
- Jolene Catron, Executive Director, Wind River Alliance.

Council members and Ms. Robinson took turns expressing appreciation for the efforts and contributions of the retiring members.

The NEJA also recognized the efforts of Administrator Jackson, who would be stepping down from her post at the end of January 2013. Dr. Marsh acknowledged the Administrator's work in raising the national profile of environmental justice under the administration of President Barack Obama, including her efforts to successfully "reactivate" the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

APPENDIX A
LIST OF ATTENDEES
(8 pages)

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
January 2013 Public Teleconference
Appendix A: List of Attendees**

Kedesch Altidor-Dorcely
U.S. EPA Region 4
Atlanta, GA

Arturo Alvarez
Harbor Community Benefit
Foundation
San Pedro, CA

Rusty Ashcraft
Alliance Coal, LLC
Lexington, KY

Amanda Aspatore
National Mining Association
Washington, DC

James Bahng
Port of Los Angeles
San Pedro, CA

Ann Baughman
Freshwater Future
Petoskey, MI

Eddie Bautista
New York City Environmental
Justice Alliance
New York, NY

Aaron Bell
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Agatha Benjamin
U.S. EPA Region 6
Dallas, TX

Teri E. Blanton
Kentuckians for the
Commonwealth
Berea, KY

Lauren Boles
City of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Lynne Bonnett
New Haven Environmental
Justice Network
New Haven, CT

Lawra Boyce
South Carolina Department of
Health and Environmental
Control
Columbia, SC

Amy Braz
U.S. EPA Region 1
Boston, MA

Jamie Bridges
Baltimore Metropolitan
Council
Baltimore, MD

Terah Burdette
Arch Coal, Inc.
Scott Depot, WV

Holly Cairns
Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection
Harrisburg, PA

Mary Carnagie
Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality
Lansing, MI

Alanna Conley
U.S. EPA Region 10
Portland, OR

Jamie Cross
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Grand Haven, MI

Maricela Cuevas
LEPC Corpus Christi / Nueces
County
Corpus Christi, TX

Lillie Davis
U.S. EPA Region 5
Chicago, IL

Danielle Deane
Joint Center for Political and
Economic Studies
Washington, DC

Elmo Dowd
Illinois EPA
Chicago, IL

Sherry Driber
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
Trenton, NJ

Francis Esposito
U.S. Coast Guard
Washington, DC

Jessica Estepa
E&E Publishing
Washington, DC

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
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Appendix A: List of Attendees**

Jeff Evon
ONC
Bethel, AK

Robert Faithful
Centerville, VA

Nathaniel Folkemer
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

L. Vanessa Frazier
Howardville Community
Betterment
Howardville, MO

Tamara Freeman
U.S. EPA Region 7
Lenexa, KY

Merritt Frey
River Network
Salt Lake City, UT

Brad Frost
Illinois EPA
Springfield, IL

Aida T. Fuentes
Puerto Rico Environmental
Quality Board
San Juan, PR

Awilda Fuentes
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Alice Furumoto-Dawson
BIG: BlacksInGreen.org
Chicago, IL

Cynthia Garcia
California Air Resources Board
Sacramento, CA

Cynthia Giles
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Renee Goins
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Linn Gould
Just Health Action
Seattle, WA

Clive Graham
ERM
Annapolis, MD

Celeste Murphy Greene
University of Virginia
Virginia Beach, VA

Andrea T. Guajardo
Conejos County Clean Water,
Inc.
Antonito, CO

Jeannine Hale
U.S. EPA Region 6
Dallas, TX

Linda Hall
ENVIRON
Emeryville, CA

Lisa Haugen
U.S. EPA Region 7
Lenexa, KS

Monica Hedstrom
White Earth Nation
White Earth, MN

Effenus Henderson
Weyerhaeuser
Federal Way, WA

Walker Holmes
Skeo Solutions
New Haven, CT

Savonala "Savi" Horne
Land Loss Prevention Project
Durham, NC

Steven Howie

Gwendolyn Hudson
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Lisa Jackson
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

John Jones
Alpha Natural Resources
Bristo, VA

Robert Kaufmann
KCPS
Washington, DC

Jamal Knight

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
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Appendix A: List of Attendees**

