

**ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

GOVERNOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Commission Members
2. Administration
 - 2.1 Open Meetings Act
 - 2.2 Ethics Training
 - 2.3 Commission Appointments
3. Subcommittees
 - 3.1 Subcommittee structure
 - 3.2 Agency Involvement and Oversight
 - 3.2a Environmental Justice Questionnaires
 - 3.3 Brownfields Redevelopment
 - 3.3a Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Brownfields
 - 3.3b Third Generation Brownfields Program
 - 3.3c Brownfields Education and State Web Portal
4. Attachments
 - 4.1 Open Meetings Act Fact Sheet
 - 4.2 Commission on Environmental Justice Fact Sheet
 - 4.3 Environmental Justice Questionnaires from State Agency Commissioners

Commission Members

Name	Appointed By	Position
Director Lisa Bonnett	Statute	Ex-Officio, Director, Environmental Protection Agency
Secretary Erica Borggren	Statute	Ex-Officio, Acting Secretary, Department of Transportation
Millard Driskell	Governor	Member, public
Senator Dan Duffy	Senate Minority Leader	Member
Representative Mike Fortner	House Minority Leader	Member
Keith Harley	Governor	Member, affected communities concerned with environmental justice
Dr. Lamar Hasbrouck	Statute	Ex-Officio, Director, Department of Public Health
Director John Holton	Statute	Ex-Officio, Director, Department on Aging
Cheryl Johnson	Governor	Member, affected communities concerned with environmental justice
Veronica Kyle	Governor	Member, environmental organizations
VACANT	Governor	Member, public
Robert Messina	Governor	Member, business organization
Debra Meyers-Martin	Governor	Member, local government
Director Marc Miller	Statute	Ex-Officio, Director, Department of Natural Resources
Director Adam Pollet	Statute	Ex-Officio, Director, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Senator Toi Hutchinson	Senate President	Member
VACANT	Governor	Member, environmental organization
Sylvia Washington	Governor	Member, experts on environmental health and environmental justice
Kimberly Wasserman	Governor	Chair, affected communities concerned with environmental justice
Representative Chris Welch	Speaker of the House	Member

Administration

2.1 Open Meetings Act

As a public body, the Illinois Commission on Environmental Justice (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) is required to comply with the Open Meetings Act [5 ILCS 120]. The Open Meetings Act reflects the General Assembly's determination that the public has a right to advance notice of, and to attend, all meetings at which any public body is discussed or acted upon in any way [5 ILC 120/1]. Any subcommittee of the Commission is also subject to the Open Meetings Act and therefore must hold meetings with proper notice that are open to the public. All Commission meetings from August 2013 to October 2014 have been in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Members of the Commission have completed their required Open Meetings Act training.

2.2 Ethics Training

Commissioners fall under the jurisdiction of the Office of Executive Inspector General and are considered "state employees" for the purposes of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. Commissioners are required to annually complete an appropriate ethics training course. Members of the Commission have completed their required annual ethics training.

2.3 Commission Appointments

Tamika Gibson from the Illinois Environmental Council and Jerry Mead-Lucero from the Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization (P.E.R.R.O.) have retired their Commission member positions. There are currently two vacancies on the Commission. One vacancy is for a Commission member from an environmental organization and the other for a member of the public. The Commission is currently seeking suitable candidates.

Subcommittees

3.1 Subcommittee structure

Participation on a subcommittee is voluntary. Commissioners are not required to join any of the subcommittees within the Commission. The primary purpose of the subcommittees is to research issues that the Commission decides to prioritize. The subcommittees present their findings to the Commission for input. All Commissioners vote on any final actions. Subcommittees must consist of at least one-third of Commission members and a majority (half plus one) must be present to constitute a quorum.

3.2 Agency Involvement and Oversight

The Agency Involvement and Oversight Subcommittee was created to address how State of Illinois government agencies can incorporate environmental justice goals into their programs and policies. As a baseline, the Agency Involvement and Oversight Subcommittee sought to determine what environmental justice practices were already in place at State of Illinois government agencies that serve on the Commission. The position of Agency Involvement and Oversight Subcommittee chair is currently vacant. The Commission Chair is currently seeking a suitable candidate.

An Environmental Justice Template was created to act as a guide for state agencies to help them define environmental justice. The Environmental Justice Template included information about key issues that define the environmental justice movement as well as emerging themes.

3.2a Environmental Justice Questionnaire

The Agency Involvement and Oversight Subcommittee created an Environmental Justice Questionnaire to engage state agencies in a review of environmental justice at their agencies. The Environmental Justice Questionnaire included key questions about community engagement and community environmental impacts. This exercise provided an opportunity for agencies to conduct a review of environmental justice practices to determine optimal environmental justice goals. This exercise also gave non-state agency Commissioners and other stakeholders valuable information about current practices and an opportunity to provide feedback to the individual agencies.

The questionnaire focused on impacts of an environmental nature. State agencies had to assess whether they consider environmental implications when working on an issue as well as how they define the extent of environmental impacts on a community. State agencies also reviewed their community involvement practices. They evaluated their work with populations and communities of color, low-income, elderly and/or disabled. They also looked into whether their agencies had community engagement plans in place.

In order to be comprehensive, state agencies evaluated the questionnaire agency-wide and also looked at programs within the agency. With the exception of Illinois Environmental

Protection Agency, no other state agency had an environmental justice mandate, but many agencies did address environmental justice issues.

The majority of the state agencies have processes in place that assist them in evaluating environmental impacts on communities. Illinois Department of Public Health defines the degree of environmental impacts on communities in terms of health impacts. Illinois Department of Public Health's Toxicology Program works with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to communicate health impacts to citizens living near hazardous waste sites. Their Asbestos and Lead Program has rules in place to minimize public exposure to environmental contaminants and establish criteria for mitigating hazards. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency routinely reviews construction and operating permit applications that must provide information concerning the source's impact on the environment, which in turn has the potential to impact communities. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency operates an extensive air monitoring network; gathers information through various recordkeeping requirements; and requires many sources to conduct testing of soil, water and air emissions.

State agencies also provided information on their community engagement practices and partnerships with community stakeholders. Illinois Department of Transportation utilizes an interdisciplinary approach called Context Sensitive Solutions that is designed to work with stakeholders when developing projects or transportation facilities so that the project reflects the community. Context Sensitive Solutions requires early, frequent and meaningful communication between Illinois Department of Transportation and community stakeholders. Illinois Department of Transportation also conducts community impact assessments to evaluate the effects of transportation projects on community residents and their quality of life.

Non-state agency Commissioners and stakeholders outside the Commission had an opportunity to provide feedback on the state agencies' responses to the Environmental Justice Questionnaire. The goal of this process was to ensure that the Commission had community perspective on the responses provided. Community stakeholders from Aurora, Carbondale, Chicago and Litchfield engaged in a series of meetings to discuss the Environmental Justice Questionnaires.

3.3 Brownfields Redevelopment

The Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee was created to address concerns related to brownfield remediation in Illinois environmental justice communities. Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director of People for Community Recovery, and Dr. Sylvia Washington are co-chairs for this subcommittee.

The Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee has focused on three priority areas: public participation policies, resources for community initiated brownfields redevelopment, and an Illinois Brownfields Education web portal.

3.3a Illinois EPA and Brownfields

The Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee discerned that under Illinois law, public participation is encouraged but not required for site remediation activities. As a goal, it was suggested that Illinois Environmental Protection Agency develop public participation policies and resources tailored to brownfield remediations in environmental justice communities. As a baseline, the Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee sought to learn more about Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields and Site Remediation programs. Specifically committee members wanted to know what public participation standards and education programs Illinois EPA has in place.

Steve Colantino-Office of Brownfields Assistance, Joyce Munie-Remedial Project Management Section and Heather Nifong-Division of Remediation Management gave a presentation to the Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee that focused on what tools were available through the Brownfields and Site Remediation programs to assist environmental justice communities.

The Office of Brownfields Assistance assists public and private remedial applicants with investigating clean-up of sites. Brownfields Assistance tools are available for municipalities and not-for-profits. Some of these tools are financial incentives and technical assistance. One financial incentive is the Illinois Revolving Loan Fund. This loan program captures the redevelopment potential of the target site. This loan is federally capitalized and therefore follows federal criteria. United States Environmental Protection Agency requires applicants to meet public participation and community outreach criteria to be eligible for funding and continue to receive funding throughout the remediation. In addition to providing funds, this loan program provides technical assistance to help guide the applicant through the process.

The Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee wanted guidance on how communities can initiate redevelopment of brownfield properties. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency representatives explained that based on how the state and federal brownfields programs are structured, a majority of their support goes directly to local governments. As a result, tools that work well for governing bodies may not suit community based organizations and not-for-profits, particularly in instances where the community group does not or cannot take ownership of the brownfields site for purposes of clean up and redevelopment. Funding assistance for property acquisition is outside of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's jurisdiction. The Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee will continue to discuss this matter with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

3.3b Third Generation Brownfield Program

In the absence of State policies that provide opportunities for community-based plans for future uses of brownfield sites, the Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee is looking at examples of policies and techniques that transform brownfields into community assets. The State of Washington characterizes such policies and techniques as “Third Generation Brownfield Program(s)” that are designed to fill the gaps that are still left after the use of

the federal Superfund and state brownfield programs like Illinois' Site Remediation Program.

In its policy document, Washington characterized this new approach in the following manner:

“The emerging third-generation approach to brownfield cleanup and redevelopment integrates environmental cleanup and economic revitalization with community development. The synergy of environmental, economic and community benefits differentiates a third-generation brownfield effort from earlier cleanup projects. The model aligns with the triple-bottom-line approach to sustainable development that evaluates projects' economic, environmental and social impacts.”

Notably, the Washington “third generation approach” is meant to supplement rather than supplant the existing approaches to remediating and reusing former industrial and commercial sites. It is born of the recognition that many such sites are still left behind, and yet, may be vital to environmental, economic and community quality. Just as important, the Washington third generation approach was also articulated through legislation designed to accomplish its policy objectives.

3.3c Brownfields Education and State Web Portal

The Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee indentified brownfields education to Illinois residents as an imperative objective. It was noted that many Illinoisans are unaware of their proximity to brownfield sites and other areas that have land pollution concerns. The Brownfields Redevelopment Subcommittee will create a web portal that will be available on Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's website. This web portal will provide mapping information for brownfields and other areas in Illinois that have land pollution concerns. This web portal will contain publicly available informational resources in a uniform, user-friendly format.

Attachments

4.1 Open Meetings Act Fact Sheet

Introduction

This fact sheet includes a discussion of the procedures by which the Commission on Environment Justice (“the Commission”) must abide in order to comply with the Open Meetings Act [5 ILCS 120], and the potential ramifications of failure to abide by those procedures.

Meetings Subject to the Open Meetings Act

The Open Meetings Act reflects the General Assembly’s determination that the public has a right to advance notice of, and to attend, all meetings at which any business of a public body is discussed or acted upon in any way. 5 ILCS 120/1. As a public body, the Commission is subject to the Open Meetings Act. 5 ILCS 120/1.02. Any subcommittee of the Commission is also subject to the Open Meetings Act. *Id.* Thus, the Commission and its subcommittees must hold meetings that are properly noticed and open to the public.¹

In general, Commission meetings must be open to the public. 5 ILCS 120/2(a). The Open Meetings Act defines a meeting as a “gathering, whether in person or by video or audio conference, telephone call or electronic means. . . or other means of contemporaneous interactive communication, of a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussing public business...” 5 ILCS 120/1.02. The Commission has determined that one-third of its membership constitutes a quorum. Therefore, Commission members should avoid discussing Commission matters at any gathering of more than three members unless that gathering complies with the Open Meetings Act.

Meeting Notices

- **Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings would include the Commission’s regularly scheduled quarterly meetings mandated by the Environmental Justice Act. At the beginning of each calendar year or fiscal year, the Commission must post a notice of its regular meetings at the location(s) where the meetings will be held. 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a), 2.03. The notice must include the regular dates, times, and locations of the meetings. 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a). In addition, at least 48 hours before each meeting the Commission must post at the meeting location(s) an agenda that is

¹ For the purposes of this Fact Sheet, “Commission” refers to the Commission or any subcommittee of the Commission. For actions by a subcommittee, the Open Meetings Act requirements apply to the subcommittee rather than the Commission as a whole.

continuously available for public viewing until the conclusion of the meeting.² 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a), (c). The agenda must set forth the general subject matter of any resolution that will be the subject of final action at the meeting.³ 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a).

If a regular meeting is rescheduled, a notice of the change must be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least ten days before the originally scheduled meeting date. 5 ILCS 120/2.03. A notice and agenda must then be posted at least 48 hours before the rescheduled meeting at the location(s) of the rescheduled meeting. Id.

- **Special Meetings.** A “special meeting” is a meeting other than a regular meeting or a meeting held in the event of a bonafide emergency. See 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a). The Commission must post a notice and agenda for a special meeting at the meeting location(s) at least 48 hours before the meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a)-(b). Id. The agenda must contain the same information as required for regular meetings. See 5 ILCS 120/2.02(c).
- **Emergency Meetings.** For a meeting held in the event of a bonafide emergency, the Commission must provide notice of the meeting to any news medium that has filed an annual request for notice of Commission meetings (see below). 5 ILCS 120/2.02(c). The emergency notice must be given to the news medium as soon as practicable, and prior to, the emergency meeting. Id.

If the Commission adjourns a meeting and reconvenes it at a later time, a meeting notice and agenda must be posted at least 48 hours before the meeting reconvenes unless the original meeting was open to the public and (i) it is reconvened within 24 hours or (ii) the time and place of the reconvened meeting was announced in the original meeting and there is no change in the agenda. 5 ILCS 12/2.02(a).

If a news medium files an annual request for notice of Commission meetings, the Commission must provide the news medium with copies of notices of its regular meetings and other meetings. 5 ILCS 120/2.02(b). If the news medium provides the Commission with an address or telephone number in Illinois for receipt of the notices, the Commission must give the news medium notice of special, emergency, rescheduled, and reconvened meetings in the same manner as is given to members of the Commission. Id.

² A meeting, or an action taken at a meeting, is not invalidated if an agenda is not continuously available for the full 48-hour period due to action outside the control of the Commission (e.g., the building in which the agenda is posted is not open to the public during non-business hours).

³ This requirement does not preclude the consideration of items not specifically set forth in the agenda. 5 ILCS 120/2.02(a).

Conduct of Commission Meetings - Location, Attendance, and Minutes

The Commission must hold meetings at the time specified in the relevant notice, and at a place that is convenient and open to the public. 5 ILCS 120/2.01. This means that meetings must be held in a location that is large enough to accommodate the attendees, and is not otherwise ill-suited or unadvantageous for the purposes of the meeting. In other words, all meetings should be held in a public building that is capable of housing the number of anticipated attendees.

A quorum of members⁴ must be physically present for the Commission to hold a meeting. Id. In general, a quorum must be physically present at a single location. However, the Commission may hold meetings via video conference at one or more buildings owned or leased by a public body. Id. If the Commission holds a meeting via video conference, a quorum must be physically present between the various locations at which video conferencing is available. In order to hold a meeting via video conference, the Commission must post public notice at, and provide public access to, all locations at which video conferencing is available.

The Commission must keep written minutes of all meetings. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a). The minutes must include, at a minimum: the date, time, and place of the meeting; the members present; the members absent; a summary of discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided; and a record of any votes taken. Id. The minutes of any open meeting must be approved within 30 days after the meeting, or at the second subsequent regular meeting, whichever is later. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b). In light of the Commission's quarterly meeting schedule, meeting minutes should be approved within one of the next two quarterly meetings. The minutes must be made available for public inspection within 10 days approval. Id.

Closed Meetings

Certain meetings, or portions of meetings, can be closed to the public "in those limited circumstances where the General Assembly has specifically determined that the public interest would be clearly endangered or the personal privacy or guaranteed rights of individuals would be clearly in danger of unwarranted invasion." 5 ILCS 120/1. To that end, there are 29 exceptions to the requirement that meetings must be open to the public. 5 ILCS 120/2(c). The only exceptions that appear applicable to the Commission would be meetings at which: (1) pending, probable, or imminent litigation involving or affecting the Commission is discussed; (2) self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics are discussed; (3) the minutes of meetings that were lawfully closed are discussed; or (4) discussions with internal or external auditors regarding internal control weakness or identification of potential fraud risk take place. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), (16), (21), and (29). Although the Commission may discuss these matters in a closed meeting, these matters may also be discussed during an open meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(b).

