

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Environmental Protection Agency

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

3b. GSA

Committee No.

1717

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

06/24/2024

6. Expected Renewal Date

06/24/2026

7. Expected Term Date

03/01/2025

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

8b. Specific Termination Authority

Executive Order
14217

8c. Actual Term Date

03/01/2025

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Request for Approval

13. Effective Date

07/23/1993

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

20c. How frequent and relevant are the

Committee Meetings?

There were no meetings in FY 2025.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

There have been no closed or partially closed meetings.

21. Remarks

Consistent with the President's Executive Order 14217: "Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy" and pursuant to the directive by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 41 CFR 102-3.55(a)(2), and all other applicable authorities, this committee is terminated. This order commences a reduction in the elements of the federal bureaucracy that the President has determined are unnecessary. Reducing the size of the federal government will minimize government waste and abuse, reduce inflation, and promote American freedom and innovation.

Designated Federal Officer

Paula Flores-Gregg DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Baptiste, April	11/26/2019	11/25/2024	Tier 1, Associate Professor, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY	Representative Member
Barreto, Brenda	10/31/2022	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Director, San Juan Bay Estuary Program, San Juan, PR	Representative Member
Carroll, Ambrose	10/31/2021	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Founder, Green the Church, Oakland, CA	Representative Member

Clow, Scott	10/31/2021	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Program Director, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, Co	Representative Member
Colon de Mejias, Leticia	10/30/2021	03/01/2025	Tier 1, President, Green Eco Warriors, Windsor, CT	Representative Member
Doyle, John	10/31/2022	03/01/2025	Tier 1 - Principal Investigator, Crow Agency, MT	Representative Member
Fritz, Jan	11/26/2019	11/25/2024	Tier 1, Professor, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH	Representative Member
Hall, Yvonka	10/31/2022	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Director, Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, Cleveland, OH	Representative Member
Harrison, Jill	10/31/2022	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Associate Professor, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO	Representative Member
Hopkins, Loren	10/31/2022	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Chief Environmental Science Officer, City of Houston, Houston, TX	Representative Member
Kricun, Andy	10/31/2022	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Managing Director, Moonshot Missions, Erial, NJ	Representative Member
Mabion, Richard	10/31/2022	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Founder, Building A Sustainable Earth Community, Kansas City, KS	Representative Member
McCoy, Nina	10/31/2022	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Chairperson, Martin County Concerned Citizens, Inez, KY	Representative Member
Nagano, Ayako	11/26/2019	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Board Member, Common Vision, Berkeley, CA	Representative Member
Owen, Sofia	10/31/2022	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Attorney, Environmental Justice Legal Services, Roxbury, MA	Representative Member
Pauli, Benjamin	11/26/2019	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Associate Professor, Kettering University, Flint, MI	Representative Member

Perry, Jonathan	10/31/2021	03/01/2025	Tier 1, President, Becenti Chapter, Crownpoint, NM	Representative Member
Shirley, Jacqueline	11/26/2019	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Rural Develop Special, RCRC, Albuquerque, NM	Representative Member
Talley, Pamela	11/26/2019	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Lewis Place Historical Preservation, St. Louis, MO	Representative Member
de Aztlan, Cemelli	11/26/2019	03/01/2025	Tier 1, Network Weaver, El Paso Equal Voice, El Paso, TX	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 20

Narrative Description

During FY 2024, NEJAC held one hybrid meeting and two virtual meetings. The NEJAC had three workgroups and one consultation team addressing various environmental justice challenges including Farmworker Protection, Cumulative Impacts, Civil Rights, Title VI, and the TCTACs, respectively. NEJAC provides independent advice and recommendations to the Agency on matters related to environmental justice and focuses on key areas that include evaluation of a broad range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory, community engagement, and economic policy issues related to environmental justice. This includes EPA priorities to build on the Agency's core mission work, address the needs of our partners through cooperative federalism and attend to both the rule of law and the process. Engaging stakeholders through the NEJAC supports several goals of EPA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, but Goal 2: (Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights) is a key goal for the work of the NEJAC. EPA will continue to communicate and partner with key stakeholders including those who have been underrepresented, to achieve more innovative and sustainable outcomes. EPA recognizes that minority and/or low-income communities may be more frequently and disproportionately exposed to environmental harms and risks. Moreover, EPA believes that ensuring environmental justice means that all people are given the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Integrating

environmental justice considerations into the Agency's outreach activities, public policies, science, data collection, regulatory development, and enforcement and compliance decisions is difficult. To address this difficult task, the Agency has sought input from the various multi-stakeholder entities that comprise the NEJAC. Hence, an external advisory group with the experience and sensitivity to environmental justice issues is critical to the Agency's goal of integrating environmental justice considerations into its policies, programs, and activities. As a committee consisting of representatives of academia, community-based organizations, business and industry, state and local government, non-governmental organizations, and tribal governments and indigenous organizations, the NEJAC has provided consensus advice to the Agency for creative strategies to better address the human health and environmental protection needs of all people, including minority and low-income communities, as well as tribal populations and indigenous groups and organizations, and to ensure that the goal of environmental justice is being integrated in Agency policies, programs, and priorities. The NEJAC continues to serve as a valuable resource to Agency program and regional offices, several of which sponsor NEJAC work groups. NEJAC meetings also serve as a forum for public dialogue on ways that other federal agencies, state, local, tribal governments and business and industry can better address environmental justice concerns.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other ☐

Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

N/A

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

1,082

Number of Recommendations Comments

In the 31 years since the NEJAC was chartered, it has issued 67 formal reports of recommendations and letters of advice, as well as nearly 40 resolutions to the Agency.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

35%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NEJAC has provided advice and recommendations to EPA on a large and diverse number of environmental justice issues over a 31-year period. Its recommendations have served to influence every EPA program area and had a tremendous impact on the maturation of environmental justice within EPA and throughout the United States due to the critical leadership role EPA plays on environmental justice issues nationally. Thanks to the

advice and recommendations provided by NEJAC, the Council has often been at the forefront of important environmental justice issues, e.g., brownfields redevelopment, cumulative risks and impacts, urban revitalization, and the impact of climate change on communities. The result is that NEJAC has helped to achieve a visible difference in communities across the United States. The exact percentage of recommendations above that have or will be fully implemented is difficult to estimate because the nature of policy recommendations is such that it often takes a several years to implement new policy due to changing agency priorities and resources. To our best estimate, approximately a third of the NEJAC's recommendations have been or are currently being implemented. Furthermore, all regional and program offices, as well as many other federal and state government agencies, have sought to address the site-specific issues raised during the NEJAC's deliberations and the public comment periods. Finally, the NEJAC's recommendations and meetings have been instrumental in the widespread education of EPA senior managers and staff regarding the environmental and public health concerns of disadvantaged, under-served, and environmentally overburdened communities and tribes. This education has brought about significant behavioral change within the Agency and a commensurate increase in the public's trust in and goodwill toward the Agency. The NEJAC's influence and impacts have benefited EPA and other stakeholders in the following key areas:

PRACTICING MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT Throughout its existence, NEJAC has stressed and strongly encouraged the need to meaningfully engage communities, especially underserved, overburdened, and underrepresented populations. NEJAC's work in this area includes:

- o Developing the pioneering Model Plan for Public Participation;
- o Convening a roundtable to discuss environmental justice issues in the U.S.-Mexico Border region to include Colonias and disadvantaged unincorporated communities; and
- o community engagement issues around federal facilities, grant program implementation, and climate justice challenges.

ENCOURAGING EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT, REVITALIZATION, AND LAND USE NEJAC understands that environmental justice is not limited to community engagement and community clean-up. Equally important, the Council realizes sensitivities to environmental justice carry through to community recovery and redevelopment. NEJAC work in this area includes:

- o Ensuring that environmental justice concerns were incorporated into EPA's Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative and associated grants program; and
- o Addressing community concerns about unintended adverse impacts that resulted during EPA's, redevelopment, and revitalization efforts.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING NEJAC believes that building the capacity of communities and enhancing their ability to meaningfully participate in the improvement of their communities is critical to any effort to address environmental justice concerns. NEJAC work in this area includes:

- o Supporting the EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program; and
- o Examining mechanisms to monitor air toxics in school communities and best practices for

ensuring that school communities are engaged about efforts to identify and address air toxics. **EXPANDING RESEARCH AND ASSESSING RISKS** NEJAC stresses that effective research and an assessment of risks are critical to addressing environmental justice. The Council's work in this area includes: o Addressing cumulative risks and impacts in response to EPA's Cumulative Risk Assessment Framework; and o Identifying ways to integrate environmental justice into EPA's Research Enterprise. **ENHANCING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AND POLICIES** NEJAC has urged EPA to enhance and improve its regulatory authorities and policies to protect the health of vulnerable communities. Examples of the cutting edge NEJAC work in this area include: o Outlining best practices for developing a Superfund Permanent Relocation Policy for low-income and minority residents living in proximity to toxic waste sites; o Advising on the development of guidance on the siting and operations of waste transfer stations in disadvantaged communities; o Urging EPA to define legal authorities under its various environmental statutes to address environmental justice issues; o Urging the development of nationally consistent environmental justice screening tools; and o Advising on how to better integrate environmental justice into permitting programs and made recommendations for improvements for the worker protection standards for farmworkers. **IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES** NEJAC has assisted EPA in developing effective government to government relationships with federally recognized tribes, and in developing effective relationships with all other indigenous peoples to address their environmental justice concerns. This work includes: o Producing a Guide on Consultation and Collaboration with Indian Tribal Governments and Indigenous Peoples, and the Public Participation of Indigenous Groups and Tribal Members in Environmental Decision Making; o Outlining how EPA could assist tribes in providing meaningful public involvement as they develop and implement federally approved tribal environmental regulatory programs; o Reviewing EPA's draft Policy on Environmental Justice for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples; and o Advice on Fostering Environmental Justice for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples draft policy on EJ for tribes and indigenous peoples EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples. **PROMOTING STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF GOODS MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES** NEJAC focused on ways in which EPA can support reducing pollution and its impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns living near facilities. NEJAC advised EPA on ways in which it could: o Reduce air pollution from goods movement, with a focus on the pollution impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns living near goods movement facilities. **IMPROVING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE** In the aftermath of the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes, NEJAC provided advice and recommendations to help EPA better address concerns of communities that have been, as well as may be in the future, impacted by emergency events and disasters. NEJAC has