Rev. Earl Koteen
UU Legislative Ministry
California
Berkeley, CA

Lara Lasky
U.S. EPA Region 5
Chicago, IL

Herb Lee
Pacific American Foundation
Kailua, HI

Suzette Tay Lee
APEX Direct, Inc.
San Francisco, CA

Sheila Lewis
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Simone Lightfoot
National Wildlife Federation
Ann Harbor, MI

Braden Lusk
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY

Yolanda Manzone
San Francisco Public Utilities
Commission
San Francisco, CA

J. Langdon Marsh
National Policy Consensus
Center
Portland, OR

Vincent Martin
Humansynergyworks.org
Detroit, MI

Karen Martin
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Margaret J. May
Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council
Kansas City, MO

Courtney McCusker
Administration for Children
and Families
Washington, DC

Cassandra McFadden
White House Council on
Environmental Quality
Washington, DC

Shirley M. Miller
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Renee Moilanen
Port of Long Beach
Long Beach, CA

Michelle M. Moore
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
Long Island City, NY

Richard Moore
Los Jardines Institute (The
Gardens Institute)
Albuquerque, NM

Kelly Morgan
Colorado Department of Public
Health and Environment
Denver, CO

David Moss
Kentucky Coal Association
Lexington, KY

Janice Moynihan
Sustainable Long Island
Farmingdale, NY

Leanne Nurse
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Juan Camilo Osorio
New York City Environmental
Justice Alliance
Brooklyn, NY

Kenneth L. Page
Illinois EPA
Springfield, IL

Andrew Park
U.S. EPA Region 2
New York, NY

Edith Pestana
Connecticut Department of
Energy and Environmental
Protection
Hartford, CT

Myra Reece
South Carolina Department of
Health and Environmental
Control
Columbia, SC

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
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Appendix A: List of Attendees**

Dawn Reeves
Inside EPA
Arlington, VA

John Ridgway
Washington State Department
of Ecology
Olympia, WA

Michele Roberts
Environmental Justice Health
Alliance
Washington, DC

Nia Robinson
SisterSong
Greensboro, NC

Victoria Robinson
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Marvin S. Robinson, II
Quindaro Ruins/Underground
Railroad-Exercise 2013
Kansas City, KS

Lisa M. Rogers
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Estela Rosas
APEX Direct, Inc.
Chicago, IL

Bennett Ross
APEX Direct, Inc.
Chicago, IL

Joi Ross
APEX Direct, Inc.
Chicago, IL

Charlotte Runnels
U.S. EPA
Dallas, TX

Connie Ruth
U.S. EPA
St. Paul, MN

Fatemeh Shafiei
Spelman College
Atlanta, GA

Nicky Sheats
Center for the Urban
Environment
Trenton, NJ

Peggy Shepard
WE ACT For Environmental
Justice
New York, NY

Paul Shoemaker
Boston Public Health
Commission
Boston, MA

Amy Simes
North Carolina Department of
Natural Resources
Raleigh, NC

Stephanie Smith
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Chicago, IL

Steve Smith
Lyondell Chemical Company
Channelview, TX

Karen Sprayberry
South Carolina Department of
Health and Environmental
Control
Columbia, SC

Gary Street
Freshwater Future
Tetoskey, MI

Mike Sullivan
Terry A. Hayes Associations,
Inc. (TAHA)
Culver City, CA

Benjamin Sussman
ERM
Annapolis, MD

Amber Swain
The Solution Group, LLC
Lexington, KY

Nicholas Targ
American Bar Association
San Francisco, CA

Christi Tate
National Environmental
Health Association
Denver, CO

Daniel Taylor
Ohio Valley Environmental
Coalition
Huntington, WV

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
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Appendix A: List of Attendees**

Larry Taylor
Kentucky Department of
Environmental Protection
Frankfort, KY

Chandra T. Taylor
Southern Environmental Law
Center
Chapel Hill, NC

Denise Tennessee
U.S. EPA Region 4
Atlanta, GA

Beryl Thurman
North Shore Waterfront
Conservancy of Staten Island
Staten Island, NY