⁴ One-third of the Commission's members, or at least seven.

In order to close a meeting, a majority of the meeting attendees must vote in favor of closure. 5 ILCS 120/2a. The minutes of the open meeting at which the vote occurred must reflect the basis for closing the meeting and the vote of each member. *Id.* The Commission may approve closing a series of meetings if each meeting in that series involves the same particular matters and is scheduled to occur within three months of the vote. *Id.*

The Commission must maintain verbatim audio or video recordings of all closed meetings. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a). The Commission must also review minutes of all closed meetings at least semi-annually to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists for all or part of those minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d). The Commission must report this determination during its open session. *Id.* Once the Commission determines that the minutes from a closed session no longer require confidential treatment, those minutes must be made available to the public. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(f). The Commission may destroy the verbatim recordings of a closed meeting no less than 18 months after the meeting if it approves destruction of the particular recording and minutes of the closed meeting that include (i) the date, time, and place of the meeting, (ii) whether the members were present or absent, (iii) a summary of discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and (iv) a record of all votes taken. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c).

Ramifications of Failure to Comply with the Open Meetings Act

Failure to comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act has potentially serious consequences. Violation of the Open Meetings Act is a Class C misdemeanor and is punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1,500. 5 ILCS 120/4; 730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-6.5(b), (e). In addition, violation of the Open Meetings Act can result in requiring a meeting be open to the public, requiring the Commission to make available to the public certain portions of meeting minutes, or declaring null and void any final action taken during at a closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/3.

4.2 Commission on Environmental Justice Fact Sheet

Introduction

This fact sheet outlines the brief history of the Commission on Environmental Justice (“the Commission”), the Commission’s composition, and the Commission’s duties.

Background

In 2011, the General Assembly passed the Illinois Environmental Justice Act, 415 ILCS 155 *et seq.*, which, among other things, created the Commission. The Environmental Justice Act included the legislative finding that “no segment of the population, regardless of race, national origin, age, or income, should bear disproportionately high or adverse effects of environmental pollution.” In light of that finding, the Commission is charged with advising State entities and the Governor on environmental justice issues. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is required to provide administrative and “other support” to the Commission. 415 ILCS 155/10(f).

Commission Membership

The Commission is comprised of twenty voting members, who represent various State agencies and the public. The Governor designates a Chairperson from the Commission’s members. Two members are State Senators: one appointed by the President of the Senate and the other appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate. Two members are State Representatives: one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the other by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. These members serve at the pleasure of the appointing officers.

The Governor appoints ten members of the public to the Commission. These members must represent at least one of the following interests: (1) affected communities concerned with environmental justice; (2) business organizations; (3) environmental organizations; (4) experts on environmental health and environmental justice; (5) units of local government; and (6) members of the general public who have an interest or expertise in environmental justice. 415 ILCS 155(a)(4). These appointments are not subject to Senate confirmation and serve a term of two years following appointment. Five members are subject to reappointment each year.

In addition, the Environmental Justice Act established six *ex officio* Commission members: the Director of Aging, the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of Natural Resources, the Director of Public Health, and the Director of Transportation. Each Director may designate someone to serve on the Commission in his or her stead. These members serve for the duration of their Directorship or, in the case of a designee, at the pleasure of the relevant Director.

Commission Duties

The Commission has three primary functions: evaluating issues relating to environmental justice issues, meeting to discuss environmental justice issues, and reporting its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly. The Environmental Justice Act directs the Commission to evaluate environmental justice issues in the following contexts: (1) advising State entities on environmental justice and related community issues; (2) reviewing and analyzing the impact of current State laws and policies on environmental justice issues; (3) assessing the adequacy of State and local laws to address environmental justice issues; (4) developing criteria to assess whether communities in the State may be experiencing environmental justice issues; and (5) recommending options to the Governor for addressing environmental justice issues that surface after reviewing State laws and policies, including prioritizing areas of the State that need immediate attention. In order to evaluate these issues, the Commission is required to meet at least quarterly at the call of the Chairperson. In addition, the Commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or before October 1 of each year.

4.3 Environmental Justice Questionnaires from State Agency Commissioners

Environmental Justice Questionnaire for Illinois Department on Aging

When answering the questions below please note if your answers are agency or program specific

Respondent: LaTonya T. Lumpkin, Illinois Department on Aging;

LaTonya.Lumpkin@illinois.gov

1. Do you consider environmental implications when working on an issue in your agency? For example, air, noise, and/or water pollution; soil contamination; nuisance odors; greenhouse gases; etc. If yes, please explain.

N/A

2. How do you determine or define the extent of environmental impacts on the community? Please provide examples.

3. Do you have an environmental justice mandate for your agency? Yes/No. If yes, please explain.

No

4. Do you assess the impact of projects on low-income and minority communities? If so, how? *Yes, ventures are designed for communities, based on the identified needs of the older adults residing in each community.*

5. Does your agency have programs that address the issues of handicapped and/or elderly populations?

Yes, Illinois Department on Aging has programs addressing needs and interests of older adults and people with cognitive and physical disabilities.

6. Identify staff positions that work with low-income; minority; elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities.

All: need further explanation from Environmental Justice Commission

7. Does your agency have a community involvement/community engagement plan? If yes, explain the plan and specify whether it is general or project specific.

8. How does your agency accommodate communities that are non-native English speakers? For example, providing an interpreter at a community meeting, translating documents, etc.

Illinois Department on Aging employs direct service staff who speak multiple languages, partners with organizations whose staff speak the languages identified for the target populations, has access to a language bank, TTD/TTY phone services, provides resource materials in multiple languages and has sign interpreters available upon request.

9. Does your agency partner with community interest groups, if so who are they?
Illinois Department on Aging can directly address this as appropriate upon identification of specific purpose and intent (cannot be engaged with express authorization of Illinois Department on Aging for purposes directly benefiting Illinois Department on Aging).
10. The Mud-to Garden project is an example of how state agencies can work together to address an environmental justice concern. Can you give an example of an opportunity where your agency could partner with one or more agencies on the EJ Commission to address an environmental justice concern?
The staff assigned to the Environmental Justice Commission agreed to inform Illinois Department on Aging when such opportunities arise and request support from Illinois Department on Aging.

Environmental Justice Questionnaire for Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

When answering the questions below please note if your answers are agency or program specific

1. Do you consider environmental implications when working on an issue in your agency? For example, air, noise, and/or water pollution; soil contamination; nuisance odors; greenhouse gases; etc. If yes, please explain.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is the state’s primary economic development agency, awarding grants and other forms of incentives to businesses, communities, and individual across the state through a broad array of program areas.

DCEO Mission Statement:

To raise Illinois’ profile as a premier global business destination; and to provide a foundation for the economic prosperity of all Illinoisans, through coordination of business recruitment and retention, provision of essential capital to small businesses, investment in infrastructure and job training for a 21st century economy, and administration of state and federal grant programs.

As articulated in its mission statement, DCEO works to provide a foundation for the economic prosperity of all Illinoisans, which requires addressing gaps in advancement opportunities due to environmental and health disadvantages. Environmental justice considerations impact the programs, policies, and activities of multiple offices under DCEO. Many of these programs specifically address economic, health, and environmental disparities that disadvantaged communities and individuals experience.

