

EPA

Moderator: Carol Anna Siciliano
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6:00 p.m. ET

Operator: Good afternoon. My name is (Lamont) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time, I would like to welcome everyone to the listening session of Environmental Justice Permitting for Environmental Justice Communities and Community Groups Conference Call.

All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speaker's remarks, there will be a comment session. If you would like to make a comment during this time, simply please press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your comment, press the pound key.

I would now like to turn the call over to Carol Ann Siciliano, assistant general counsel of EPA's Office of General Counsel. You may begin.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Thank you very much. This is Carol Ann Siciliano of EPA's Office of General Counsel. And I welcome all of you to this listening session in support of EPA's Environmental Justice Permitting Initiative.

These listening sessions are proving to be a very important way for EPA to gather critical information from all sorts of people who are interested in this issue. And your ideas and your insights are critically important because what we're doing here with this listening session is we're trying to get success stories, we're trying to get lessons learned, we're trying to identify tools that can help EPA do a good job in building a structure and developing a framework for integrating environmental justice into permits. And who better than the environmental justice community and environmental justice

community groups to help us to identify what some of those tools might be and to learn from the successes that you have experienced out there in the field and also to learn lessons from some of the war stories that you've experienced where things did not go quite the way you would have liked. We think you have a lot of experiences that will be highly beneficial to us and we are looking forward very much to hearing you speak.

We've had four listening sessions already in this group. We've had state and local government who's spoken to us, the regulated community, business and industry has spoken, we've had environmental protection groups and then this morning or this afternoon rather, we heard from tribal governments, tribal communities, and tribal businesses. And so, now, it's the environmental justice community's turn to share with us your experiences and your insights and your ideas and your suggestions and we're very eager to hear from you.

The format for this listening session is the same as it's been for the others, which is that we welcome and indeed encourage people within that stakeholder group to speak to us, to identify yourself as a speaker, engage in colloquy with each other and certainly share your ideas with us. And then – and we invite everyone else who is listening in on this call to pay attention to what's happen here, to get ideas of your own and even to think about reaching out apart from this line to people you've heard speak because what we are trying to do in addition to building a tool box of ideas, we're also trying to foster relationships with the key people involved in environmental justice and that's you all as well as us.

And so, I hope everyone learns a lot from these calls. I certainly hope EPA does and I expect that will be the case. So, welcome and thank you, and I'd like to turn this conversation now over to our facilitator (Mike Tatelman).

(Mike Tatelman): Thank you very much, Carol Ann. Thank you very much, everybody. Welcome once again to this EJ Permitting Listening Session. We're delighted that you're able to participate and honored. My name is (Mike Tatelman). I'll be serving as the facilitator for this listening session. My role will be to help keep the meeting focused and going smoothly, particularly to ensure that the maximum number of people can participate in the discussion.

As Carol Ann mentioned, this is one of six listening sessions that are being held to provide individuals and organizations the opportunity to provide their suggestions, ideas, and experience for the consideration of EPA. This listening session is specifically designated to allow members of the environmental justice communities and community groups to share their views. And as Carol Ann mentioned other listening sessions have been held to allow others to provide their thoughts including, for example, state, local, government, business industry, environmental groups, tribal governments, communities and businesses.

As is the case of all the listening sessions, anyone is welcome to join this call as a listener. And we have two hours for this listening session. So, therefore, we want to be as efficient as possible so that everyone who wants to will have an opportunity to speak. And to this end, we kindly respectfully ask that only individuals or representatives of organizations that are environmental justice communities and community groups speak during this listening session. Other audiences have time at other sessions to provide their suggestions and thoughts. Please only one member representing a community organization to speak and please speakers limit your remarks to five minutes or less.

Now, we're using an operator assisted conferencing system for this telephonic meeting. The operator will ensure that each speaker has an uninterrupted opportunity to provide their views by allowing only one person to be heard at a time. Operator, at this time, would you please reiterate for everyone the way that someone can request a chance to speak?

Operator: At this time, if you would like to make a comment, please press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. Again, that's star one to make a comment.

(Mike Tatelman): Thank you. OK, so we hope there will be enough time for everyone to speak, who wants to speak to do so. But if you're not able to or would prefer not to speak during the listening session or you do not have enough time to deliver all your comments in five minutes, please note that you can submit your comments in writing after the listening session by sending an email to the

following address. I'll say it twice. The address is ejpermitting@epa.gov,
ejpermitting@epa.gov.