provided critical advice to EPA regarding: o Changing EPA emergency management procedures to ensure environmental justice concerns are adequately addressed for future major emergency events; o Ensuring communities are engaged in the planning and response to such events, and o Improving Agency preparedness and response to chemical plant disasters. CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH In recent years, NEJAC has provided constructive advice about the public health dangers of climate change, particularly for vulnerable communities. NEJAC work in this area includes: o Taking proactive action to address the effects of storm surges on industrial waterfront communities; and o Addressing climate change as part of on green business and sustainability efforts, working with indigenous communities, and as part of EPA's Clean Power Plan. Agency Feedback Comment* In addition to feedback to Council members at meetings of the Council, the Agency uses a more systematic process for reviewing and reporting back to the Administrator about the recommendations of the NEJAC. The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) works in consultation with the relevant program offices to respond to the recommendations within three to four months. The process focuses on the development of a review plan through which program offices will review and describe to the Office of the Administrator how the Agency will respond to recommendations, including actions taken and future commitments. The intent of the process is to provide maximum flexibility for the Agency to respond to the intent, spirit, and the specific content of a set of recommendations, both as a whole and/or individually. This review results in a Summary Response Document and subsequently is distributed to the committee. This Response Document also is posted to the NEJAC website.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

35%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

See recs fully implemented comment.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

In addition to feedback to members at meetings of the council, the Agency uses a more systematic process for reviewing and reporting back to the Administrator about the recommendations of the NEJAC. The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) works in consultation with the relevant program offices to respond to

the recommendations within three to four months. The process focuses on the development of a review plan through which program offices will review and describe to the Office of the Administrator how the Agency will respond to recommendations, including actions taken and future commitments. The intent of the process is to provide maximum flexibility for the Agency to respond to the intent, spirit, and the specific content of a set of recommendations, both as a whole and/or individually. This review results in a Summary Response Document and subsequently is distributed to the committee. This Response Document also is posted to the NEJAC website.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) was established by EPA on September 30, 1993, to provide independent advice to the EPA Administrator on broad, cross-cutting issues related to environmental justice. Over the course of its history, NEJAC has provided a crucial forum for the discussion and elevation of issues critical to the environmental justice movement and the integration and consideration of environmental justice within the work of EPA and the larger Federal family. NEJAC's influence has spanned the environmental justice spectrum from foundational issues of meaningful involvement and land use to future direction on science and fundamental policy issues related to regulations and rules. NEJAC has convened meetings on all three coasts and many points in between. Its members have ranged from leaders of business and industry to leaders of tribal governments, citizen advocates, world-renowned scholars and, most importantly, residents of communities facing their own environmental justice challenges. The products and presence of this body have made an undeniable impact upon the Agency it serves, and an impact which continues to generate progress on environmental justice through its past advice and current endeavors. It has also served as a place of convening for the many citizens, advocates and supporters of environmental justice throughout the United States. Though perhaps easily overlooked, this is one of the most important aspects of NEJAC – as a consistent space where officials from EPA and other Federal agencies can convene with a broad spectrum of those working to support

environmental justice not only to hear advice and recommendations, but to come together as individuals in a spirit of friendship, collaboration and mutual respect. The ability to come together has always been a hallmark of the strength of environmental justice as a movement, and similarly grounds and supports EPA's continuing efforts to further environmental justice within and throughout the federal family. In the 30 years since its creation, the NEJAC, through its deliberations, has brought to EPA decision making an outside perspective from diverse stakeholders that EPA managers and staff otherwise would not have access to. It has helped bring together a group of diverse stakeholders and the Agency in constructive ways to address environmental justice issues. In addition, the NEJAC has played a significant role in educating and sensitizing EPA managers and staff about Environmental Justice. NEJAC recommendations have called for a collaborative problem-solving approach to address environmental justice issues and have enabled EPA program and regional offices to become more aware of, and better informed about, community concerns to devise proactive approaches to addressing these concerns. NEJAC recommendations have played a role in the creation of EPA's CARE Program, the Diesel Retrofit Program, various environmental justice grant programs, the multi-agency Brownfields and Superfund Job Training Initiatives, and other EPA Initiatives. The NEJAC also has helped to sensitize EPA to the needs of Tribal government and Indigenous communities, farmworkers, and improved NEPA training.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A