



October 13, 2015

Michelle.A.Reid@state.ma.us

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: Michelle Reid, Director of Environmental Justice
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Reid:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft revisions to the Environmental Justice Policy of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (Draft EJ Policy). The Draft EJ Policy holds huge potential to guide resources to benefit communities of color and low income communities and support their efforts to stave off environmental and health threats and to foster healthy communities.

The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) is a state-based, nonprofit, environmental policy and advocacy organization whose mission is to protect the health of our environment and citizenry by safeguarding the land, water, and air of our Commonwealth. ELM appreciates the work you have been conducting to advance environmental justice. Below are some suggestions we submit in hopes of helping to strengthen the Draft EJ Policy.

EJ Populations

Massachusetts has some small, isolated communities that are not statistically large enough by Census Block Group or otherwise to meet the definition of EJ Populations. We recommend the addition of an opt-in provision, so that small, isolated communities can petition the Secretary for Energy and Environmental Affairs to be recognized as EJ Populations.

Servicing EJ Populations

- **2. EJ Training.** We recommend that all staff receive some level of EJ training, especially enforcement staff.
- **7. Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group.** We recommend that the Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group meet quarterly.
- **10. Secretariat EJ Strategies.** Executive Order 552 required that secretariat EJ strategies be completed within 180 days of the effective date of the Order. They are now overdue. We recommend that the Draft EJ Policy require that EJ strategies, if not yet completed, be completed within 180 days of the effective date of the final EJ Policy.

- **11. Senior-Level Commitment.** Contact information for EJ points-of-contact should be posted on the EEA website, in newsletters, in funding requests for proposals, and other appropriate places.
- **10. Agency Public Involvement and Community Engagement Programs.** These public participation programs should be due with 180 days of the effective date of the final EJ Policy.
- **13. Enhanced Public Participation Under MEPA.** We recommend the addition of energy and transportation projects be included under number (1). We also recommend that enhanced public participation include the use of social media along with alternative media outlets.
- **14. Enhanced Analysis of Impacts and Mitigation Under MEPA.** Again, under number (1), we recommend the inclusion of transportation and energy projects. In the first sentence of the first paragraph after the bulleted section, the words “but are not limited to” should be added after the words “may include.” Also, we recommend that in the MEPA certificate, the Secretary should make a specific finding as to potential impacts to EJ Populations as part of any enhanced analysis of impacts and mitigation under MEPA.
- **17. Enhanced Public Participation and Analysis of Impacts and Mitigation Under the Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”).** In the second paragraph, after the word “substances” we recommend adding “or the compound impacts caused by proximity to multiple energy, industrial, or transportation sources and the potential synergistic effects thereof.”

Investments in the Economy and Open Space

In the last item, number 32, we recommend that the word “climate” be added before “adaptation” in the bolded section.

Also, the implementation of Executive Order 552 and the Draft EJ Policy present the opportunity for EEA and DEP to take into account **cumulative impacts**. EEA should identify communities that have a disproportionate share of facilities and conduct community impact statements as part of any review process for siting of new industrial, large commercial, transportation, or energy facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft EJ Policy.

Erica Mattison

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