



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report

July 2017



*It really boils down to this:
that all life is interrelated.*

*We are all caught in an
inescapable network of mutuality,
tied into a single garment of
destiny. Whatever affects one
destiny, affects all indirectly.*

– Martin Luther King Jr.

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PURPOSE

Since 2011, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Environmental Justice (EJ) directs each agency to “periodically review and update its *Environmental Justice Strategy* and ... provide a concise report on progress during the previous fiscal year.” Executive Order (EO) 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* addresses how, “each federal agency shall make achieving EJ part of its mission.” The *Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Implementation Progress Report* provides an opportunity to demonstrate how the federal government has integrated EJ into their mission.

I. INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or Department) is committed to making a visible difference as we conduct our day-to-day activities. DOE strives to create opportunities to improve the environment and human health in all communities in which DOE works, while ensuring that no population suffers a disproportionate share of adverse environmental effects. The mission of the Department is to ensure America’s security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. The Department’s EJ mission reflects a commitment to advancing the quality of life for our communities. It formulates goals based on clear priorities and tangible benefits that consider programmatic, legislative, and regulatory responsibilities. It emphasizes community participation, stakeholder involvement, and community empowerment. It refocuses research to recognize various health issues in minority populations and low-income populations, American Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives. It encourages new approaches to occupational and environmental science research for high-risk communities and workers, embraces interagency coordination to facilitate environmental protection, and heightens the sensitivity of our managers to overall environmental concerns within DOE.

II. IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

In response to EO 12898, DOE, along with other federal government departments and agencies, has focused on working closely with its stakeholders and the EJ community to address EJ concerns. DOE has established various programs, policies, activities, and partnerships that actively engage communities that have been disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards.

*Making a Visible Difference in Environmentally Overburdened,
Underserved, and Economically Distressed Communities*

The public participation process for our strategy demonstrates a commitment to public involvement. Implementation strategy and plans include objectives to promote stakeholder awareness, understanding, and participation in the decision-making processes; maintain an active public affairs program that accurately identifies public and media concerns and provides timely information; and establish stakeholder involvement and information to promote communication between stakeholders and the Department. The public participation process includes, but is not limited to, initiatives at DOE sites and a broad national dialogue.

National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program

Since 2007, DOE has sponsored the *National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program* (NEJC). Held annually in Washington, DC, the conference has brought together more than 400 leaders each year from various sectors to engage in free exchange of new ideas and new approaches to EJ. The interactive conference and training program features voices of experience, research, discussions, and thought-provoking dialogue. The conference also allows stakeholders to share needs and challenges with communities, governments, municipalities, tribes, faith-based organizations, and others with an interest in environmental matters and EJ. The conference seeks to highlight programs and collaborations that work, as well as initiatives that were not successful. Program speakers have featured representatives from:

- American Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives
- Federal and state agencies
- Local governments
- Grassroots organizations
- Community groups
- Businesses and industry
- Public interest groups
- Academia
- Other entities

NEJC is the nation's largest annual EJ conference.



DOE's EJ exhibit.



NEJC participants.



Mustafa Ali, EPA EJ Program and Kim Lambert, EJ Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Dr. Kenneth Sajwan, Savannah State University, and student presenter.

Congressional Black Caucus Environmental Justice Braintrust

Established in 1999 and convened annually by Congressman James E. Clyburn (Democrat–South Carolina) at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference, the Congressional Black Caucus Environmental Justice Braintrust brings together stakeholders from various backgrounds, including



*Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC)
addresses the 2017 NEJC.*

environmental experts, policy-makers, media professionals, and community activists to discuss issues related to EJ. The goal of the EJ Braintrust is to identify environmental issues and to recommend strategies that will assist policy-makers in developing forward-thinking, comprehensive environmental policy that recognizes and fosters the unique relationship between environmental protection, human health, EJ, and economic development.

