

Human Dimensions in Environmental Program Evaluation

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Roadmap for Presentation



Environmental Justice

Threshold Questions



US EPA Perspective

Importance of Evaluation



Environmental Law Alternative Dispute Resolution (ELADR)

Case Analyses

Threshold Questions:

What is Environmental Justice?

- *Environmental Justice* is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies



...everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, work, play and pray...

Threshold Questions:

Why is Environmental Justice Important?

Environmental Justice is the goal to be achieved for all communities so that:

- People of all races, colors, and income levels are treated fairly with respect to the development and enforcement of protective environmental laws, regulations, and policies
- Potentially affected community residents have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the decisions that will affect their environment and/or their health
- Disproportionately burdened and vulnerable subpopulations that may be exposed disproportionately to environmental harms and risks are adequately protected

US EPA Perspective

Historical: recognized role of evaluation and sought to improve implementation

Current: emphasizes role of evaluation in meeting new priorities

Value:

- ❖ Promote environmental justice
- ❖ Increase accountability
- ❖ Ensure tangible benefits

US EPA Perspective

Important Areas of Application

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Regulatory Development
- Enforcement Targeting
- National Environmental Policy Act

US EPA Perspective

Challenges

- Definition Development
 - EJ Community
 - EJ Impacts
 - EJ Benefits
 - EJ Analysis
- Baseline
- Surveillance
 - Data collection
 - Tools for measurement

US EPA Perspective

Illustration:

Environmental Justice Program Reviews

- EPA's Inspector General Identified Need
- Extensive Effort to Develop and Conduct
- Protocols for Core Function Areas
 1. Rule Making and Standard Setting
 2. Permitting
 3. Enforcement
 4. Remediation/Clean-up
- EJ Review Process
 - Scoping
 - Design
 - Data Collection
 - Analysis and Reporting

Environmental Law ADR Approach



ELADR: Overview

Purpose: Promote the use of environmental laws and ADR to constructively address EJ issues

Project Team: Environmental Law Institute, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, JAMS/ADR Associates

Training Participants: Leaders of community based, grassroots organizations facing environmental justice challenges

Where: All EPA regions plus Puerto Rico

ELADR Evaluation

Internal

– Process

- Pre-Training: Background Questionnaire
- During Training: Participants Feedback
 - Workshop session
 - Evaluation Form
- Trainer's Debriefing

ELADR Evaluation

Internal

- Outcome: capture data on impact of intervention
 - Data base of participants
 - Letter/phone calls on impact
 - Attitude
 - Behavior
 - Condition
 - additional activities to strengthen base of information collected (e.g. website)

ELADR Evaluation

External: TBD

Challenges-

- Paperwork Reduction Act
- Baseline
- Incomplete Intervention

Conclusion: Next Steps

