

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2006 Environmental Justice Progress Report

FROM: Lorena Romero-Cedeño /s/
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Office of Environmental Information

TO: Nicholas Targ
Associate Director for Environmental Justice Integration
Office of Environmental Justice

Please find enclosed the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Environmental Justice Action Plan Progress Report for Fiscal Year 2006. The Plan builds on the progress OEI has made in implementing its environmental justice program during the past three years. We will soon be preparing to present to the Agency the 2007 Action Plan which will build from our current program.

Given OEI's role in the Agency as the National Program Manager for information, our environmental justice activities focus on ensuring that OEI products and services address the information and analytical needs of Agency managers and staff working with tribal and environmental justice communities. We are committed to the principles of environmental justice, and support the Agency's goal of integrating environmental justice into all EPA programs, policies, and activities.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 202-566-0978.

Attachment

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN
 FISCAL YEAR 2006

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water
Objective 2: Clean and safe drinking water

Activities	Output	Outcome	Result
<p>1. Initiate and support the development of a sustainable community-based Drinking Water Well Initiative for <u>unregulated household wells</u> (not subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act) located in the San Luis Valley (SLV) of Colorado. This initiative is intended to position homeowners with unregulated wells to implement testing and monitoring of their water quality.</p>	<p>By September 2006, conduct community focus group sessions in five counties of the SLV to introduce the concept of household well testing and drinking water safety.</p> <p>By September 2006, produce a lessons-learned report to share with all EPA Regional Offices which work with rural communities having unregulated wells.</p>	<p>By 2006, communities have increased awareness of household drinking water well initiative.</p> <p>By 2006, homeowners have a greater understanding about why annual household well water testing is important to their health.</p> <p>By 2006, all EPA Regional Offices are better equipped to help homeowners test and monitor the water quality in their unregulated wells.</p>	<p>6 Counties (Alamosa, Rio Grande, Costilla, Conejos, Saguache, and Mineral) participated in community focus group sessions. 9 community meetings were conducted in the different counties during the months of May and June of 2006.</p> <p>417+ Household well owners/users were presented with a 1 ½ hour presentations on the importance of well water testing. The communities were also trained by laboratory staff on how to collect an acceptable well water sample.</p> <p>355 household well owners participated in the Pre-testing Survey. This survey covered basic questions on health, well types, contaminant facts, well usage, well testing and maintenance.</p> <p>Lessons-learned report is being developed. Sole-source funding was awarded early September 2006; report will be finalized in January 2007.</p>

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Activities	Output	Outcome	Result
	<p>By September 2006, conduct well water testing and analysis for financially distressed households in 5 counties of the SLV.</p>	<p>By 2006, homeowners become aware of their water quality issues based on the data from the testing.</p>	<p>417 Mailings which included Laboratory Results, Facts Sheets, and information on how to interpret test results.</p> <p>119 (28.5%) Households were positive for Bacteria. All household positive for bacteria were notified by telephone 48 hours after testing on how to Shock-Chlorinate their wells.</p> <p>5 (1.4%) Households were above MCL for Nitrate. These households were notified by phone 48 hours after testing. Filtration Facts were discussed.</p> <p>0 Households were above MCL for Nitrite.</p> <p>11.9 % Households tested for Arsenic were above MCL.</p> <p>0.6% Households tested for Lead were above MCL.</p> <p>0 Households tested were above MCL for Selenium.</p> <p>0 Households tested were above MCL for Copper.</p>

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	<p>By September 2006, produce and distribute environmental information and educational materials – in English and Spanish -- concerning household drinking water well safety and risk.</p>	<p>By 2006, homeowners are able to implement testing and monitoring to improve their water quality issues using the environmental information and educational materials on household drinking water well safety and risk.</p>	<p>3.6% Households tested for Fluoride were above MCL.</p> <p>0 Households tested were above MCL for Pesticides.</p> <p>3.1% Households tested for Uranium were above MCL.</p> <p>417 Households that participated in the drinking water well project will be contacted via telephone and asked to participate in a post-survey. Questions will address risk reduction, testing, maintenance, and filtration devices.</p> <p>Educational Materials Distributed:</p> <p>375 booklets entitled “Drinking Water From Household Wells”</p> <p>30 Spanish Language booklets entitled “Agua Potable de Pozos Residenciales.”</p> <p>400+ booklets entitled “Water On Tap: what you need to know”</p> <p>400+ pamphlets entitled “Water Health: Bottled Water Basics”</p> <p>400+ pamphlets entitled “Water Health: Filtration Facts”</p>