In 2016, the EJ Braintrust focused on education and the unique relationship between environmental protection, EJ, economic development, and human health. When viewing the social determinants that play a role in communities with disproportionate health problems, education is a major factor. The EJ Braintrust brought together experts to discuss the role education plays and how to improve access to education for all communities.

Site-Specific Advisory Boards

Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs)—also known as Citizen Advisory Boards at certain DOE sites—are established across all DOE sites to acquire stakeholder input on site activities and decision-making processes. At the request of the DOE Assistant Secretary or the site manager, the SSAB may provide advice and recommendations concerning certain topics, including:

- Cleanup standards and environmental restoration
- Waste management
- Stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials
- Excess facilities
- Future use and long-term stewardship
- Risk assessment and management
- Cleanup science and technology activities

Board membership, which reflects a diversity of views, cultures, and demographics from affected communities and regions, is composed primarily of people who are directly affected by site cleanup activities.

Members include stakeholders from local governments, tribal nations, environmental and civic groups, labor organizations, universities, industry, and other interested citizens. While only one Federal Advisory Committee



Community stakeholders.

Act of 1972-chartered DOE Office of Environmental Management SSAB exists, eight local boards have been organized under its umbrella charter. They include the Hanford Advisory Board, Idaho National Laboratory Citizens' Advisory Board, Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board, Nevada SSAB, Oak Ridge SSAB, and Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens' Advisory Board. DOE maintains a robust public involvement effort at several SSAB sites. For instance, the SRS Citizens' Advisory Board, supported by DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, holds EJ meetings co-hosted by EPA and DOE. There are also public workshops on an as-needed basis.

Community Leaders Institutes and Technical Assistance Workshops

Progress requires informed and active leaders. Community Leaders Institutes (CLIs) reinforce this principle and emphasize the unique relationship between environmental protection, human health, EJ, and economic development as an essential part of community development. CLIs educate community leaders to access and obtain information that is necessary to make good decisions, as well as communicate this information back to its community members. Because of CLIs, community leaders across the country can be informed and take on active leadership roles to encourage development in their communities. Following CLI completion, a Technical Assistance Workshop (TAW) is held at each CLI location. The goal of a TAW is Phase II of the progress of the CLI. TAWs emphasize essential "how-to" skills needed for preparing and managing good grant applications.



Panel discussion at the Title VI training during the NEJC.



CLI attendees.

Education, Training, and Career Development

As a major proponent of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curricula, DOE is working closely with minority-serving institutions (MSIs) across the country to educate and train students on energy-related issues through workshops, initiatives, and internships. These efforts prepare students for future career paths that can help develop their communities in ways that address EJ concerns.

DOE headquarters and DOE sites have been actively recruiting students from MSIs. Interns can work closely with DOE staff and receive hands-on experience collecting environmental data to support communities in solving environmental issues they are facing.



Students performing energy-related research.

DOE is also a partner of MSIs Community of Partners Council. The goal of the council is to increase MSI participation in the work of federal agencies to assist in managing federally funded programs and expose the institutions to federal procurement programs. The council is also committed to utilizing its members to provide programs, activities, and services that strengthen the capacity of MSIs to provide educational excellence, improve financial and physical infrastructure, and effectively participate in federal procurements. The council is further committed to enhancing the impact of federal programs serving MSIs, and preparing students to be part of the nation's workforce and federal employment.



Students network during the NEJC.

Waste Management Education and Enhancing Environmental Science Program

DOE Headquarters and SRS partner with Savannah State University in Georgia to develop and carry out Teaching Radiation, Energy, and Technology (TREAT) workshops.

The overall goal of the workshops is to educate kindergarten through 12th grade teachers and local community leaders who reside near DOE SRS about radiation, sources of radiation, radioactive waste management, the effects of radiation on environmental health, and the negative impact of environmental radiation exposures to humans. TREAT workshops are designed to educate teachers so they can provide essential

information to their students, with hopes of fostering career opportunities in engineering and nuclear fields. Teachers also hope to take the radiation education message back to their communities.



TREAT workshop instructor, Rod Pope, EPA Region 4.