And because of the point of this session is to listen and obtain your suggestions, feedback, and experiences, EPA will not respond to specific questions or comments during the call. Also please note that the EPA is recording this session to ensure that all of your thoughts are captured. And EPA will post a transcript to this session to the following site. This is a long website, so I'm going to say it a couple of times. It is www.epa.gov/air/caaac/meetings.html. I'll say it one more time; www.epa.gov/air/caaac/meeting.html.

Now, it was noted earlier by Carol Ann, EPA hopes to learn of your ideas in a number of topics on this call. Specifically, we're interested in hearing your thoughts, suggestions, and experiences from the following questions.

What ideas do you have for tools or mechanisms to assist in considering environmental justice in the permitting process? In light of your experience with environmental justice issues and the context of facility permit, what are some of the successes and lessons learned? What permits, for example, the type and location, should EPA focus on in the initiative? And finally, some states developed programs addressing EJ and permitting, for example, Connecticut and Illinois. What suggestions or recommendations do you have for the EPA initiative based on experience with state permitting programs?

So, thank you very much again for your participation, and we now look forward to your thoughts and feedbacks, and operator, would you kindly please open the line to the first speaker.

Operator: Your first comment comes from the line of John Blair.

John Blair: Hello. I'm John Blair. I live in Evansville, Indiana, which is at the very southern tip of the – we call it the Pocket City down here of Indiana, which also happens to be kind of in the center of the largest concentration of coal fire electrical generation in the nation in North America and perhaps the world although maybe China has taken that distinction over at some point.

A few things that I'd like to talk about. One of them is that I suspect that with my dealings with some other agencies in the Federal government that environmental justice is not even on their radar as it should be even though it's been; you know, now 17 years since the executive order was initiated. And in a couple of instances of Indiana and Kentucky in particular, on separate occasions, have indicated that state government doesn't believe that – they think that because of their own rules and regulations and delegated authority like they have under the Clean Air Act administered Title V and so forth, they think that Federal law doesn't apply to them, if it's more stringent than what the state law requires.

And I've heard – I've heard the states actually say that under in legal proceedings that, "Well, the Clean Air Act doesn't really apply to Kentucky because we have a different regulation than the Federal government does." And the same thing only in a water situation in Indiana where our state agency, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management tried to claim that the Clean Water Act didn't apply to Indiana because we had our own regulations that dealt with that. So, that was – that's my first concern.

My second concern really is in one particular issue that we're dealing with down here in Southwestern Indiana now, the Department of Energy is proposing to give over \$2 billion loan guarantee to a facility that already has more than 30 million pounds of toxic chemicals emitted in that neighborhood and in the very same neighborhood within a mile of one another of Rockport, Indiana.

And it seems to me that you know 30 million pounds of toxic chemicals being emitted to the water and the air by a power plant and by a steel mill would almost preclude any kind of permitting in a town of only 2,068 people. This Rockport facility now has – they want to put a gasification plant there, which will certainly add to that burden as well as to the burden of those that center of the concentration or power plants that I mentioned which can rise as high in a good year, a non-recession year, of 58 million pounds of toxic chemicals being emitted in that same region.

But in Rockport itself the toxic emissions according to TRI are greater than the combined toxic emissions of all the counties that make up New York City, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Indianapolis, Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Diego combined. It seems like this environmental justice process should have taken – maybe they're – I don't know exactly how you should do it, but it seems like it should have precluded a federal agency proposing a loan guarantee of \$2 billion in that same community when it's already one of the most toxic, polluted communities in the world. So, that's another thing.

Compliance and enforcement on both regular environmental laws like the CAA, Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Act, SMACRA, TOSCA, et cetera, could go a long way toward emitting – mitigating over all EJ problems, since enforcement at the state level is sometimes nonexistent and when it does happen it amounts to little more than a slap on the wrist to the polluters. In fact, some states have become so lax that polluters simply look at the meager fine as a cost of doing business and that is easier on their bottom line.

Well, environmental justice requires earlier intervention on these things and that's why, you know, whenever I heard that you were doing this listening session on permitting really made sense because this is something the whole permitting idea should be done in a way that isn't further burdening people who are living in non-attainment areas of the (knacks) ...

(Mike Tatelman): John, excuse me.

John Blair: And people who are living in areas where, you know, the drinking water is already so polluted ...