<i>Office/Bureau</i>	<i>Description</i>
Business Development	The Office of Business Development administers job creation/retention grants, loans and tax credit programs, including EDGE. The Office’s Enterprise Zone program and New Markets Development program specifically target economically depressed areas of the state and low-income census tracts to encourage business activity and job creation in those areas.
Coal Development	The Office of Coal Development supports the state’s coal industry through financing of technology research and conducting awareness campaigns. The Office coordinates with IEPA to provide funding to those coal projects that have received permits and cleared IEPA’s environmental justice review. The Office also funds programs to improve the safety, health, and environmental conditions for coal mine employees.
Community Development	The Office of Community Development utilizes federal HUD funding to administer community infrastructure, housing and disaster recovery funding programs. The Office administers the Illinois Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP), which is primarily aimed at helping communities with substantial low to moderate-income populations. CDAP funds projects including water and sewer infrastructure upgrades to ensure safe and reliable drinking water supplies; expansion of businesses in the community; and improvements to public infrastructure and elimination of conditions

<i>Office/Bureau</i>	<i>Description</i>
	detrimental to public health, safety, and public welfare, particularly in emergency circumstances. The Office also administers several other programs described in great detail later in this document.
Employment & Training	The Office of Employment & Training oversees statewide workforce training system (Illinois workNet Center), and promotes and coordinates initiatives to bridge skills gaps. The Office administers workforce programs including the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) or the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (Trade).
Energy & Recycling	The Office of Energy & Recycling promotes investment in Illinois' green economy, and creates energy and recycling policies for state facilities. The Office provides funding for energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling, and alternate fueling infrastructure. The Office administers programs that reduce the cost of making energy efficient building upgrades for low-income residents. Low-income residents spend a relatively high proportion of their income on utility costs. These energy efficiency programs greatly reduce or eliminate the cost of retrofits that help lower utility bills, increase the comfort and safety of homes, and improve indoor air quality for low-income residents in Illinois.
Energy Assistance	The Office of Energy Assistance enables low income households to maintain utility services through LIHEAP and PIPP, and reduces low income families' energy costs through improved residential energy efficiency, both single-family homes and multi-family buildings.
Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology	The Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology catalyzes local, national and global partnerships—including the Small Business Development Center network and the Advantage Illinois program—that strengthen Illinois' competitive advantage. Within DCEO's suite of small business assistance programs, the Environmental Assistance Program serves as resource, housed within a non-regulatory agency, specifically for small businesses addressing and complying with environmental obligations. The program provides free confidential information, advising, guidance materials, training, and workshops to help small businesses understand environmental regulations, including permitting, testing and reporting requirements. DCEO coordinates closely with IEPA to offer this program.
Regional Economic Development	The Office of Regional Economic Development coordinates economic development activities and outreach across the state.
Urban Assistance	The Office of Urban Assistance manages the Urban Weatherization Initiative, targeting homes in disadvantaged communities and training home energy technicians, and the Employment Opportunities Grant program, which trains participants in the construction trade industry.

2. How do you determine or define the extent of environmental impacts on the community? Please provide examples.

DCEO relies primarily on the environmental science, health, and engineering expertise of partner agencies and organizations to assess and address environmental impacts prior to

awarding funding to projects. For example, the Offices of Business Development, Coal Development, and Energy and Recycling rely on IEPA permitting and enforcement to guide whether the agency awards funding to projects.

Under some of the Office of Energy and Recycling programs, grant applicants must quantify project benefits based on performance metrics including savings of kWh of electricity and therms of natural gas, avoided emissions of CO₂e, and avoided consumption of fossil-based fuels.

The Offices of Energy and Recycling, Energy Assistance, and Urban Assistance (administering the Urban Weatherization Initiative) all consider potential exposure to lead, asbestos, and other environmental contaminants prior to performing building energy efficiency retrofits or weatherization.

3. Do you have an environmental justice mandate for your agency? Yes/No. If yes, please explain.

No, DCEO does not have an environmental justice mandate for the agency.

4. Do you assess the impact of projects on low-income and minority communities? If so, how? For all grant programs, DCEO requests information from grant applicants regarding the number of individuals of different races/ethnicities served by the proposed project, and the number and type of jobs created by the project (full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary/construction). Where state or state federal guidelines require eligible communities or individuals to

5. Does your agency have programs that address the issues of handicapped and/or elderly populations?

The Office of Community Development administers several programs that offer housing support including rental assistance, housing rehabilitation, housing rehabilitation assistance for occupancy by persons with disabilities, and Section 8 housing choice vouchers. Assistance is offered through a variety of programs listed below and must be accessed either through a participating community action agency, other not-for-profit organizations, or a unit of local government.

- *Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG): Through the CSBG program, community action agencies can offer rental assistance for income eligible families seeking housing. Typically, CSBG funds are being used for the following types of programs: education and training, employment promotion, emergency services, health, housing, personal financial management, nutrition, and coordination of services.*
- *Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG): Through the ESG program, not-for-profit organizations or units of local government can offer rental assistance to those seeking housing or temporary shelter for homeless individuals and/or families.*
- *Housing Rehabilitation Program: Through the Housing Rehabilitation program, low-to-moderate income communities can apply for grants to improve housing and rehabilitate and retrofit properties. A non-entitlement unit of local government can apply for a maximum of \$350,000 in grant funds to improve the homes of its low-to-moderate income residents of owner occupied single family housing units. Grants help provide residents*

with safe and sanitary living conditions and help to stabilize low to moderate income neighborhoods and affordable housing in the community.

- *Mobility and Accessibility Rehabilitation Supplement (MARS): The MARS component helps provide safe and accessible housing for low-to-moderate income residents who have physical disabilities. Up to \$100,000 can be requested by CDAP communities looking to rehabilitate and retrofit properties for occupancy by disabled persons. Applications are accepted on a first come – first serve basis as funding is available.*
- *Section 8: Very low-income individuals and households can apply for monthly rental assistance through HUD’s Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, administered by DCEO. The Section 8 HCV program operates in approximately 25 Central and Southern Illinois counties. The Section 8 HCV program serves approximately 145 families.*

The Illinois Energy and Recycling Office suite of energy efficiency programs includes a programs that funds energy efficient building retrofits and appliance upgrades for residents of Public Housing Authorities, including many low-income seniors.

Seniors comprise a significant portion of the individuals who receive utility bill assistance from the Office of Energy Assistance’s LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) programs.

6. Identify staff positions that work with low-income; minority; elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities.

The majority of DCEO positions work with low-income, minority, elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities – too numerous to list individually.

7. Does your agency have a community involvement/community engagement plan? If yes, explain the plan and specify whether it is general or project specific.

Currently, DCEO is conducting workshops throughout the state to gather input on the development of a statewide Economic Development Plan to help guide the state over the next five years. This plan will address such items as job creation, workforce development, our business environment, poverty reduction, regional needs, and business attraction, among others. In the process, the agency is soliciting recommendation from economic developers, elected officials, businesses, and individuals around the state.

DCEO’s Office of Regional Economic Development has offices and staff located in ten regions across the state. The Regional Economic Development Team recognizes that the best economic development ideas often come through two-way communication with local elected officials, business owners and managers, and residents in their own cities, towns, and neighborhoods. Utilizing an innovative regional approach to economic and workforce development, state economic development reps reach out every day in each of the ten regions of Illinois to provide businesses and communities with better access to state services.

DCEO’s Office of Community Development manages the Illinois Main Street program. The objective of the program is to revitalize Illinois’ traditional downtowns, neighborhood business districts, and urban corridors. Illinois Main Street gives value as it works with Illinois’ communities to provide technical and consultative assistance, training and

resources to improve the economic, social, cultural and physical aspects of each unique commercial area.

8. How does your agency accommodate communities that are non-native English speakers? For example, providing an interpreter at a community meeting, translating documents, etc.
DCEO provides program information in different languages, employs staff members who are able to communicate in clients' (program participants') own native languages, and awards grants to service providers who are able to communicate in clients' (program participants') own native languages. For example, the Office of Employment & Training's website, www.illinoisworknet.com, provides an option for translation into Spanish, Polish, Korean, Russian, or Chinese.

9. Does your agency partner with community interest groups, if so who are they?
Yes, DCEO partners with many community interest groups – too numerous to list individually – primarily through its programming and outreach under the Office of Community Development and the Office of Regional Economic Development.

10. The Mud-to Garden project is an example of how state agencies can work together to address an environmental justice concern. Can you give an example of an opportunity where your agency could partner with one or more agencies on the EJ Commission to address an environmental justice concern?
DCEO already partners with agencies on the Commission to address environmental justice concerns and will continue to do so. For example, the Office of Coal Development will continue to work with IEPA and IDNR to review project permitting – and support community involvement in those permitting processes – prior to funding a project. The Office of Business Development will work with IDOT to support community involvement in decisions concerning development and repair of transportation infrastructure (e.g., highway access points, rail spurs) that serves industrial facilities receiving DCEO incentives.

