

Environmental Justice in Maryland

**Prepared for the
Cumulative Impacts Workgroup**

Kathy M. Kinsey

Deputy Secretary

Maryland Department of the Environment

June 26, 2014

What is Environmental Justice?

- Environmental Justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
- Fair treatment means that everyone enjoys:
 - the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards associated with industrial, municipal and commercial activities;
 - equal access to the decision-making process to achieve a healthy environment in which to live and work; and
 - access to socio-economic resources necessary to address livelihood and health concerns.

MDE's Environmental Justice Initiatives

- ❖ Office of Environmental Justice

- ❖ Following work of other states

- ❖ Participating in EPA workgroups



- ❖ Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

Mission of CEJSC

- ❖ **Advise State government** agencies on EJ matters
- ❖ **Analyze the effectiveness of State and local government laws and policies** to address issues of EJ and sustainable communities
- ❖ **Coordinate with CEHPAC** on the issues of EJ and sustainable communities
- ❖ **Develop criteria** to identify Maryland communities that may be impacted by EJ issues
- ❖ **Recommend options** for addressing EJ issues to the Governor, General Assembly; include prioritized areas of the State that need immediate attention

MDE's Environmental Justice Initiatives

- 2009 Senate Bills 4 & 47
- Sheriff Road Pilot Project
- Expanding the Commission
- 2011 MDE Internal Workgroup
- Added EJ guidance language to major permit applications that require public participation
- Added EJ guidance to MDE's permit guide for certain permits
- Developed stakeholder information documents
- Hosted/participated in numerous public dialogues

Addressing Environmental Justice: Some of the Challenging Issues

- Local Planning and Zoning
- Public Health & Cumulative Impact Assessment
- Transportation
- Housing
- Economics



Goals of Workgroup

- **Develop a framework** for addressing cumulative impacts in Maryland
- **Assess feasibility** and examine legal questions
- **Support the “give and take”** of ideas from all stakeholders
- **Plan** with existing resources, but keep an eye on better times
- **Think outside the box**

Maryland Department of the Environment

Contact Information

Lisa Nissley

Legislative Liaison & EJ Coordinator

Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Baltimore: 410-537-2812/Annapolis: 410-260-6301

lisa.nissley@maryland.gov