(Mike Tatelman): Excuse me, John.

John Blair: With a variety of chemicals that it's sometimes not safe to drink.

(Mike Tatelman): John, excuse me. I don't know if you can hear me. We really appreciate your remarks. We just are trying to limit them to five minutes so.

John Blair: OK. Well, one more point that I'd make and that is that the whole idea of precautionary principle should be the underlying and overriding concern that

you guys do in the permitting issue of environmental justice. So, thanks for giving me this time.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Sure, John, thank you very much. I mean you've identified a couple of very important points for us to be thinking about and I appreciate your taking the time to share them with us.

Operator: Your next comment is from the line of Donna Hippert.

Donna Hippert: Hi, first of all, I wanted to thank you all for holding these sessions. We appreciate the opportunity to have this input and I wanted to say today on behalf of OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon. I believe one of my colleagues has already sent you a draft proposal that we have – that we're working with in Portland here. We're working with the Portland Air Toxic Solutions Advisory Committee on ways to – it's a very innovative program and we're working on ways to reduce air toxics to the health benchmarks that they've promulgated here in our state.

One of the things that we're looking at in conjunction with that, we're looking at all sorts of different sources of these air toxics, but we are looking at facilities and we've recommended that facilities that are contributing to the air toxics, to violations of the air toxic benchmarks that it's going on a census track basis.

So we're saying that any facility that is emitting air toxic or contributing to a census track that has air toxics above benchmark levels that they undertake an audit review, the facility itself, would be required to undertake an audit review and this is whether it's a Title V or an ACDP permit. And to find innovative ways to reduce their toxic emissions including fugitive emissions, and that one of the criteria that we've recommended – there are two main considerations that they should focus on, ensuring that their contributions do not impede compliance with the health-based benchmarks and also mitigation of health impacts for communities where the health-based benchmarks will not be achieved by our target date of 2017.

So, we're taking the impacted communities into consideration and we want them to have special considerations in these audits to reduce all kinds of air pollution, emissions across the board.

So, we'll make sure, I believe, as I said that our colleagues – my colleague (John Aster) has already sent in a written copy of this policy and we'll make sure that you get it, if you haven't. Thank you very much.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Well, Donna, thank you very much and thank you for recognizing that we would very much appreciate seeing it because that's exactly the kind of tool that very likely could have broad applicability and I suspect people listening on the call are taking notes even as you were speaking.

I have a follow-up question for you. What's been the reaction of the facilities who have come within this policy?

Donna Hippert: Well, it's just a proposed policy now. We're finishing up. We have three more meetings to go before we make our final recommendations to the EQ on how to reduce all of these kinds of air toxics in their emissions. So, I don't know what the final recommendation will be.

The facilities, of course, have been resistant to it. But we did write it in a way that the facilities are the ones – they are responsible for conducting the audit and looking at ways that they can reduce the emissions. They're also the ones that have the choice as to how they're going to reduce the emissions once they work with the agency and the impacted public, they're the ones that are – that get the say so on the best way to do it as long as it meets the goals that we're talking about.

Carol Ann Siciliano: OK, terrific. I appreciate that. And one more follow-up question. Your organization is making – is on an advisory council is that it?

Donna Hippert: Yes and I can give ...

Carol Ann Siciliano: And you were providing advice ...

Donna Hippert: Yes, Oregon is doing a wonderful innovative program. It's at deq.state.or.us/aq/toxics/patsmeetings.hpm or if you put in Oregon PATSAC air toxics in a Google search you can find it there. And we're wrapping up now and I think it would be a great resource for any sort of community EJ or otherwise that wants to reduce air toxics in their communities.

You know they've done white papers on all the different sectors, manufacturing, vehicles, on road gasoline, on road diesel, all sorts of categories and there's a lot of background in it, so a really give framework for reducing air toxics in communities.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Well, Donna, I appreciate that. And you're talking about air toxics; it reminds me that I failed to identify my co-chair on the EJ permitting initiative who is Janet McCabe, the deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation here within EPA. And she was on a – she's on travel tonight and could not be with us, but I know she'd be very interested in this and may already be aware of the Oregon program.

So, she'll – she and I will be discussing all that I'm hearing and she'll be reading the transcript and I think will appreciate hearing more about this air toxics program that you are working on Donna. So, I thank you for that.