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			400+ pamphlets entitled "EPA Children and Drinking Water Standards" 400+ Fact sheets: "Understanding Drinking Water Test Results" 400+ Fact Sheets: "Bacteria" 400+ Fact Sheets: "Chlorinating your Well" 400+ Fact Sheets: "Nitrates" 400+ Fact Sheets: "Nitrites" 400+ Fact Sheets: "Arsenic" 400+ Fact Sheets: "Pesticides" 400+ Fact Sheets: "What to do after the Flood"

Cross Cutting Strategies:

Objective: *Internal Capacity Building (e.g., internal program management)*

Activities	Output	Outcome	Result
<p>1a. Include activities in the Exchange Network Grant Solicitation that support information management capacity building for tribes.</p> <p>1b. Include activities in the Exchange Network Grant Solicitation that support information management capacity building for tribes.</p>	<p>Awarding EN grants to tribes that enable them to build their information management capacity</p> <p>Awarding EN grants to tribes that enable them to build their information management capacity.</p>	<p>Three tribes have established EN nodes for exchanging environmental and health data.</p> <p>Set aside 10% of available funding of EN grants for tribal proposals.</p>	<p>The Cherokee Nation has established a Node. At least two tribes are expected to establish EN Nodes by the end of CY 2006.</p> <p>The EN Grant Program awarded ten (10) grants to tribes in FY 2006.</p>
<p>2. Coordinate an EJ training effort in OEI to build capacity of EJ Fundamental among staff who work to carry APA's mission to all communities.</p>	<p>20 OEI employees will complete the EJ Fundamentals course.</p>	<p>Staff are better able to interact, understand, and support the Agency's to ensure environmental justice for all people, regardless of race color, national origin, or income.</p>	<p>Training coordination is ongoing.</p>

Cross Cutting Strategies:

Objective: *Internal Capacity Building (e.g., internal program management)*

Activities	Output	Outcome	Result
<p>3. Coordinate a training effort in OEI to build capacity of tribal knowledge among staff who work to carry out OEI's and EPA's mission in Indian Country.</p>	<p>20 OEI employees will complete the Working Effectively with Tribal Governments on-line training.</p>	<p>OEI employees learn the Agency's trust responsibility and treaty obligations in order to serve Tribal Country.</p>	<p>Training coordination is ongoing.</p>
<p>4. In cooperation with the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), enhance the Tribal Information Management System (TIMS). TIMS accesses data from many sources in order to provide information on environmental conditions and to track the impacts of environmental programs in Indian country.</p>	<p>TIMS is currently available on the EPA intranet. In FY06, OEI will coordinate with AIEO to determine additional requirements to develop and improve the application.</p>	<p>Provide a framework for federal agencies and Tribal governments to identify environmental risks and target resources.</p>	<p>Improvements are ongoing.</p>
<p>5. In cooperation with the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), continue to develop the Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool.</p>	<p>OEI will continue coordination with the EJ community to determine additional requirements and use an iterative process to continue the development of the next version of the Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool.</p>	<p>The EJ Geographic Assessment Tool allows for the interactive identification of a community. EPA and the public may then generate a report with relevant statistics associated</p>	<p>Further development is ongoing.</p>

Cross Cutting Strategies:

Objective: *Internal Capacity Building (e.g., internal program management)*

Activities	Output	Outcome	Result
6. On all (i.e., 100%) quality assessments where EJ-related roles and activities are addressed in the organization's QMP, OEI will include a question about implementation of policies addressing EJ concerns.	Because of this question, OEI can determine whether organizations are following up on the EJ concerns documented in their QMPs and, as a result, into their quality-related work.	An organization's successful implementation of its QMP, including data use and EJ activities, meets the requirements of EPA's Quality System.	Completed.
7. In FY06 OEI partnered with EPA Regions to conduct training needs assessment to determine quality system training needs of tribal environmental programs.	This assessment would allow OEI to determine who needs quality training and what kind of training would be most appropriate.	Tribal organizations will have up-to-date training on establishing and maintaining a quality system for projects and activities.	Assessment is ongoing.
8. Provide the hosting, computing and network infrastructure required for the existing and enhanced EJ Geographic Assessment Tool.	An efficient and secure infrastructure is available for the EJ Geographic Assessment Tool.	EPA and/or the public have the means to electronically access the EJ Geographic Assessment Tool.	Accomplished.
9. Provide the hosting, computing and network infrastructure required for the existing and enhanced Tribal Information Management System (TIMS).	An efficient and secure infrastructure is available for TIMS.	EPA and/or the public have the means to electronically access TIMS.	Efficiency is an ongoing effort.