TREAT participants.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Community Development Action Coalition

The Department signed an MOU with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Community Development Action Coalition (HBCU/CDAC). The MOU engages the nation's HBCU campuses and communities with low and moderate income individuals and families through adoption of solar and other renewable-energy technologies. As a result, DOE and the HBCU/CDAC will work collaboratively to establish Clean Energy Hubs in communities where HBCUs are located, and forge a workforce and community investment partnership with all its attendant clean energy financial options, job creation, job-skills training, utility cost savings, energy education and awareness, and reduction in environmental impacts with HBCUs. These efforts support the principles of this MOU, primarily through solar, weatherization, buildings, and workforce management program offices.

Pipeline Development Program

STEM careers and pipeline programs are designed to introduce and engage middle and high school students, predominately in rural areas, to activities and learning opportunities that would encourage their interest and participation in STEM. During the 2016 academic school year, 263 students participated in pipeline programs.

Environmental Justice Institute, Allen University

DOE and Allen University established an Environmental Justice Institute (EJ Institute) at Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, in 2016. Allen University was founded in 1870 and is a private Christian Liberal Arts HBCU. The university is recognized as the first in South Carolina founded by African Americans for the education of African Americans. The EJ Institute works with EJ communities to promote a major focus on youth development; to attract and mentor students toward STEM disciplines; and to build a sustainable pipeline for training, education, and employment. This collaborative partnership plans, develops, and implements an EJ Institute for a community-sustainable resource center for rural and economically challenged minorities and low-income populations around DOE's SRS in South Carolina and Georgia. Another goal of the EJ Institute is to promote environmental, sustainable, and healthy communities by enabling them to address the burden of EJ issues through strategic partnerships and programs. These objectives will be achieved and the goal realized by the accomplishment of a three-phased intervention: 1) engagement, 2) education, and 3) empowerment. Continued implementation of the EJ Institute will demonstrate a broad-based collaboration with strategic partners and will help reduce costly duplication efforts, while achieving the goals of the community's needs.

Community Capacity Building Through Technology

Tennessee State University (TSU) and DOE provide communities with the capacity to effectively contribute to a complex, technical decision-making process by furnishing access to surplus computers and the internet. Two more key elements of the capacity-building effort are training and technical assistance. First, community-specific training can be developed and presented following a thorough needs assessment of the community. Second, technical assistance must be reliable, steady, and immediate. It must remain active until the community and the providers have a comfort level sufficient to reduce or eliminate the technical assistance. Taken together, these two key elements will help the community shape the actions that can lead to sustained capacity for meaningful participation in environmental decision-making.

Massie Chairs of Excellence Program

In 1994, DOE established the Dr. Samuel P. Massie Chairs of Excellence Program to assist its member institutions in producing top-level graduates in environmental disciplines and to generate groundbreaking environmental research. Composed of 14 HBCUs and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), the program has a team of world-class scholars, researchers, and educators who work to develop innovative and cutting-edge technologies through research and development in applied science and engineering, environmental technology, national-defense technology, homeland security, and nuclear nonproliferation studies.

Since 1998, DOE has been involved in projects to create community capacity through technology. DOE has collaborated with EPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. General Services Administration, Howard University, TSU, and others to provide training, technical assistance, and distribute computers to disadvantaged communities across the country. This collaboration has supplied excess and surplus computers to numerous small towns and community groups for use in community technology centers and in city halls. Thus far, more than 5,000 computers have been distributed.

Specific activities associated with this objective that benefit small towns and the communities are:

- Create community technology centers to give communities access to federal agencies and a wide range of environmental information on the internet
- Conduct training programs that include computer-based and internet tools, including toxic release, chemical, risk-assessment information, and community economics
- Supervise community use of the training and tools received
- Create and implement youth participation programs
- Provide economic development tools, entrepreneurship training, and other resources, such as proposal writing and grants management to make centers economically self-sufficient
- Provide continual technical assistance from HBCUs and other sources via the internet and email
- Conduct a research project to evaluate the results and examine the implications for program modification and replication

Minority Serving Institutions Partnership

In 2016, under DOE's Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program, DOE established and supported four consortium-based teams consisting of participants from select HSIs, Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and DOE sites and laboratories. These teams bring together HBCUs that share similar interests in STEM research, with the facilities and technology available at DOE sites and laboratories.

