

DRAFT
OAQPS FY 2007 - 08 Environmental Justice (EJ) Progress Report

In 2007 and 2008 OAQPS staff and managers broadened the scope of OAQPS activities that incorporated environmental justice (EJ) concerns. This progress report addresses activities that correspond to the FY07-08 OAQPS EJ Action Plan and highlights other activities that were not anticipated when the action plan was developed. The activities described below are organized to reflect the organization of the OAQPS EJ action plan, which listed 2 objectives for meeting the Agency's goal of Clean Air & Global Climate Change.

Objective: Reduction in number of asthma attacks (e.g., reduce asthma triggers such as particulate matter)

Tribal New Source Review Permit Rules:

- Staff developed a proposed rule that addresses significant regulatory gap in Indian country and levels the playing field for sources.
- Staff designed and conducted WEBex trainings and other trainings for Regional offices and for Tribal audiences.

Enhanced Capabilities of BenMAP: OAQPS added additional demographic variables to BenMAP software and tested the enhanced software using PM NAAQS RIA input data. A number of datasets were added to BenMAP, including census-block level population data differentiated by race, ethnicity, 19 different age groups and gender, and county-level data on poverty status and educational attainment. To test the application using these new datasets, the distributional impacts of the 2006 revisions to the fine particle national ambient air quality standards (PM_{2.5} NAAQS) were evaluated. Specifically, a selected baseline was compared with a 2020 control scenario and the distribution of air quality improvements and resulting health benefits among different socio-demographic groups was examined. The results of this analysis were described in a draft written report that is available on-line at <http://www.epa.gov/air/ej/index.html>.

The report also moved OAQPS closer to its intermediate goal of analyzing projected air quality impacts and associated distributions for selected OAQPS regulations. The report provides some initial ideas of ways to analyze, organize, and present information regarding the distributional impacts of OAQPS regulations and may serve as a draft approach for further quantitative distributional analysis on OAQPS air quality regulations.

Analyses of Distributional Impacts for Selected Rulemakings: In FY2008, OAQPS also conducted a limited analysis of the distributional impacts of lead air pollution in support

of the lead NAAQS proposed rulemaking. This analysis focused on identifying the socio-demographic characteristics of populations living near ambient air lead monitors and near stationary lead sources emitting greater than 1 ton of lead per year. Due to limitations on the available emissions inventory for lead and the small size of the lead monitoring network, it was not possible to do air quality dispersion modeling, to estimate actual exposures, or to estimate, through a tool like BenMAP, the health outcomes likely to be experienced by different population groups. However, OAQPS was able to conduct a limited analysis which demonstrates progress toward the intermediate goal of analyzing the impacts of specific regulations. The analysis is available at <http://www.epa.gov/air/ej/index.html>.

In 2008, OAQPS also assessed the distribution of lifetime individual cancer risk from refinery emissions for residents who live within 50 kilometers of petroleum refineries by race and ethnicity, by age, by income, and by educational attainment levels in support of the petroleum refinery residual risk standard. The analysis is available at <http://www.epa.gov/air/ej/index.html>.

Great American Wood Stove Changeout and Burn Cleaner Campaign:

- Grant Awards to Tribes and Low-income Families: OAQPS awarded a \$100K wood stove changeout grant to the Makah Tribe and provided “Burn Clean” education and outreach materials, technical assistance and training to their staff. OAQPS also awarded three other \$100K woodstove changeout grants to assist low-income families.
- Outreach and Education: OAQPS conducted formal presentations to and/or distributed information at several trainings, conferences, workshops throughout the country, reaching more than 500 tribal environmental, health and housing officials.
- Libby, MT Whole Town Changeout: The largest effort and biggest success has been the whole town wood stove changeout started in June 2005 and completed in March 2007 in Libby, MT. Libby is an economically depressed community where many people have been severely impacted by asbestos related diseases from mining operations. More than 1100 wood stoves have been replaced in Libby. Preliminary data suggests a significant improvement in the indoor air quality and out door air quality.
- Other Low-income Wood Stove Changeout Efforts: EPA has supported low-income assisted wood stove changeout campaigns in several other locations (e.g., Marietta, OH, Oakridge, OR, Oneida Tribe – WI, Nez Perce Tribe). More than 1,500 older wood stoves have been replaced.

NAAQS Support:

- Staff provided guidance and support to Tribes regarding the designations process for the new 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS.
- Staff provided Tribal training and technical assistance to increase effectiveness of Tribal participation in state air quality planning process via 2 workshops, which trained approximately 35 participants.

EJ Training for OAQPS staff: 35 staff received training on considering EO 12898 in the context of regulatory development; 50 staff attended an EJ presentation designed to give staff an appreciation of the perspectives of EJ communities; 15 staff took a tour of several EJ communities in Mebane, NC.

EJ Guidance Documents: In 2007-8, the Environmental Justice Team developed two guidance documents to promote EJ integration into OAQPS policies and programs: an OAQPS policy on environmental justice and a flow chart (draft) that shows how EJ should be considered as part of the action development process (which formed the basis for the EJ “rule aid” for rulewriters that is being developed by OPEI). The EJ Team has also prepared a draft EJ strategic plan for OAQPS.

Objective: Reduce exposure to air toxics (e.g., reduce releases of mercury)

Collision Repair Campaign:

The Collision Repair Campaign is a voluntary program between EPA and local communities that works to reduce and eliminate harmful air toxics from collision repair or auto body shops. The program’s goal is to help shop owners reduce paint, solvent and related hazardous waste disposal costs. It also aims to achieve enhanced compliance with OAQPS’s Paint Stripping & Miscellaneous Surface Coating Rule by reducing pollutants early and to levels beyond those required by the rule. The Collision Repair Campaign has trained over 750 people, representing close to 500 repair shops.

Development of Residual Risk Rules: OAQPS proposed 2 rules covering 9 source categories.

Development of Area Source Rules: OAQPS proposed 3 rules covering 15 source categories and promulgated 13 rules covering 25 source categories.

Tools for Communities: OAQPS created the Improving Air Quality in Your Community web site, which includes a matrix of air toxics reduction activities for indoor and outdoor air and mobile sources.

National Workshop on Best Practices with Respect to EJ and Air: Around 130 participants from across the country participated in a dynamic, interactive workshop on best practices for highly impacted and vulnerable communities, taking home with them tools and contacts they can use to improve air quality in their communities.

EJAir Website: OAQPS developed and maintains the OAR web site for EJ issues, which has received more than 1,900 hits.

Development of EPA's Protocol for EJ Reviews of Standard Setting and Rulemaking/Regulatory Development: OAQPS staff co-chaired development of this protocol for completing EJ reviews.

Developed Draft GIS Indicator Based Tool for Identifying Areas with Potential EJ Concerns from a national perspective rather than a single state perspective.

OAR Lead for the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program.

Continued Development and Evaluation of Air Quality Modeling Tools for predicting concentrations of multiple pollutants at a fine geographic scale, using Detroit as the case study area. (In 2009, a more refined analysis will be initiated using the results of this case study.)

Continued Development of Essential Emission Inventory Infrastructure.

Coordinated a National Grant Competition for community air toxics monitoring and organized a workshop among participating agencies.

Guided Selection of Newly Required NCORE Multipollutant Monitoring Sites.

Implemented Memorandum of Understanding with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University: In 2008,

- EPA made 6 visits to NC A&T campus to provide career information.
- EPA staff taught a course on campus.
- 8 summer interns participated in program and 2 secured permanent full time jobs with EPA.