Donna Hippert: Thank you.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Reaching out to other listeners on the call. If others in the environmental justice community have experience on air toxics initiatives or innovative ways of reaching out to the states or to the facilities, we would very much like to hear about that because we are trying to accumulate examples, lots of innovations that's happening out there and you all are in a good position. I hope to have seen some of these and would be I hope happy to share them with us.

Operator: Once again, if you would like to make a comment, please press star one on your telephone keypad. Again, for any comments press star one.

You have a comment from the line of John Bosch.

John Bosch: Hello. My name is John Bosch. I'm a retired EPA, basically, and I've been involved with environmental justice groups within the agency and also we're starting up a newer one in North Carolina.

But I thought I'd mention something dear to my heart. I've been involved in it for 30, 40 years in EPA and that is the measurement of air toxics, the measurements of emissions has woefully been on – has been undertaken and the emissions have been based on guesses or smoke stack emissions. And in the last 10, 15 years, there have been great strides in measurements using new kinds of technologies and these technologies coupled with public access via internet, smart phones to the public, I think, would go a huge distance in self-regulation and self-correction and public knowledge.

So, I would encourage on any permits that'd be issued the demonstrably new technologies be used for their permits, rewards found where possible and sentence found, and maybe even the agency could undertake some model examples of where these have been used that local groups can point to and say, "See, they're doing it there and why don't we do it here." So, just a comment.

Carol Ann Siciliano: John, thank you very much and thank you for reminding us of the new technologies that can facilitate some of the objectives that we have about encouraging the sharing of information, you know, facilities to communities and the accessibility of that information. So, thank you very much for that comment.

Operator: Our next comment comes from the line of Adam Cutler.

Adam Cutler: Hi, this is Adam Cutler. I'm the director of the Public Health and Environmental Justice Law at the Public Interest Law Center in Philadelphia. And I work with EJ communities all throughout the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania region including most notably the community in Chester, Pennsylvania.

I wanted to talk a little about our experience on that state level with EJ's role in the state permitting process as those processes have been delegated down to Pennsylvania. Here in Pennsylvania, it's really cure process and very little

substance for EJ communities. We rarely know if we've been heard, and at least in Pennsylvania, it always seems like the deals get done with municipalities or counties long before residents hear of it and thus community benefits agreements are rarely a factor and even when they are it's even more rare to see representatives input from the EJ communities being taken into account.

And so, you know, we would suggest that the EPA consider very strongly a policy like Connecticut EJ Law, but with more teeth. I mean something that really requires communities to be informed and by communities I mean not just municipal governments but actually the residents to be informed early enough, so that meaningful discussions can take place about community benefits and you know have some sort of teeth in that policy.

We'd also like to see in terms of kind of quantitative evaluation of environmental impacts, we'd like to see EPA build something very similar to what has been passed although not yet implemented in Cincinnati with their Environmental Justice Ordinance, which looks at objective measures of community health and ways on a objective scale to what degree material adverse impacts will occur from a new proposed activity or a new proposed facility and we certainly think that this should be fairly broad based across the permanent process, it should apply to both general permits and individual permits.

We also like to see the requirement of cumulative impacts studies for, you know, for at least major permits in air waste and with respect to the NPDES stormwater discharge permits and wastewater discharge permits. EJ communities, at least in our part of the country, I think find themselves with a lot of concerns but not a lot of outlets to turn to, to vindicate those concerns. We're one of the only organizations that provides legal services specifically for EJ communities on environmental issues.

But beyond the sort of capacity building needs, these communities want to see – want to see agencies that listen to them and, you know, not just file public comments away, never to be heard from again. They want to be – they want their comments to be listened to and certainly under the state process that's

not always the case. We really hope that EPA will be really aggressive and forward thinking in helping EJ communities all across the country be heard. Thank you.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Well, thank you, Adam. I want to follow-up with you about the community benefit agreements.

Adam Cutler: Sure, sure.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Could you say more about what those are and how you think those could be a factor in the permitting decisions by the state?

Adam Cutler: Sure. Well, let me give you, you know, kind of a real world example. We're working with a community in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, which is just south of Philadelphia. It's a river front community with an industrial history and a company came in proposing to locate a mega-shredder, a giant metal shredder on a former industrial property. They came in. They made a deal with the local municipalities.

It's a borough system there. They made a deal with the borough council, you know, everybody kind of brushed their hands off. And then word got out to the community that this facility was coming and there was a good deal of opposition A, but also resentment that they weren't contacted and involved in the process before the lawyers for the borough and for the company sat down in a room together.