In 2016, DOE continued support of the four consortiums established in 2015, established two new consortium-based teams, and supported four consortium-based teams consisting of participants from select HSIs, TCUs, and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) sites and laboratories. These teams bring together HBCUs that share similar interests in STEM research areas with the facilities and technology available at NNSA sites and laboratories.

The two new consortiums are:

1. *Consortium for Integrating Energy Systems in Engineering and Science Education*: Universidad Del Turabo, University of New Mexico, Miami Dade College, University of Texas at El Paso, University of Puerto Rico–Mayaguez, Sandia National Laboratory, National Energy Technology Laboratory
2. *Advanced Manufacturing Network*: American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Navajo Technical University, Salish Kootenai College, Turtle Mountain Community College, Bay Mills Community College, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Sandia National Laboratory

Minorities in Energy Initiative

The Minorities in Energy Initiative (MIE) addresses the needs of underrepresented communities in the energy sector. The goal of MIE is to create a substantive, sustainable model that connects diverse stakeholders to address challenges and opportunities for minority engagement in energy economic participation, STEM, and education. The initiative also seeks to inspire youth from underrepresented communities to pursue careers in energy and support their advancement to leadership positions. MIE activities focus on STEM education, workforce development, energy, and economic development.

College/Underserved Community Partnership Program

In January 2017, DOE signed an MOU with EPA to foster collaboration between the partners by adopting the College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP) to engage colleges and universities in providing technical assistance to minority populations and low-income populations, American Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives that are located geographically nearby the institutions.

The program is designed to benefit underserved communities by providing technical assistance (e.g., writing grants, developing proposals, creating communication plans, drafting site plans, creating building designs, organizing community meetings) at no cost to the communities. The program also benefits participating college and university students by providing them with opportunities to gain practical work experience, while earning course credits. Geographical proximity enables the colleges and universities to maximize the support provided by college students in their area of academic study, while being overseen by professors supporting the effort. It is the intention of CUPP to promote long-term relationships between participating schools and communities, which could foster healthier and functionally improved communities.

Mentorship for Environmental Scholars

The Mentorship for Environmental Scholars (MES) program is a 10-week, paid summer internship that provides exposure to laboratory research to underrepresented college students in the areas of biotechnology, computer science, engineering, and environmental science. The MES program actively recruits qualified undergraduates from HBCUs, TCUs, HSIs, and other minority institutions for extensive training that will pilot them toward gainful employment in various research and management positions within DOE.

Eligibility requirements include:

- All United States citizens, including residents of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and other territories may apply
- Applicants must be rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors attending an accredited MSI, as recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and be a member of an underrepresented group, including ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities
- Applicants must be pursuing a degree in STEM-related fields (i.e., chemistry, computer science, environmental science, biology, business administration, public administration, etc.)
- Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale (B average and above)



Student environmental research.



MES participants.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Investment and Internship Opportunities and Education Partnerships

In 2016, the Department continued to invest a significant amount of time and resources in developing educational opportunities, particularly for minority populations and low-income populations, American Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives. These investments have come in different forms, including significant investment in research and development programs at MSIs; scholarships, internships, and mentorship programs at DOE sites; and STEM-development roundtable discussions.