Environmental Justice Questionnaire for Illinois Department of Natural Resources

When answering the questions below please note if your answers are agency or program specific

1. Do you consider environmental implications when working on an issue in your agency? For example, air, noise, and/or water pollution; soil contamination; nuisance odors; greenhouse gases; etc. If yes, please explain.

Yes,

- *Excess nutrients, agricultural pollution, including tile drainage, herbicides, insecticides, sediment from erosion, livestock waste and livestock erosion*
- *Greater storm intensity can result in longer duration flooding, higher water turbidity and greater erosion.*
- *Increased temperatures can have an effect on the timing and efficiency of fish sampling*
- *Permitting and enforcement matters*
- *Prescribed burning which has implications for air quality. Smoke sensitive areas are addressed in the burn plan*
- *Best Management Practices to protect soil and water quality are required in Forest Stewardship plan that we develop or approve*
- *The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) relates to the quality of the environment, its fundamental to their mission*
- *Department works with EPA and other DNR divisions on water and soil contamination issues. Noise pollution is also regulated on watercraft*
- *Current IT green initiatives around power, ink/toner, paper, printer devices*
- *Limit the amount of grass mowing to reduce air/noise pollution*
- *Recycling program for trash, used tires, used oil*
- *Office of Land Management practice sustainable farming methods on agricultural leases.*
- *Land Management staff are trained and tested in the proper use of pesticides and its impact on the environment*
- *Comprehensive Environmental Review Process (CERP) are mindful of smoke management in our prescribed burn plan*
- *Impacts on humans are considered when we conduct prescribed fires. We consider wind direction for smoke management purposes and plan to keep smoke (air pollution) to minimum and we monitor herbicide application to waterways.*
- *Conducted soil contamination and water pollution concerns for our projects by sampling nearby soils and having chemical testing completed and compared to EPA Taco Tier 1 Standards*
- *The Division of Ecosystems and Environment advises state agencies and local governments of the effects of their actions on endangered and threatened species and Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Sites. These reviews cover the full scope of human activities and their effects on the environment, but with a focus on state-listed endangered species and specific protected natural areas.*

2. How do you determine or define the extent of environmental impacts on the community? Please provide examples.
 - *Fish flesh samples are collected for human consumption advisories due to pesticide contamination.*
 - *Purposes of permitting and enforcement are determined and defined by statutes and administrative rules*
 - *Communicated by citizens*
 - *It is a difficult community problem whether it be high speed rail, sewage treatment, natural habitat*
 - *Samples taken on the scene*
 - *INPC evaluates everything in terms of the impact on the resources that justified protecting the site. This includes groundwater, surface water, sound, light and air quality issues. The INPC use consultants as appropriate*
 - *Office of Law Enforcement consults with other State and Federal agencies to determine the impact and the consequences for the offending individuals or corporation*
 - *During prescribed fire management, to define smoke management impact areas on adjacent neighborhoods, we use up-to-date weather monitoring, maps, experience, training, prescribed burn plans and communication with local fire departments and sometimes neighbors themselves*
 - *We meet all permitting requirements including Section 401 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act*

3. Do you have an environmental justice mandate for your agency? Yes/No. If yes, please explain.
 - *Office of Law Enforcement must investigate complaints or other information we have about environmental justice issues*

4. Do you assess the impact of projects on low-income and minority communities? If so, how?
 - *The Department's permitting programs assess project impacts on all communities which would include low-income and minority communities*
 - *For the INPC, no specific mandate is given, however all projects are voluntary by the landowner. To the extent that minorities participate in INPC programs, their desires are considered. All decisions are made during public meetings that encourage public participation*
 - *Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program for developing wildlife habitat on the school grounds or other public place*
 - *Earth Day in the Parks program allows students to participate in natural resources stewardship activities at state parks. The impacts of these programs tend to be positive, encouraging youth of all communities to participate in outdoor activities*
 - *The Department assesses the impacts. Often, because our projects are located in flood plain areas, low-income and minority communities are often the largest benefactor in our dam removal and flood control projects.*

5. Does your agency have programs that address the issues of handicapped and/or elderly populations?
 - *Disability Hunting Program*
 - *The Department addresses issues arising under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*
 - *No cost or discounted license for elderly*
 - *Provide vehicle devices for wheelchairs for hunters*

6. Identify staff positions that work with low-income; minority; elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities.
 - *Natural Resource Specialists*
 - *Nature Resource Advanced Specialists*
 - *Site Superintendents*
 - *Natural Resources Coordinator*
 - *Natural Areas Protection Specialist*
 - *Site Technicians*
 - *Conservation Workers*
 - *Urban Fishing Program Coordinator*
 - *Natural Resources Managers*
 - *Natural Resource Education Program Manager*

7. Does your agency have a community involvement/community engagement plan? If yes, explain the plan and specify whether it is general or project specific.
 - *The Urban Fishing Program teaches environmental education classes for block clubs, senior citizens centers and anyone with a group of 15-25*
 - *No Child left indoors*
 - *Education trunk programs*
 - *The Departments Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Identifies priorities for the use of local grant program funds*
 - *Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) and Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Priorities include Special Populations, i.e., underserved populations and high need populations*

8. How does your agency accommodate communities that are non-native English speakers? For example, providing an interpreter at a community meeting, translating documents, etc.
 - *Some of our Sites have employees that are Spanish Speaking*
 - *Hunting and Trapping Digest is printed in Spanish*

9. Does your agency partner with community interest groups, if so who are they?
 - *Lake Shelbyville Muskie Club*
 - *Lake Shelbyville Alliance*
 - *Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail*
 - *Lake Mattoon Alliance*
 - *Southeast Environmental Task Force*
 - *Calumet Stewardship Initiative*

- *Alliance for Wolf Lake Initiative*
- *Southeast Sportsman's Club*
- *Chicago Wilderness*
- *Mighty Acorns*
- *CIMBY (Calumet is My Back Yard)*
- *Pheasants Forever*
- *Ducks Unlimited*
- *IL Audubon*
- *Illinois Mine Rescue Association*
- *Fishin Buddies*
- *Friends of the Park*
- *Chicago Wilderness*
- *Chicago Park District*
- *Boys and Girls Club*
- *Friends of Trails*
- *Save the Prairie Society*

10. The Mud-to Garden project is an example of how state agencies can work together to address an environmental justice concern. Can you give an example of an opportunity where your agency could partner with one or more agencies on the EJ Commission to address an environmental justice concern?

- *Acquiring and restoring open space that does not meet our typical criteria of "high quality natural areas" must become a priority for the agency. Use of such spaces to expand habitat, reduce fly dumping & dust emissions, and expand flood plain areas to reduce damage to residential and commercial properties during high water conditions should drive our actions. These kinds of improvements make a real difference in the quality of life for all residents. Restoration of "brown fields" and marginal properties can do more to expand green corridors and provide connections to high quality areas so that animal populations can move throughout the regions.*
- *The INPC continues to work with landowners in rural and economically disadvantaged such as Pembrook Township, Kankakee County to protect land*
- *The agencies could work together to support and implement the Environmental Literacy for Illinois Strategic Plan. <http://dnr.state.il.us/ELAIL/Draft%20Final%20202.pdf>*
- *DNR could increase participation of senior citizens as volunteers. It could also target programming to senior citizens to increase their visitation in State parks*
- *The Agency is working on the Millennium Reserve to protect the Calumet Region in Cook County*

Environmental Justice Questionnaire for Illinois Department of Transportation

When answering the questions below please note if your answers are agency or program specific

1. Do you consider environmental implications when working on an issue in your agency? For example, air, noise, and/or water pollution; soil contamination; nuisance odors; greenhouse gases; etc. If yes, please explain.

Yes. IDOT's Bureau of Design and Environment (BDE) provides guidance on a range of environmental issues that must be addressed during transportation project development. In order to ensure that transportation projects are in compliance with state and federal environmental laws and regulations, BDE conducts surveys, provides special technical expertise, reviews or prepares portions of environmental documents and coordinates projects with state and federal resource agencies.

With any transportation project undertaken by IDOT, the agency closely follows the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process. The NEPA process helps public officials make decisions that are based on an understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. Accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA.

2. How do you determine or define the extent of environmental impacts on the community? Please provide examples.

IDOT conducts community impact assessments to evaluate the effects of transportation projects on community residents and their quality of life. Typically these effects may include changes in access, business and residential relocations, environmental justice issues, cohesion impacts, effects on public facilities and services, development and growth patterns, land use changes and other potential results associated with improvements in infrastructure. The assessment process is an integral part of project planning and development.