So, you know, what they were looking for and what we're working with them to achieve is, you know, some sort of enforceable agreement that would involve the – would involve the local government, would involve the residents and/or, you know, local community groups, and would involve the facility owner to sit down and talk about, "Well, you know, if you're going to burden this community with this activity and this facility, you know, what else is the community going to get out of it besides the pollution?"

They'd like to see some, you know, some tangible benefits that will make the community better whether that's contributions to scholarship programs for their youth to go to college, whether that's funding for, you know, senior

programs, a whole host of community activities, you know. In addition to environmental benefits such as, you know, certainly, ensuring that not only are they meeting, but that they would be willing to even exceed the emissions limits.

And, you know, also while they are engaged in, you know, an activity that is undisputedly a source of pollution that they also perhaps, you know, might find it in themselves to contribute to projects that would improve the environment in that community whether it's preserving green space or, you know, or helping to restore some wetlands, et cetera.

You know those are the sorts of things that I'm talking about when I talk about community benefits agreements in this context and you know certainly there have been a number of successful examples of those throughout the country. I know that Los Angeles has a number of them, most notably the Staples Center project, and that whole project in Downtown L.A., you know. And I believe Pittsburgh has had some success with them as well. It's not something, unfortunately, that seems to have gotten hold in Southeastern Pennsylvania though.

Carol Ann Siciliano: All right, Adam. Well, thank you very much and I hope others will speak up about their experiences with community benefit agreements or good neighbor agreement and the timing for negotiating them and maybe some things that – some tips that you could share with others who are trying to get them into place, and of course, certainly, with EPA, as we try to corral these good ideas and then share them with people.

And then also Adam, at the end of this call, if you would send us a link to the Cincinnati ordinance, I would be very grateful.

Adam Cutler: Absolutely.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Thank you. Thank you. And then I think we have another speaker ready to address us.

Operator: Your next comment is from the line of Mark Mitchell.

Mark Mitchell: Hello. You know, this is Mark Mitchell. I'm currently with Mitchell Environmental Health Associates, but I was previously the president of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice. And we spent five years working through the legislation our environmental justice legislation, which I think a number of you people are familiar with that requires that the community be notified in advance of a permit being considered by the state agency.

But I wanted to point out some of the finer points of the legislation that I'm not sure were captured. And that is that one of the reasons we were able to get it through is because there were limited number of places where the law applied and those were in environmental justice communities, which we defined – which we were forced to define as low income only because communities of color, anything to deal with communities of color wasn't – we weren't able to get that through our legislature. But it turned out that with our definition of low income, which was at least 30 percent of the population being less than 200 percent of poverty that that got all of the communities, so we were really concerned about in Connecticut, the communities of color as well low income communities.

But I think that what's really important is that community groups be notified, you know, not just community residents. Particularly environmental groups and law groups, legal groups, you know, that know – that have some sense and some history and some – that know sort of the options that are available and, you know, how things are going to play out. So, I think that you know the groups that have legal and organizing experience are really important to be part of that.

We also got it through because we listed specific facilities of concern. We limited the number of facilities that we looked at and obviously that will vary a lot from place to place even when we're looking at putting together municipal ordinances, the list of facilities is different from what we got for the state of Connecticut and I'm sure they will be different for other states around the country. Then but listing specific facilities of concern was the way of, you know, keeping down the opposition from other types of facilities that we weren't as concerned about.

Now, you just got finished talking about the environmental benefits and we have had that as a – well, before I get into that, another thing that I think is going to be really important is that communities have the ability to report and that they do it in a public way, report complaints about facilities and particularly those that are coming under review. You know, there's a map system called the (C6 Click System), where, you know, anybody can come on and say, "Well, you know, I saw this happening at that time and I have photos of this potential violation," and that way, you know, the complaints don't sort of go into a black box, you know, that there's some record of the complaints that people can make.

And then, lastly, getting back into the environmental benefits issue, we limited our benefits to environmental benefits because we thought it would be too easy for a government to say, "Well, you know, we want sidewalks or we want money to go into the, you know, city treasury to do things for, you know, do good things for all people."