Examples of DOE investment in STEM education for 2016 include:

- Supported 36 undergraduate and graduate interns (2002 to 2106) for participation in the student internship program managed by DOE.
- Supported internship programs and scholarships on a variety of subjects at several DOE sites and offices, many of which occur through partnerships with nearby MSIs. This involves hundreds of interns each year. Some of these interns are converted to year-round status as interns, or are hired as full-time federal employees or contractors.
- Established and supported, under the MSIs partnership program, four consortium-based teams consisting of participants from select HBCUs and NNSA laboratories. These four teams are the Consortium for K-20 Cybersecurity Workforce Pipeline, the Consortium on Materials and Energy Sciences, the Consortium for Research on the Science and Engineering of Signatures, and the Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing.
- Funded five University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) DOE scholars across several STEM disciplines in 2016 as the UMBC Meyerhoff Program.
- Provided Spellman College scholarships to exceptionally qualified young women to pursue their academic goals of earning STEM degrees, and enabled earlier graduates to mentor current STEM students.



STEM student research.

Partnerships and Representation

Tri-Party Agreement

The Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement [TPA]) supports achieving compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund). During 2016, TPA continued to be regularly modified to adapt to completion of many River Corridor Project elements and changing priorities for other aspects of DOE's Hanford, Washington, cleanup mission. Hanford site management remained focused on assuring public input was solicited and incorporated into changes that were proposed or made. Assessments were conducted to assure that the views and values of tribal nation representatives, minority populations and low-income populations, American Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives were incorporated into the Hanford site's decision-making processes.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

DOE is the premier institution for renewable energy and energy-efficiency research and development in the United States. DOE works in three major areas: reducing dependence on imported oil; finding ways to make cost-competitive electricity from renewable resources; and optimizing the efficiency of our homes, buildings, and factories.

As a member of Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP), the Department supports clean energy deployment around urban waterways, which helps to strengthen the relationship between DOE and local leaders in partnership communities. DOE provides tier-one customer support to UWFP communities to help them navigate DOE's programs and more easily access resources that can help them achieve their city's clean energy objectives. Since joining the partnership in October 2012, DOE has participated in an Urban Waters National Training Workshop and conducted introductory phone calls with partnership pilot communities.

The missions of DOE and UWFP are strategically aligned to the following goals:

- Develop approaches that can accelerate economic growth and job creation while improving the environment, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air and water quality
- Ensure diversity and choice in the way energy services are produced
- Provide American businesses and households with low-cost energy services by creating low-cost renewable supplies and energy-efficient products and systems
- Insulate the United States economy from the price and supply uncertainties associated with petroleum

For more information regarding this partnership, visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/mission-alignments-urban-waters-agency-partners>.

Columbia Basin

Through its environment and fish and wildlife programs, DOE is committed to protecting and improving the Columbia Basin ecosystem (Pacific Northwest Region) as mitigation for federal dams and the transmission system. The Columbia Basin is home to many minority populations and low-income populations, American Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives. A significant amount of DOE's ecosystem work is implemented through tribal partners under contracts and agreements.

In 2016, water acquisition included 47 transactions that will restore 38,000 acre-feet of water per year to help enhance habitat in critical tributaries. The estuary habitat program completed six estuary restoration projects, providing benefits to fish species in the ocean and in streams. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) allocated \$129.5 million in capital and expense funds to Columbia River Basin tribes to assist BPA in meeting its fish and wildlife obligations through hydro, habitat, and hatchery actions, as well as research and monitoring during 2016.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

One of DOE's initiatives includes working with EPA to collaborate on Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act activities in Tennessee. The Superfund site is near a community and it is also on the National Priorities List. DOE is the lead agency responsible for implementing cleanup of the site. EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation oversee DOE activities, pursuant to FFA. FFA establishes priorities for cleanup and an annual enforceable schedule for addressing those cleanup priorities. EJ principles applied, as part of these priorities, ensured greater public participation and promoted enforcement of all health and environmental statutes in areas with minority populations and low-income populations, American Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives.

National Historic Preservation Act

In 2014, Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA) initiated consultation under Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 responsibilities for a proposed Multi-State Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement. The State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), tribes, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and other parties or agencies were formally invited to actively participate in the process of combining the current three separate, state-based Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreements into a combined Multi-State Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement for SWPA's maintenance and operations activities. At that time, six of the 16 invited tribes agreed to participate in the project, which continued to be in a state of active consultation with SHPOs and ACHP throughout FY 2016.