IDOT also utilizes Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) when developing projects. CSS is an interdisciplinary approach that is designed to work with stakeholders to develop projects or transportation facilities that fit into and reflect the project's surroundings. Through early, frequent, and meaningful communication with stakeholders, and a flexible and creative approach to design, the resulting projects result in improved safety and mobility for the traveling public, the preservation and enhancement of the scenic, economic, historic, and natural qualities of the settings through which the project is located.

3. Do you have an environmental justice mandate for your agency? Yes/No. If yes, please explain.

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all Illinoisans with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies is integral to IDOT's mission of providing "safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois in ways that enhance quality of life, promote economic prosperity, and demonstrate respect for our environment." Even though the department does not have a specific mandate the implementation of all its projects addresses all issues of human rights and related environmental issues at all levels of project development. Communities are informed of any

major developments prior to construction and all comments are addressed and made compliant if applicable with the NEPA process.

4. Do you assess the impact of projects on low-income and minority communities? If so, how?
As a state Department of Transportation, that partners with its federal partners the Federal Highway Administration on projects (FHWA) and state DOTs are directed by Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." Under this order, federal agencies and states are required to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. In general, IDOT must ensure greater public participation, improve research and data collection relating to the health of and environment of minority and low income populations, determine whether an adverse effect has a "disproportionately high" impact on minority or low income populations, and identify minimization or mitigation strategies to reduce impacts on minority and/or low income communities.

5. Does your agency have programs that address the issues of handicapped and/or elderly populations?
All projects have to address issues of handicapped and/ or elderly populations based on the issues of Safety. As part of the safety focus there is a targeted area of emphasis on vulnerable users and through an integrated process in the decision making process these client groups are included to ensure that they do have a high level of safety on any part of the transportation system. A specific project would be the Illinois Complete Streets law was enacted in October 2007. A "complete street" is one that can accommodate all users safely, including the most vulnerable, identified as youths, persons with disabilities and the elderly. The legislation requires IDOT to give full consideration to bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the planning, design and construction of state transportation facilities,

6. Identify staff positions that work with low-income; minority; elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities.
The Office for Workforce and Diversity work specifically with minority groups on procurement and contractual issues. There are also specific training programs within IDOT that work with handicapped populations.

7. Does your agency have a community involvement/community engagement plan? If yes, explain the plan and specify whether it is general or project specific.
IDOT participates in several community engagement processes. The NEPA process requires meaningful community involvement, IDOT's community impact assessments evaluate transportation projects on community residents and their quality of life, and IDOT's utilization of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) through early, frequent, and meaningful communication with stakeholders, and a flexible and creative approach to design, resulting in projects that should improve safety and mobility for the traveling public, while seeking to preserve and enhance the scenic, economic, historic, and natural qualities of the settings through which they pass.

8. How does your agency accommodate communities that are non-native English speakers? For example, providing an interpreter at a community meeting, translating documents, etc.
There are no mandatory rules however If required the agency will get an interpreter to meetings and translate documents if required. In addition there is staff across the board that is bi-lingual and assist upon request.

9. Does your agency partner with community interest groups, if so who are they?
Meaningful and frequent communication with stakeholders and community interest groups is a cornerstone of IDOT's project development process. These partnerships are often related to a specific project or plan. For example, during the development of the Illinois Bike Transportation Plan, the Long range transportation plan and the development of major projects, IDOT works with various community interest groups. The Transportation Secretary also has quarterly meetings with the Gamaliel Group of Illinois which is a grassroots network of non-partisan, faith-based organizations in 17 U.S. states that organizes to empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives. .Gamaliel is the only national community organizing network that marries broad-based grassroots organizing campaigns with state-of-the-art regional opportunity research and policy development.

10. The Mud-to Garden project is an example of how state agencies can work together to address an environmental justice concern. Can you give an example of an opportunity where your agency could partner with one or more agencies on the EJ Commission to address an environmental justice concern?
The Department participated in this project by transferring soil to the site.

Environmental Justice Questionnaire for IDPH

When answering the questions below please note if your answers are agency or program specific

1. Do you consider environmental implications when working on an issue in your agency? For example, air, noise, and/or water pollution; soil contamination; nuisance odors; greenhouse gases; etc. If yes, please explain.

Health Promotion

Chemical sensitivity to perfume, cologne, etc. and indoor air pollution by the Tobacco Control program with the Smoke-Free Illinois Act. Indoor air pollution would definitely be addressed by the Tobacco Control program with the Smoke-Free Illinois Act

http://www.idph.state.il.us/smokefree/sf_info.htm You could probably also find a lot of information about this on the "We Choose Health" website.

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/wechoosehealth/index.htm>

Health Protection

Toxicology Program works with IEPA on communicating health impacts to the public living near hazardous waste sites. They routinely answer questions from the public about a multitude of indoor and outdoor environmental hazards. The Private Water and Private Sewage Programs work with stakeholders to develop administrative rules that minimize the impact on groundwater. The Asbestos and Lead Program has rules to minimize public exposure to environmental contaminants and establish criteria for mitigating these hazards. Our Sexually Transmitted Disease Program developed a program to accept and dispose of expired medications to reduce the amount ending up in landfills.

2. How do you determine or define the extent of environmental impacts on the community? Please provide examples.

Health Protection

Toxicology Program works with IEPA on communicating health impacts to the public living near hazardous waste sites.

3. Do you have an environmental justice mandate for your agency? Yes/No. If yes, please explain.

Health Protection

No specific environmental justice mandate, but one of the five strategic priority areas is reducing health disparities in communities.

4. Do you assess the impact of projects on low-income and minority communities? If so, how?

Health Promotion

No formal assessment, but try to include low-income and minority communities by making fact sheets and other information available and take this population into consideration when planning outreach activities.

Women's Health and Family Services

We always consider the impact on low-income and minority communities. Disparity is always a primary concern for our office and we take that into consideration when planning

events and projects. For example; the Southern region of Illinois has health access issues in that there is a lack of health care providers as well as transportation. Patients often have to travel greater distances to seek medical care. The OWHFS is currently looking into opportunities to provide transportation for prenatal visits as well as breast cancer screenings. Also our upcoming Needs Assessment focus groups will identify low-income and minority communities.

Health Protection

Most of our regulatory programs are facility specific and are not based on communities. Our STD and HIV programs do include consideration of minority health disparities. Race, sex and ethnicity are key components of our surveillance system. STD rates are often tied to low-income and minority status. Grants in Chicago and East St. Louis target health centers that serve low-income and minority communities with high rates of Syphilis and HIV.

5. Does your agency have programs that address the issues of handicapped and/or elderly populations?

Health Promotion

Yes. For example, Red Cross training for persons with disabilities in case of an emergency; disability and health programs with regard to emergency preparedness include elderly and disabled; partners with Department on Aging to increase health promotion opportunities and healthcare for persons with disabilities (through a 5 year CDC grant); programs to increase accessibility of medical facilities; nutrition programs targeting disability community and Hispanic children with disabilities and their caregivers. Additional information about the Disability and Health Program is on our webpage <http://www.idph.state.il.us/idhp>

Women's Health and Family Services

We have programs that fold in our handicapped and the elderly populations. We have our Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer (IBCCP) and Wisewoman programs which incorporate populations covering ages 35 to 64. The Wisewoman program offers heart healthiness programs to incorporate lifelong changes. The IBCCP program provides free breast cancer and cervical cancer screenings. Our upcoming Needs Assessment focus groups identify participants which may be handicapped or elderly as we are requesting feedback from participants across the lifespan.

Health Protection

Recent increases in HIV among the elderly (30+) demonstrates a need to expand surveillance and provide health education to elderly populations.

6. Identify staff positions that work with low-income; minority; elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities.

Health Promotion

All Chronic Disease Staff.

Women's Health and Family Services

The majority of the OWHFS staff work on an on-going basis with low-income, minority; elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities as we continually conduct on-site

grantee visits, participate in community seminars, conferences and health fairs. We will also be hosting upcoming Needs Assessment Focus groups. Through these activities we are in continual contact with all of the Office of Women's Health and Family Services populations listed above. Ex: Attending a health fair will bring us into contact with age ranges across the lifespan who may inquire into healthy eating habits to breast cancer screening services.

Health Protection

All STD and HIV staff.

7. Does your agency have a community involvement/community engagement plan? If yes, explain the plan and specify whether it is general or project specific.

Health Promotion

Many programs have strategic plans that include community involvement and/or community engagement components.

Women's Health and Family Services

The OWHFS has completed a two year strategic plan which lays the groundwork for services to work effectively and efficiently, and ensure the best use of resources and personnel. The OWHFS will continue to collaborate with key stakeholders, including community members, community based agencies and local health departments to work together to improve the quality of life and shape the future of health in Illinois.

Specific Project: The OWHFS is working on an annual Needs Assessment report as well as the Title V Needs Assessment which will involve professional and community focus groups. We will be holding focus groups within all seven of the health regions within Illinois. We will be requesting feedback from participants to incorporate into our 2015 Needs Assessment and will keep professionals and community members involved throughout the process.

Health Protection

HIV program works with the communities for whom these services are intended to share decisions about HIV prevention activities, services, and funding. Our Food Safety Advisory committee includes consumer groups that advise the Department about food safety issues. IDPH leads the Farmers Market Taskforce that looks at the availability of fresh foods in local communities.

8. How does your agency accommodate communities that are non-native English speakers? For example, providing an interpreter at a community meeting, translating documents, etc.

Health Promotion

Most publications, including Fact Sheets, are available in multiple languages; Tobacco Quitline is equipped to take calls from a large number of languages spoken by non-English speaking callers; also have signers at some meetings when applicable.

Women's Health and Family Services

As the OWHFS conducts and participates in focus groups, seminars, health fairs, conferences and attends outreach events within Illinois we ensure we have bilingual staff available as well as written communication in other languages such as Spanish and Polish.

Many of our brochures are in Spanish such as, "Pink Potlucks", "Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program" and Heart Healthiness information. For the Needs Assessment focus groups we will have forms such as registration and flyers available in Spanish as well as Spanish Speaking staff attending and assisting as facilitators.

Health Protection

Many of our programs have health messages translated in to Spanish and other languages, depending on the target population.

9. Does your agency partner with community interest groups, if so who are they?

Health Promotion

Yes, a large number. A list is attached.

Women's Health and Family Services

Our agency does partner with different interest groups on various programs. The OWHFS works with Local Health departments, grantees, school based health centers, churches and many other organizations throughout Illinois.

Health Protection

Many of our regulatory programs have stakeholder groups that advise the Department on how rules and regulation impact statewide and local communities.

10. The Mud-to Garden project is an example of how state agencies can work together to address an environmental justice concern. Can you give an example of an opportunity where your agency could partner with one or more agencies on the EJ Commission to address an environmental justice concern?

Health Promotion

Farm to School Program provides youth, K-12, with access to nutritious meals, while supporting local farmers and communities. This program provides children with fresh, local food, and helps them understand where their food comes from and how food choices affect their health, environment and community.

Women's Health and Family Services

Our OWHFS will be partnering with Local Health Departments and Community programs to host upcoming Needs Assessment Focus Groups. We have recently issued a survey to solicit feedback on establishing partnerships with these organizations.

Health Protection

The CLEAR-Win is a grant program that targets communities at high risk for lead poisoned children and provides funding for window replacement. The goal of the program is to eliminate lead hazards in homes, providing training on the use of lead paint safe work practices, create local jobs in the lead abatement industry, and support property owners in maintaining lead safe housing. The pilot communities in this project are Englewood, West Englewood neighborhoods in Chicago and Peoria County.

*Access Living of Metro Chicago Center for
 Independent Living
 Advocate Christ Medical Center
 Age Options Area Agency on Aging
 American Cancer Society
 American Cancer Society - Illinois Division, Inc.
 American Cancer Society, Southern Region
 American College of Chest Physicians
 American College of Surgeons
 American Diabetes Association
 American Heart Association in Illinois
 American Lung Association
 Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of
 Chicago
 ARC of Illinois, Family to Family
 Arthritis Foundation
 Asian Health Coalition of Illinois
 Asian Human Services, Inc.
 Belleville Memorial Hospital
 Blessing Cancer Center
 Bureau/Putnam County HD
 Campaign for Better Health Care
 Cancer Wellness Center
 Cass County Health Department
 Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
 Chicago Asthma Consortium
 Chicago Breast Cancer Quality Consortium
 Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders
 Chicago Dermatological Society
 Chicago DPH
 Chicago Public Schools
 Clark County Health Department
 Community Cancer Center
 Community Health Improvement Center
 Contemporary Medicine
 Cook County Health Department
 Coalition of Citizen's with Disabilities in Illinois
 Cumberland County Health Department
 Decatur Area Asthma Coalition
 Decatur Memorial Hospital - Cancer Registry
 Dental Hygiene, School of Allied Health, CASA
 East Central Illinois Asthma Coalition
 East Side Health District
 Edgar County Public Health Department
 Elmhurt Memorial Hospital
 Epidemiological Studies
 Evanston Northwestern
 Franklin Williamson Bi-County Health
 Department*

*Fidelis Senior Care, Inc.
 Genesis Health Group
 Gilda's Club Chicago
 Glenbrook Hospital, Division of General
 Surgery
 Good Samaritan Hospital
 Graham Hospital
 Health Policy Research, Illinois State Medical
 Society
 Hope Light Foundation
 Human Kinetics
 Hult Health Center
 Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
 Illinois Academy of Family Practice Physicians
 Illinois African-American Family Commission
 Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of
 Pediatrics
 Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family
 Services
 Illinois Department of Human Services, School
 Based Health Center Coordinator
 Illinois Department of Children and Family
 Services
 Illinois Department of Public Health,
 Cardiovascular Health Program
 Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for
 Health Statistics
 Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for
 Minority Health
 Illinois Department of Public Health,
 Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
 Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of
 Oral Health
 Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
 Illinois Department of Public Health, Healthy
 Aging/Arthritis/ Alzheimer Programs
 Illinois Department of Public Health, Injury and
 Violence Prevention Program
 Illinois Department of Public Health, Nutrition
 and Physical Activity Program
 Illinois Department of Public Health, Office
 Of Women's Health
 Illinois Department of Public Health, Tobacco
 Control Program
 Illinois Department on Aging
 Illinois Health Education Consortium/ AHEC
 Illinois Hispanic Physicians Association
 Illinois Hospital Association*

Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living
Illinois Oncology
Illinois Primary Health Care Association
Illinois Public Health Institute
Illinois Society Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
Illinois State Cancer Registry
Illinois Tobacco Free Communities
Illinois Tobacco Quitline
IMPACT, Inc. Center for Independent Living
Ingalls Memorial Hospital
Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living
JHSJ Hospital of Cook County
JoDaviess County Health Department
John H. Stroger Jr., Hospital of Cook County
Kane County Health Department
Knox CHD
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Illinois Chapter
Life Center for Independent Living
Logan County Department of Public Health
Lt. Governor's Office
Lupus Foundation of America, Illinois Chapter
Lurie Cancer Center of Northwestern University
Macoupin County Public Health Department
McDonough CHD .
McDonough District Hospital
McLean CHD
Mercer County Health Department
Merck Pharmaceutical
Mercy Hospital Breast Center
Methodist College of Nursing
Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation
Midwestern Regional Medical Center
Mount Sinai Hospital, Urban Health Institute
National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service
National Center for Rural Health Professions
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition-Illinois Chapter
Navigating Cancer Survivorship
Northeastern Illinois Tobacco Control Network
Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living
Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Northwestern Hospital

Northwestern University, Institute for Design Engineering and Applications
Northwestern University, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences
NorthShore University Health System
Occupational Safety and Health Agency
Office of Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
Options Center for Independent Living
OSF Healthcare System, Radiation Oncology
OSF St. Francis Medical Center
Ottawa Regional Hospital
PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living
Pfizer Oncology
Progress Center for Independent Living
Provena St. Joseph Hospital
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
Roseland Community Hospital
Rural Health, Inc.
Rush University College of Nursing
Rush University and Rush Medical Center
Rush-Copley Foundation
Salud Latina/Latino Health
Sangamon County Health Department
Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine
Sinai Health System
Siteman Cancer Center, Washington University School of Medicine
Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation
Southern Illinois Radon Task Force, Inc.
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield
Southern Seven Health Department
St. Clair County Department of Public Health
St. Johns Hospital Cancer Institute
Springfield Center for Independent Living
Starting Point Aging and Disability Resource Center, Macon County Health Department
SuperSibs!
Susan G. Komen/Peoria Memorial Affiliate

