

## **ENCLOSURE 1: Consultation and Coordination Plan**

### **Background Information**

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, EPA issued a federal register notice for public comment regarding “EPA Activities to Promote Environmental Justice in the Permit Application Process.” The proposal contains “Proposed Regional Actions to Promote Public Participation in the Permitting Process” and “Draft Best Practices for Permit Applicants Seeking EPA-Issued Permits: Ways to Engage the Communities at the Fence-Line.” The federal register notice is open for viewing and submitting comments on Regulations.gov (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0452) until August 27<sup>th</sup>.

The “Proposed Regional Actions to Promote Public Participation in the Permitting Process” addresses activities that EPA, as the permitting authority, can undertake to make it easier for communities to engage meaningfully and effectively in the permitting process. It 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.

The “Draft Best Practices for Permit Applicants Seeking EPA-Issued Permits: Ways to Engage the Communities at the Fence-Line” presents best practices designed to encourage and assist permit applicants to reach out to neighboring communities when applying for permits that may affect the community’s quality of life, including their health and environment.

### **Input EPA is Seeking**

EPA invites tribes to share their ideas for ensuring the meaningful involvement of overburdened communities in the permitting process. EPA welcomes all comments on the federal register notice. Some specific questions that may be helpful as you consider the draft include:

- Has EPA identified the appropriate agency-wide guidelines to inform the development of regional implementation plans? What other guidelines should EPA consider that provide both agency-wide consistency and regional flexibility in promoting the meaningful engagement of all overburdened communities, including tribal communities, and tribal governments in the permitting process?
- What criteria should regional offices use to prioritize permits for enhanced outreach?
- For priority permits, has EPA identified the appropriate activities that regional offices can take to promote the greater involvement of all overburdened communities, including tribal communities, and tribal governments in the permitting process? What other activities should EPA consider?
- What different or additional activities could permit applicants employ in the permitting process to meaningfully involve overburdened tribal communities and tribal governments?
- Based on experiences you have had in the permitting process, what lessons have you learned that can be applied to improve the agency-wide guidelines, the regional implementation plans, or the best practices for permit applicants?

### **Opportunities for Tribes to Participate**

The table below summarizes the process and timeline for government-to-government consultation and coordination from the date of this letter to October 19, 2012. Following consultation, EPA will work to finalize its proposals. If you are interested in consulting with us on this topic and you are planning to participate on the national call(s) please respond to the official EPA contact for the coordination process.

Date	Event	Contact Information
September 10, 2012	Informational call	<b>Conference number:</b> 1-866-299-3188 Access code: 2025642044  <b>Meeting time:</b> 3-4 PM EST  EPA contact: Arati Tripathi, (202) 564-2044
September 20, 2012	Informational call	<b>Conference number:</b> 1-866-299-3188 Access code: 2025642044  <b>Meeting time:</b> 4-5 PM EST  EPA contact: Arati Tripathi, (202) 564-2044
September 24, 2012	National Conference call with tribal leaders	<b>Conference number:</b> 1-866-299-3188 Access code: 2025642044  <b>Meeting time:</b> 11AM - 12 PM EST  EPA contact: Arati Tripathi, (202) 564-2044
October 3, 2012	National Conference call with tribal leaders	<b>Conference number:</b> 1-866-299-3188 Access code: 2025642044  <b>Meeting time:</b> 4-5 PM EST  EPA contact: Arati Tripathi, (202) 564-2044
October 19, 2012	Consultation and coordination process ends	Submit written comments to: <a href="mailto:ejpermitting@epa.gov">ejpermitting@epa.gov</a>

Tribes may access this letter and related consultation information on the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/plan-ej/permitting.html>. The combined goal for all these efforts is to ensure that there is sufficient information for tribal officials to make informed decisions about the desire to continue with consultation and to understand how to provide informed input.

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