Partnership with Tribal Communities

To build capacity of tribal communities and address EJ concerns, DOE sites are actively engaging and collaborating with tribal governments and communities. DOE is working to incorporate EJ principles in its collaboration with federally recognized tribes in building capacity to establish public participation, community involvement, education, and communication systems to engage with American Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, and others affected by tribal programs.

DOE is involved with cleaning up nuclear waste at nationwide sites and facilities. The waste, a result of nuclear weapons production, has affected sovereign tribal nations located near these facilities. The tribal nations have been impacted by different types of waste contamination, and their participation in the Department's mission is critical.

- DOE maintains cooperative agreements with specific tribes located around sites, facilities, and along routes used to transport wastes and materials. DOE continues to provide funding for the State and Tribal Government Working Group for the purpose of supporting national meetings including the National Tribal Energy Summit. In all cases, these meetings were with tribal leaders, staff, and senior management discussing and addressing various issues of concern. Additionally, DOE provided support to the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum Tribal Caucus and two meetings related specifically to transportation issues. Support included meeting costs and travel for tribal representatives and their staff, showing the Department's commitment to resolve various issues of concern. DOE also provided substantial staff support to its Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs and its Indian Country Energy Infrastructure Working Group.

- From 2002 through 2016, the Tribal Energy Program managed by the DOE Office of Indian Energy has awarded a total of \$66.5 million to fund 217 tribal energy projects valued at more than \$126 million. During that same period, tribes contributed a total of \$59.7 million in cost sharing to advance their energy projects. Projects such as these allow tribes to assess their renewable energy resources, conduct feasibility studies, and deploy clean energy projects. The projects also allow tribes to learn about, and realize, the environmental and economic benefits of clean energy, while building community awareness.
- DOE, through cooperative efforts of multiple agency offices, jointly funds a program that allows four tribal governments located near DOE sites to develop and maintain environmental monitoring programs in their respective reservation area and community, and to provide technical input to the DOE decision-making processes. The program also funds a community-based education initiative, which incorporates community-based subject matter into STEM curriculum, at the Santa Fe Indian School—an Indian-owned, residence high school in New Mexico.
- The National Tribal Energy Summit is held biennially. Hosted by DOE in coordination with the National Conference of State Legislatures, the event brings tribal leaders together with senior administration officials and representatives from federal agencies, state governments, private industry, utilities, and academia to exchange ideas and explore new and permanent solutions to our combined energy challenges.
- DOE, through a contract with Sandia National Laboratories, provides summer internships to tribal college students as a means of providing opportunities to conduct research, participate in a cross-disciplinary team, and provide hands-on experience working on tribal energy projects. Between 2002 and 2016, 36 undergraduate and graduate interns have participated in the internship program. These interns represent 20 different tribal affiliations and 18 different student majors. Of those interns, 25 percent were converted to year-round status and 11 percent were hired as full-time employees or Sandia contractors. A total 61 percent of interns were female students, hired based on merit and a competitive selection process.
- DOE continues to support the Navajo Nation Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action program through the cooperative agreement that helps provide support for independent inspections of the four sites (Monument Valley, Arizona, Processing Site and three disposal cells at Mexican Hat, Utah; Shiprock, New Mexico; and Tuba City, Arizona) by their staff. DOE will continue to work with participants of the Navajo Nation Five-Year Plan who are a part of the Community Outreach Network. Interacting with other federal and Navajo agencies is a helpful and useful tool for working together to accomplish the overall goal of informing and educating community members as a group with the same purpose.
- DOE provides funding to Pueblo Indians, a federally recognized tribe, to assist with preparing a proposal to conduct a Santa Clara-specific human-health risk assessment.



Trade and industry exhibitors visit with attendees during the National Tribal Energy Summit.

