

Air Permitting Forum Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** *Joanne Morin (DEP)*
- **Environmental Justice Policy Overview** *Deneen Simpson (DEP EJ Director)*
- **Enhanced EJ Outreach for Air Permits / Including Fact Sheets in applications for CPAs and ECPs** *Joanne Morin (DEP)*
- **Discussion**
- **Other Updates**



What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice is based on the principle that **all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards** and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of **race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency.**

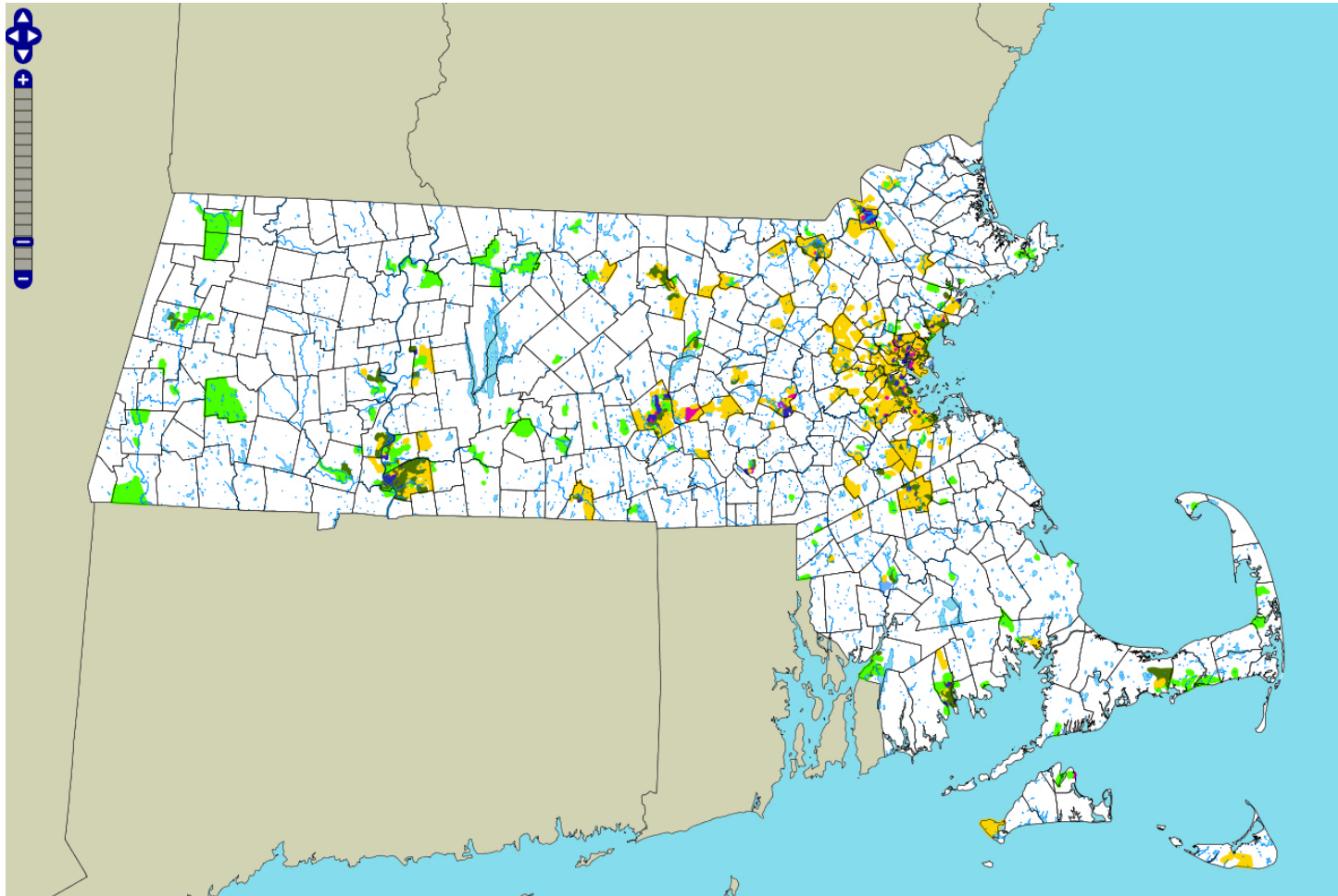
Environmental Justice **is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people** and communities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of **energy, climate change, and environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and burdens.**



What is an EJ Population?

- 25 percent or more of the residents are minority; or
- 25 percent or more of the residents have English isolation; or
- The median annual household income is at or below 65 percent of the statewide median income for Massachusetts.





Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts

EJ areas based on 2010 Census blocks – interactive map on the EJ website

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>



2017 EEA EJ Policy Public Involvement Plan Components

- Develop Public Participation Plan (Community Engagement/ Public Involvement)
- Schedule public meetings or hearings at locations and times convenient for neighborhood stakeholders, near public transportation, if possible
- Encourage permit applicants to hold pre-application meetings with the local community, provide Fact Sheets and EJ Organizations Lists
- Translating public notices and other key public engagement documents in areas of limited English proficiency

On case-by-case basis:

- Establish local information repositories convenient accessible for the impacted community
- Provide timely notices and guidance



When to Notify EJ Populations/Organizations

- Engage with EJ populations early and often
- Before the proposed decision stage
- Before the public comment period
- Before any public hearing begins



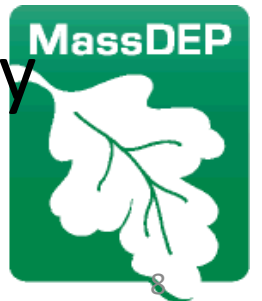
Lessons Learned...

- Be genuine and available
- Be mindful of information overload (meet the community where they are)
- Once the volume is turned up on community concerns – its very hard to turn down
- Public may never accept the project but may appreciate the community engagement and meaningful public involvement
- Follow up and commit to stay engaged
- Communicate next steps and any schedule changes



Enhanced EJ Community Engagement

- MassDEP increasing outreach to enhance public participation opportunities, including use of Fact Sheets
- Key agency actions include Air Quality Comprehensive Plan Approvals and Emission Control Plans
- Since outreach should occur as early as possible, draft Fact Sheets needed at application stage
- Draft Fact Sheet should be 2 - 4 pages in lay-friendly language describing the proposed project and how it may affect EJ populations



Draft Fact Sheet Content

- Introduction
- Facility Information
- Project Information
- Environmental Justice Population, including map
- Public Participation and Comment Opportunity
- Applicant Contact Information



Process

- Upload Draft Fact Sheet with application in ePlace
 - Select Category as “Other”
 - Include “FACT SHEET” in file name
- MassDEP will review and may request changes
- MassDEP will distribute final Fact Sheet to any affected EJ populations, and translate as needed
- Final Fact Sheets will be posted to website



Questions ?



Other Updates