Arthur Totten
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Arati Tripathi
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Miriah D. Twitchell
Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation
Juneau, AK

Maria Voles
City of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Alice Walker
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC

Casey Warner
ERM
Raleigh, NC

Kimberly Wasserman
Little Village Environmental
Justice Organization
Chicago, IL

Kim Wells
The Solution Group, LLC
Prestonsburg, KY

Terry Wesley
U.S. EPA Region 2
New York, NY

Julie Wiley
San Diego Association of
Governments
San Diego, CA

Babette Williams
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, DC

Charles Williams
Rust College
Holly Springs, MS

Shad Williams
Centerville, MA

Allan Willinger
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
Trenton, NJ

Lori Wooten
TCEQ Corpus Christi Region
Office
Corpus Christi, TX

Alice Wright
Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection
Norristown, PA

Morgan Wyenn
Natural Resources Defense
Council
Santa Monica, CA

Elizabeth Yeampierre
UPROSE, Inc.
Brooklyn, NY

Suzanne Yohannan
Inside Washington
Arlington, VA

Arthur Zuco
U.S. EPA
Research Triangle, NC

DRAFT

**APPENDIX B
WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS
(3 pages)**

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
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Appendix B: Written Public Comments**

Name: Lynne Bonnett

Organization: New Haven Environmental Justice Network

City, State: New Haven, Connecticut

Lynne Bonnett submitted the following written statement for the public record. She plans to speak during the public comment period.

Our community needs to fix the combined sewer overflow problem resulting in raw sewage going into our rivers when it rains. Our regional sewer plant, GNHWPFA, has done little to promote green infrastructure solutions and have stated that this is the municipality's responsibility to manage storm water. New Haven is an ideal location for ground infiltration because it has alluvial soil; those with rain gardens and dry wells state that they are extremely effective and have not overflowed despite significant storm events. We need good pilot studies to demonstrate effectiveness and better information on cost of alternatives as well as how much sewage actually spills from each outfall. What can the EPA do to help our community use integrated planning to meet this challenge?

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Appendix B: Written Public Comments**

Name: Marvin Robinson, II

Organization: Quindaro Ruins/Underground Railroad-Exercise 2013

City, State: Kansas City, Kansas

Marvin Robinson submitted the following written statement for the public record. He does not plan to speak during the public comment period.

In the event I can not get through the line, for the Public Teleconference: my QUESTION would be who will pick-up the mantle and include the poor and power-less like our former Administrator Ms. Lisa Jackson, did so incredibly well ? And when can we get the ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY to come and help us utilize the Quindaro RUINS / Underground Railroad site as a model local for ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE - POLLUTION PREVENTION Educational out-reach ? And thank YOU very much . And what does it take to get on the NEJAC Borad ? In addition, why is, it that we are being taken out of our community when the Missouri River FRONT Development cuts right through our neighborhood, who can a Poor Low-Income Black community ever get help, from especially after they took yall (our regional E.P.A.) offices away from our community and moved yall to a suburban area, that does not have the Missouri River front removal of long-time poor Black residents, especailly with the heavy volume of TOXIC Waste and race issues that are clearly challenges, but we have no where else to go ? AND why are the decision-makers being permitted to just throw the poor out of community and not address any of the important problems that confront us, daily / and Thank YOU all again-

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Name: Jean Mendoza

Organization: Friends of Toppenish Creek

City, State: White Swan, Washington

Jean Mendoza submitted the following written statement for the public record. She does not plan to speak during the public comment period.

In south central Washington there is a problem with nitrate contamination of the groundwater due to over application of manure and fertilizers to croplands. The EPA designated the Lower Yakima Valley as an Environmental Justice Showcase in 2008. A Ground Water Management Area, funded by the State Department of Ecology and administered by Yakima County was created in 2012.

It is our understanding that any program that receives federal funds for environmental justice must have an advisory board that represents the affected communities. Can you elaborate on the minimum requirements for this advisory board? Over half of the members of The Ground Water Advisory Committee for the Lower Yakima Valley are agency representatives. There are currently no Hispanic representatives even though 70% of the affected population is Hispanic. There are no representatives from the population that uses private well water for drinking.