We found though that it really requires, you know, sort of resources, resource intensive get communities involved in the whole process including the environmental benefits portion of that process and that was – it took a lot of time and a lot of effort for us to help neighborhood groups and, you know – and others who hadn't been involved in environmental justice to learn about environmental justice, to learn about the facilities and what they're planning on doing and what they're – and to develop the kinds of questions that they need to know about how the facility is going to be operating or what the plans are.

But we felt that it was important to limit it to environmental benefits although I know, you know, places like Los Angeles and even in New Haven have broader, excuse me, have broader community benefits than environmental benefits.

Carol Ann Siciliano: All right, Mark. Well, thank you very much. That was great to get that background and I appreciate you were touching upon some of the issues that

the other speakers have identified and expanding on them. That was very helpful.

Operator: Again, for any comments, please press star one on your telephone keypad. For comments, press star one.

We have a comment from the line of Morris Carter.

Morris Carter: This is Morris Carter. I'm in Port Arthur, Texas, and Port Arthur, Texas is located in the Southeast Texas on the Gulf Coast and it's been selected by EPA as one of the environmental justice showcase communities.

EPA under that initiative brought a number of their staff people to town and immediately arranged for some public town hall like meetings between local industry, local government, environmental activist groups, community leaders and just interested citizens and that wanted to be involved in the process. Those meetings and some subsequent breakout sessions and future meetings kind of evolved into what's now a very broad based and functional organization under the Environmental Justice Project initiative, and that organization now includes a paid facilitator that's actually helping and then extremely helpful with the – reading logistics and documentation and record keeping and recording of the project activities.

But more importantly it's brought together not only the industries that are governed by environmental regulations and all hold various types of permits, but it's engaged a number of local government agencies and EPA has been very instrumental in involving federal agencies and making them part of the overall effort.

We have six work groups now and these work groups and you can sort of tell by their titles what their area of focus is. We have an environmental quality and emergency response workgroup. There's a community healthcare workgroup, and unemployment and skill development workgroup. Unemployment is double digit in Port Arthur area and has been for about a year and a half. There's a housing workgroup. There's a Downtown and Westside revitalization workgroup, the Westside of Port Arthur is a part of

town that has a high concentration of low income citizens, and there is a – an energy efficiency workgroup.

So, those six workgroups have about anywhere from, I'd say, 10 to 25 members and that have been drawn from the community. EPA has again been very helpful in engaging federal agencies like the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help with the housing workgroup. Right now, one of their key projects is securing, funding for the replacement housing for residents that are now living in a very outdated 1950's (inaudible), so public housing facility. And the vision is to place those folks in a combination of apartments, single family residences, duplexes, and spread out in a number of better locations around the community and farther away from (industry).

I think the key to the success in our effort and it's still ongoing. We haven't produced all the deliverables. I mean there's a lot of things in the works (is very) – I think we are very excited about the new healthcare clinic and pharmacy on the Westside of town, revitalization of the downtown area that's lost a lot of, virtually, all its businesses and its just starting to come back with some new businesses, restaurants, and office facilities.

Working with the companies with the local industry on a, lets call it, sustainable development plan, which is very much like a Good Neighbor Agreement, and some of the agreements that I've heard mention on this call. And it's an agreement that's got some substance to it. It covers things like voluntarily – (are really things to) – that are above and beyond the regulatory requirements to reduce emissions.

You know at the same time this group is not focusing on how bad the impact of industry might be and a study of that, the measurement of that. There's lots of measurements.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Yes.

Morris Carter: There's lots of data. There's lots of reporting – data out there that suggest, "Yes, plants emit various types of pollutants." But what can be done is the quality of life of residents in the area can be improved by this collaborative effort and engagement of many, many people.

I would say our group is well over 100 right now and is probably going to grow. And a couple of keys to it is the process is not driven by EPA alone, it's not driven by environmental activist groups and what they have on their agenda alone, although they are very much involved. They need to be, they should be.

I would say the local government leaders, the mayor, in particular, the local emergency planning committee members, those groups have really taken the lead in recruiting and enlisting the support of industry and prominent citizens and activists and other interested persons in the community and bringing them to the table with EPA being there to help facilitate and be a resource to bring in other government agencies that can be helpful and bring some resources to our community.

So, what started out to be something called environmental justice and maybe something that caused people to be concerned and/or alarm has now turned into be something that's – that everyone is very excited and hopeful about.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Well, Morris, that's a fantastic story and I appreciate that and what I hope you do, if you don't mind, would be to send a link to that groups website. I imagine is there a website or someplace, where the listeners on this call and EPA, I mean I know EPA knows about it, but the listeners on this call can explore this group and see what they're doing and what is transferable for their own communities by the example that the Port Arthur group is creating.