- DOE co-sponsored three EJ and tribal trainings related to compliance with DOE Order 144.1, *Department of Energy American Indian Tribal Government Interactions and Policy*, and EO 12898. Participants included federal and contractor personnel from DOE and other federal agencies. DOE also cosponsored the 2016 Joint DOE/DOE-Contractor Environmental Attorneys training that included an EJ component.
- DOE sustained tribal capacity building and environmental program work with all cooperative tribal agreements in FY 2016, supporting critical involvement of tribes in DOE decision-making and transportation-planning activities at Hanford, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico, and the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York. As a result, there is enhanced protection of critically important tribal cultural resources, tribal treaties, and other rights and interests.
- DOE continued to support scientific and tribal staff to examine site cleanup strategies, and proposed work that may positively impact tribal rights, interests, and support formal consultations.
- DOE provided comments to site and contractor staff on impacts from DOE sites to tribal lands, including participation in the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process.
- DOE performed environmental monitoring activities and data collection on tribal lands to help determine impacts and supplement DOE data, where applicable.
- DOE, through the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) Renewable Resource Program, offers tribal organizations technical assistance, in partnership with the DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. In FY 2016, WAPA conducted five tribal pre-feasibility transmission and utility formation studies. Several of the studies resulted in tribes moving forward with the next level of effort to develop renewable energy projects.

Community Outreach Plan

The Department developed an *Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) Community Outreach Plan*. This document was approved by EPA and the State of Tennessee. Initially, DOE considered a location for the EMDF on a site closest to residents in the Scarboro community, which is an area with minority and low-income households. However, many area residents had questions about the scope and detail of this project. DOE developed a communication plan that involved substantial outreach, listening, and briefings to city and county leadership and Scarboro community leaders and residents. This communication effort helped address and resolve their concerns. Additionally, since that time, the EMDF is now projected to be constructed in another location.

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) office finalized 20 NEPA reviews (four Environmental Impact Statements [EISs] and 16 Environmental Assessments [EAs]). Of these, 12 NEPA reviews, four EISs, and eight EAs included detailed EJ analysis. Four of the remaining NEPA reviews provided justification for not performing a detailed EJ analysis. For example, an EA evaluating the impacts of setting efficiency standards for low-rise federal buildings "does not impact any specific group of persons." Because of these NEPA reviews, DOE determined that the proposed actions would not have potential to cause "disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations, American Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives."

III. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGY UPDATES AND REVISIONS

In November 2007, the Department re-established its EJ Task Force to review and update the 1995 *Environmental Justice Strategy* and develop an *Environmental Justice Five-Year Implementation Plan*. Members of the Task Force included representatives from the offices of Legacy Management; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Environmental Management; General Counsel; Environment, Health, Safety, and Security; Chief Human Capital Officer; Economic Impact and Diversity; NEPA Policy and Compliance; the NNSA; SRS Operations; Sustainability Performance; BPA; WAPA; and SWPA.

More than 20 years after the signing of EO 12898, DOE remains committed to the principles of EJ and continues to build upon the legacy of EO 12898. In 2017, the Department updated and published its newly revised *Environmental Justice Strategy* (EJ Strategy), which seeks to demonstrate the Department's commitment to comply with EO 12898.

The 2017 EJ Strategy provides a roadmap for our goals and objectives, highlights our major priorities for the next few years, and will be reflected in individual program plans.

The EJ Strategy contains the following goals:

- Goal 1:** Fully Implement Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*
- Goal 2:** Integrate Environmental Justice into the National Environmental Policy Act Process
- Goal 3:** Comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Using best management practices, the Department will continue to seek new ways to implement and advance the overall goals of EJ identified in EO 12898. Each federal agency's responsibility set forth under this order shall apply equally to all minority populations and low-income populations, American Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives.

IV. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FISCAL YEAR 2016 THROUGH 2018 FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG EJ) plays a central role in creating healthy and sustainable communities by bringing together the federal family to address critical environmental issues.



IWG EJ cabinet-level meeting.

Interagency listening sessions held across the country between 2011 and 2015 generated numerous public comments that influenced development of the framework. The draft also underwent a public comment period and the IWG EJ reviewed and considered all comments received to develop a final framework document. The framework builds upon the earlier work of IWG EJ and outlines activities, priorities, and resources

to strengthen a comprehensive federal approach to improve the health and sustainability of those communities that need the most assistance.

IWG EJ developed this framework, which builds on decades of work, to focus the collective efforts of the federal agencies on four goals for years 2016, 2017, and 2018:

- Enhance communication and coordination to improve the health, quality of life, and economic opportunities in overburdened communities.
- Enhance multi-agency support of holistic community-based solutions to provide assistance, as needed, to address environmental issues.
- Advance interagency strategies to identify and address concerns in agency programs, policies, and activities.
- Develop partnerships with academic institutions to assist in providing long-term technical assistance to overburdened communities.

Department of Energy Actions

While DOE actions to date have made a significant and visible difference in addressing environmental health disparities, environmental protection, and economic development issues in a number of communities, additional efforts can be made to continue support to advancing community revitalization and sustainability. The following comments and recommendations resulting from the listening session are initiatives that will enhance DOE's efforts to provide additional support to communities:

- **Increase DOE participation in stakeholder engagements**

DOE should continue to engage stakeholders (e.g., listening sessions and conferences) to better understand the various issues that exist in proximity to DOE sites, as well as inform stakeholders of DOE policies, programs, and activities that can help address these issues.

- **Expand the Community Leaders Institutes Program and Technical Assistance Workshops across the country**

The successes and importance of CLI program workshops and TAWs demonstrate that they should also be replicated throughout the country near more DOE sites. These programs prepare community leaders to become "better informed" leaders in order to best address the issues in their communities.

- **Continue to conduct and sponsor the *National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program***

Given the successes of the annual NEJC in providing a forum to discuss and address various issues, the conference should continue to be supported in the future.

- **Continue to work with American Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Tribal Governments**

DOE sites situated around American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native communities should increase efforts in working with American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native governments to address environmental issues. Examples of successful partnerships are the Hanford TPA, and LANL's partnership with nearby tribes and tribal governments.

- **Increase community presence on Site-Specific Advisory Boards**

DOE sites should increase community presence by ensuring that at least one member of a minority population and low-income population, American Indian Tribe, and an Alaska Native community sits on the board to bring issues and concerns to the attention of the site manager and other stakeholders.

- **Work with state and local governments to address various environmental issues**

DOE should continue working directly with state and local governments to address their concerns, as many of the issues are community-specific.

- **Continue to partner with other federal departments and agencies**

DOE should partner with other federal departments and agencies who have been involved in addressing environmental concerns across the country, where DOE site issues exist.

- **Continue to partner with Minority Serving Institutions**

DOE should continue to partner with MSIs across the country, (e.g., continue to promote STEM curricula through programs like TREAT).

V. ACRONYMS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CLIs	Community Leaders Institutes
CUPP	College/Underserved Community Partnership Program
DOE or Department	U.S. Department of Energy
EAs	Environmental Assessments
EISs	Environmental Impact Statements
EJ	Environmental Justice
EMDF	Environmental Management Disposal Facility
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FFA	Federal Facility Agreement
HBCUs	Historically Black Colleges and Universities
HBCU/CDAC	Historically Black College and University Community Development Action Coalition
HSIs	Hispanic-Serving Institutions
IWG EJ	Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
MES	Mentorship for Environmental Scholars
MIE	Minorities in Energy Initiative
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSIs	Minority Serving Institutions
NEJC	<i>National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program</i>
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
SHPOs	State Historic Preservation Officers
SRS	Savannah River Site
SSAB	Site-Specific Advisory Board
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
SWPA	Southwestern Power Administration
TAW	Technical Assistance Workshop
TCUs	Tribal Colleges and Universities
TSU	Tennessee State University
TPA	Tri-Party Agreement
TREAT	Teaching Radiation, Energy, and Technology
UMBC	University of Maryland, Baltimore County
UWFP	Urban Waters Federal Partnership
WAPA	Western Area Power Administration

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