



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

**Re: Notification of Consultation on EPA Proposals for Promoting Public Participation in Permitting**

Dear Honorable Leader:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is continuing its consultation and coordination with federally recognized tribes on Plan EJ 2014, EPA's roadmap for addressing environmental justice. EPA previously sought input on the overall Plan EJ 2014 effort. Now, EPA is consulting with the tribes on "EPA Activities to Promote Environmental Justice in the Permit Application Process" under the Considering Environmental Justice in Permitting initiative of Plan EJ 2014. EPA's proposal is contained in federal register notice [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0452](#).

The proposal presents agency-wide guidelines that will inform the development of regional implementation plans to provide opportunities for overburdened communities to participate meaningfully in the permitting process for priority permits. It also presents and discusses best practices permit applicants can use to improve how they engage overburdened communities in the permitting process for EPA-issued permits. EPA is conducting a tribal consultation on the proposal.

This consultation and coordination process is being conducted in accordance with the *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes* ([www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm)). EPA invites you and your designated consultation representative(s) to participate in the process outlined in the consultation and coordination plan. See Enclosure 1. Also enclosed is a copy of the federal register notice containing EPA's proposal. EPA's anticipated timeline for the consultation and coordination period is expected to extend from August 29, 2012 to October 19, 2012.

The official EPA contact person for this consultation and coordination process is Ms. Arita Tripathi, EPA Office of Environmental Justice, at (202) 564-2044, [ejpermitting@epa.gov](mailto:ejpermitting@epa.gov). Please do not hesitate to contact Arati Tripathi if you have any questions or would like to request alternative arrangements to the process outlined in the consultation and coordination plan.

For more information about the Considering Environmental Justice in Permitting Initiative of Plan EJ 2014, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/plan-ej/permitting.html>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carol Ann Siciliano", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Carol Ann Siciliano  
Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office  
Associate General Counsel  
Office of General Counsel

cc: Lisa Garcia, Associate Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice  
Ira Leighton, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region I  
Janet McCabe, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation