



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 30, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTAL ELEMENTS

FROM:

CARMELO MELENDEZ
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT:

Environmental Justice Evaluation Tools for National
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Reviews

The purpose of this memorandum is to disseminate valuable resources to assist in advancing environmental justice principles.

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG EJ) established a NEPA Committee in 2012 pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898 (2011)¹. This memorandum identified NEPA as a focus area for inclusion in the agencies' EJ efforts. The NEPA Committee sought to improve the EJ issues in the NEPA process through sharing of best practices, lessons learned, research, analysis, training, consultation, and other experiences of federal NEPA specialists.

Since 2016, DOE has co-chaired the NEPA Committee and, maintained a leadership role in the development and production of resource materials. The following resource materials are now available for use: "Promising Practices for Environmental Justice Methodologies in NEPA Reviews"² and "The Community Guide to Environmental Justice and NEPA Methods."³ (NOTE: The statements about the limited functional equivalency exemption from NEPA are correct with respect to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). These documents are also available on DOE's NEPA website.⁴

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Disseminate and adopt the IWG EJ NEPA resources to facilitate the EJ Program through the NEPA review.

For further information, please contact Melinda Downing, Environmental Justice Program Manager at (202) 586-7703, or by email Melinda.Downing@hq.doe.gov or Denise Freeman, at (202) 586-7879, or email at Denise.Freeman@hq.doe.gov

¹ [Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898](#)

² [Promising Practices for Environmental Justice Methodologies in NEPA Reviews](#)

³ <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2019/05/f63/NEPA%20Community%20Guide%202019.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/other-agency-nepa-related-resources>