The Cancer Center at Blessing Hospital
The Cancer Support Center
The Jennifer S. Fallick Cancer Support Center
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society-Gateway
Chapter
University of Chicago Cancer Research Center
University of Chicago Hospitals, Cancer
Registry
University of Chicago School of Medicine
University of Chicago, Diabetes Research and
Training Center
University of Illinois at Chicago, Cancer Center
University of Illinois at Chicago, College of
Dentistry
University of Illinois at Chicago, College of
Nursing
University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of
Disability and Human Development
University of Illinois at Chicago, Division of
Specialized Care for Children
University of Illinois at Chicago, Epidemiology

and Biostatistics
University of Illinois at Chicago, School of
Public Health, Institute for Health Research
and Policy
University of Illinois at Chicago, School of
Public Health, NBLIC
University of Illinois College of Medicine at
Peoria
University of Illinois Extension
University of Illinois at Springfield
University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign
US EPA Region 5
US Too International Prostate Cancer Education
and Support
Washington County Health Department
Wellness House
West Central Illinois Center for Independent
Living
Western Illinois University
Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living
Winnebago County Health Department

Environmental Justice Questionnaire for Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

When answering the questions below please note if your answers are agency or program specific

1. Do you consider environmental implications when working on an issue in your agency? For example, air, noise, and/or water pollution; soil contamination; nuisance odors; greenhouse gases; etc. If yes, please explain.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has three separate bureaus that address air, water, and land. The Bureau of Air works to improve air quality by identifying air pollution problems, proposing appropriate regulations, conducting inspections, and reviewing permit applications. It also operates a vehicle emissions testing program. The Bureau of Land's goals are to protect human health and the environment by ensuring that hazardous and solid waste will be managed in a sound manner, and to reduce or control risk to human health and the environment by overseeing the cleanup of contaminated sites. The mission of the Bureau of Water is to ensure that Illinois' rivers, streams and lakes will support all uses for which they are designated including protection of aquatic life, recreation and drinking water supplies, make sure that every Illinois Public Water system will provide water that is consistently safe to drink, and to protect Illinois' groundwater resource for designated drinking water and other beneficial uses.

2. How do you determine or define the extent of environmental impacts on the community? Please provide examples.

The Illinois EPA utilizes a number of methods to determine the extent of environmental impacts on communities. The Illinois EPA routinely reviews construction and operating permit applications that must provide information concerning the source's impacts on the environment, which in turn has the potential to impact communities. The Illinois EPA and the United States Environmental Protection Agency enforce numerous laws and regulations that are intended to be protective of human health. Part of the enforcement process is receiving citizen complaints, which gives the Illinois EPA valuable insight into impacts on a community. The Illinois EPA conducts inspections based on citizen complaints as well as routine inspections of sources. In addition, the Illinois EPA operates an extensive air monitoring network; gathers information through various recordkeeping and reporting requirements; and requires many sources to conduct testing of soil, water and air emissions.

3. Do you have an environmental justice mandate for your agency? Yes/No. If yes, please explain.

Illinois EPA defines Environmental Justice as follows: "Environmental Justice" is based on the principle that all people should be protected from environmental pollution and have the right to a clean and healthy environment. Environmental justice is the protection of the health of the people of Illinois and its environment, equity in the administration of the State's environmental programs, and the provision of adequate opportunities for meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

The key goals of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Policy are as follows:

- *To ensure that communities are not disproportionately impacted by degradation of the environment or receive a less than equitable share of environmental protection and benefits;*
- *To strengthen the public's involvement in environmental decision-making, including permitting and regulation, and where practicable, enforcement matters;*
- *To ensure that Illinois EPA personnel use a common approach to addressing EJ issues; and*
- *To ensure that the Illinois EPA continues to refine its environmental justice strategy to ensure that it continues to protect the health of the citizens of Illinois and its environment, promotes environmental equity in the administration of its programs, and is responsive to the communities it serves.*

To read the full policy visit the webpage below:

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/environmental-justice/policy.html>

4. *Do you assess the impact of projects on low-income and minority communities? If so, how? Yes, the Illinois EPA developed a geographic based computer tool to analyze demographics near sources regulated by the Agency to determine if they are located in or near communities predominately low-income and/or minority. The Illinois EPA also utilizes similar resources made available by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.*
5. *Does your agency have programs that address the issues of handicapped and/or elderly populations? The Illinois EPA does not have programs that address the issues of handicapped and/or elderly populations.*
6. *Identify staff positions that work with low-income; minority; elderly and/or handicapped populations and communities.*

*Environmental Justice Officer
Environmental Justice Liaison
Bureau of Air Community Relations Staff
Bureau of Water Community Relations Staff
Bureau of Land Community Relations Staff*

7. *Does your agency have a community involvement/community engagement plan? If yes, explain the plan and specify whether it is general or project specific. Illinois EPA has an Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy. This policy covers the following activities: Permitting transactions; Remediation projects in the Bureau of Land (except for projects covered by the Superfund Community Involvement Policy); Complaint investigations, and Enforcement.*

The Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy sets forth that an effective public participation strategy emphasizes early and meaningful public involvement throughout the permitting process. In order to achieve meaningful public involvement the agency has provided public participation options in potential environmental justice communities. These public participation options are as follows:

- *Community Outreach – This includes environmental justice notifications; public notices; fact sheets, and encouraging the permit applicant(s) to meet with community stakeholders to promote open dialogue early in the permitting process for appropriate permitting actions.*
- *Public Meetings – For permitting transactions, the purpose of the meeting is to inform the residents in and around a potential EJ Area of the scope and nature of the project in a timely, interactive manner and explain the permitting process. Informational meetings may be held prior to a public hearing or may be held when a public hearing is not required.*
- *Fact Sheet and Project Summary – Illinois EPA will provide a plain language summary of the major aspects of the proposed project, including the purpose and location of the proposed activity and facility, and any anticipated environmental impacts, and any controls or work practices that will limit those impacts.*
- *Document Availability – Illinois EPA will take every effort to make information available to residents in potential EJ Areas in a timely and efficient manner.*

To read the full policy visit the webpage below:

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/environmental-justice/public-participation-policy.pdf>

8. How does your agency accommodate communities that are non-native English speakers? For example, providing an interpreter at a community meeting, translating documents, etc. *When appropriate Illinois EPA provides bi- or multi-lingual public notices. Illinois EPA will make a good faith effort to provide a translator when it is known that residents do not speak English very well or when the Illinois EPA receives a request for a translator within two weeks of any public hearing or meeting and when the need for a translator is adequately justified.*

9. Does your agency partner with community interest groups, if so who are they? *Illinois EPA partners with community interest stakeholders in many facets of the agency's work. In regard to environmental justice the agency partners with community interest groups formally through the Illinois Environmental Justice Commission and the Environmental Justice Advisory Group.*

The agency partners with community interest groups when doing public outreach in their communities. The agency also partners with these groups when they have community-based career and educational events.

10. The Mud-to Garden project is an example of how state agencies can work together to address an environmental justice concern. Can you give an example of an opportunity where your agency could partner with one or more agencies on the EJ Commission to address an environmental justice concern?

The Agency works with the following agencies:

1. *The Illinois EPA works with the Department of Natural Resources on coal mine permitting issues. The IEPA is responsible for ensuring that discharges from the mines do not adversely impact the environment and waters of the state.*
2. *The Illinois EPA financially supports the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program at the Department of Commerce and economic Opportunity. This program*

provides technical assistance to bring business into compliance with environmental regulations. Over 95% of the businesses are located in urban and environmental justice areas (auto body shop, auto mechanic shops, printers, etc).

3. *The Illinois EPA has a close partnership with Illinois Department of Public Health on toxicology determinations when there is a release of contamination into the environment to inform the public of any health advisories, i.e., drinking water, fishing and safe occupancy. Subsistence fishing is a very common in EJ communities and pollution into the waters of the state does adversely impact this common practice.*