So, if you could, if you wouldn't mind, by email, sending a link or any other information on your own – on this group's experience that would be terrific. It would be the ejpermitting@epa.gov.

Morris Carter: OK, got it.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Yes, thank you so much.

Morris Carter: I'd be happy to send it to you, OK. By the way, I chair the environmental quality and the emergency response workgroup.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Good for you.

Morris Carter: So, that organization, so that's my connection.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Cool ...

Morris Carter: Thank you.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Thank you so much. Thank you for dialing in.

Morris Carter: Sure.

Operator: Again, to make a comment, please press star one on your telephone keypad.
For comments, press star one.

(Mike Tatelman): Hi, everybody. This has been a great dialogue so far and quite a feedback, fantastic. We're really interested as well in success stories in permitting, if you have those to share. So, you know, for example, stemming of the – what Port Arthur had said. So, if other folks have those kinds of stories that they'd like to share this would be a fantastic opportunity for us all to learn, so we appreciate that. Thank you.

Hey, everybody. We're going to hold the lines open for your feedback for another three minutes or so. So, we're looking forward to it, if you've got some to share. Thanks.

Operator: We have a comment from the line of John Blair.

John Blair: Yes, thanks for allowing me a second opportunity here. One of the things that has troubled me in my work over the last 15 years regarding environmental justice is that so often it's – environmental justice is looked at almost strictly an issue with people of color. And in my experience the environmental justice issues that I deal with really transcend that. In fact, most of the areas where environmental justice issues are occurring in my limited region you might be hard pressed to find anybody of color, but there are exceptionally low income people and that is, you know, it seems like most of the attention goes to the color issue, the race issue, particularly.

But, you know, that doesn't negate it, it just that that's a serious part of it. But these are areas that aren't urbanized that haven't had an influx of Hispanics or Blacks or any kind of other ethnic group, and so I think that's just something the rural nature of much of the environmental justice issues that I deal with lend itself to real poverty more than issues of race and color. That's all I had to say.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Well, thank you, John, very much and it's important for us to be reminded about the rural nature of environmental justice as you said. So, I appreciate your calling that to our attention again.

Operator: Our next comment comes from the line of John Bosch.

John Bosch: Thanks for the opportunity again for a second crack at it for a minute or two. I mentioned earlier about the essential nature of monitoring and measurement of emissions and the previous caller put his finger on it when the key part of the populous that are exposed locally is right outside the boundary of the facility. And if we just focus on that, that's where your maximum emissions are going to occur and that's where measurement is essential, continuous measurement and not the periodic or guesses that have been done historically.

And just for those – one last thing, next week will be the Air and Waste Management Association Meeting in Orlando and I will be hosting two panels dealing with measurement issues of greenhouse gases and air toxics from open sources and there'll be a lot of examples of where these have been applied in permits across the country. So, thank you.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Well, thank you, John, and if you have any particular materials or links to any kind of tools that you think would be helpful to us in this context of measurement and monitoring please, please, please send them along to that email address the ejpermitting@epa.gov because we'd very much like to see your PowerPoint's or anything like that that you think could be helpful to us as we craft our own toolbox here.

John Bosch: All right, thank you.

(Mike Tatelman): Hi, everybody. If there are no other comments then we'll plan to disconnect in about a minute or so. Thank you very much.

Carol Ann Siciliano: Well, everybody, I want to thank you all so much for joining us for this listening session. We had several speakers and each of you provided something to the EPA to think about and shared from your experiences and gave us ideas for tools, for devices that we could be using and I hope that listeners have gotten some encouragement from success stories and other experiences that our speakers have talked about.

So, I thank all of you, who spoke, and I thank all of you who dialed in to listen and I hope this is just another step in the ongoing dialogue that we all would want to have on environmental justice as we make headway in this very important area. So, again thank you very much.

The transcript of this call will be available on the website that (Mike) provided earlier and we do intend to send by an email to all of our listening session participants, the email address to send us comments and also that website link, where you can find the transcript.

So, I will let it go tonight and thank you all very much again and I look forward to continuing to work with many of you on environmental justice. Good night.

Operator: And this concludes today's conference call. You may now disconnect at this time.

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