

EPA

Moderator: Lisa Garcia
May 19, 2011
4:00 p.m. ET

Operator: At this time I would like to welcome everyone to The Environmental Justice Community Outreach conference call. All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speakers remarks there will be a question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press star, then the number one on your telephone key pad. If you would like to withdrawal your question press the pound key. Thank you. Mrs. Garcia, you may begin your conference.

Lisa Garcia: Hi everyone, this is Lisa Garcia. Sorry I am late I am in the wrong room. So I apologize for starting just a little late. I, once again, welcome to the Environmental Justice Community Outreach call. We have been doing this quarterly and they seem to be going pretty well.

I will just give a quick update on Plan EJ 2014. This is the plan we introduced last July. The implementation plan for each section of the plan went out for public comment, and so between the initial round of public comments, and the comments on the implementation plans, we have had about 250 comments come in.

We are reviewing the comments now and looking forward to putting the planning date 2014 out as a final document. Saying that it is final is with the understanding that it is a living, breathing document and that we, for each section, and each topic area, we will continue to work with stakeholders and seek comments on specific topic areas. And so that's a quick update on

planning date 2014. I think we're looking right now at a mid-, I'm sorry, end of June date for the final document.

And a, just quickly on the Interagency Working Group, at the end of this, we are going to have a little update on the Interagency Working Group. That's the EJ Interagency Working Group. We've kicked off some of the stake holder meetings and we have been in Alaska and New Orleans and Brooklyn, Mobile Alabama, and Worcester Massachusetts. And so we are going to give everybody list of the next round of meetings at the end of this meeting. And, I think they are posted on our website, or we will be posting, we will be updating our website.

And last week, we had the NEJAC meeting, The National Environmental Advisory Counseling Meeting in Brooklyn. I thought it went very well, and we got some, also some good comments from some from stake holders, but also updated the NEJAC on the work that we are doing, so that they will be able to work on continuing to give us recommendations.

The one thing that came out of the NEJAC last week was the draft recommendation for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. And, so, those recommendations will be presented to the Administrator who is the Chair of the Gulf Coast Task Force, and hopefully help inform the recommendations that will go to the President in October from the Gulf Coast Task Force.

Carlos Evans: And just a quick request, if you have, if you are on a speaker line, make sure your line is on mute so we cut down on the feedback. Thank you.

Lisa Garcia: OK, so now, I am going to turn it over to Janet McCabe, who is the Principal Deputy, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. And she has been our lead, along with the Office of General Counsel on our EJ Permitting Working Group for Plan EJ for 2014. (Janet).

Janet McCabe: Thanks Lisa, and thanks to all of your for letting me have a few minutes on this call. As Lisa mentioned, one aspect of Plan EJ 2014, is an effort to look particularly at permitting environmental justice issues, and the Office of Air and Radiation and our legal here at EPA are taking the lead on this effort.

I just want to give you a quick update on where that particular effort is at the moment, and how you can stay engaged and help us with it as we move forward. We, I, hope that you have taken a look at our draft work plan, which was part of the Plan EJ 2014 plan on the website.

We have a, work charted out for this calendar year that focuses on, divides the EJ and Permitting issues into two main groups. One group is how, what should permitting agencies issuing permits under federal laws be doing to ensure a, full and meaningful access and participation to the permitting process for all interested, stakeholders, residents, community members. And in particular how do we make opportunities for meaningful participation for communities, that are overburdened and have other challenges or burdens, or barriers that make access difficult for them.

The other category of work is more the substance of the permitting process what should these agencies be looking at in terms of the permits themselves, when a facility is proposed to be cited in a community that already has more than its fair share of its environmental burdens. We recognize that many times the burdens on the community go far beyond the permit application that is actually pending before the agency and that it's not realistic for a single permit to address the burdens that the community is bearing. And, so that issue is very much in our minds as we sink through how the permitting process should address these issue.

Our goal this year is to identify a number of mechanisms and tools and strategies and legal options that permitting agencies can use for both of these categories, the procedural category and the permit, the contents of the permit category, and we've already gotten a huge amount of input and good suggestions from people in community groups, from the NEJAC, whose looked at this issue very closely several times, from businesses, from State and Local agencies, and from our own regional office who do permitting. So we're sorting through that.

We feel we still want to provide further opportunities for people to give us input. So one thing I want to make sure you know about is that we are

planning a series of phone call, conference call based listening sessions in early June. We are thinking about doing six of these calls that would be tailored to different stake holder groups.

We have one for state and tribal governments, we have one for environmental justice community groups, environmental groups and those sorts of a, advocacy groups, neighborhood groups. We'd have one for the regulating community, we'd have one for the tribal entities of all sorts. We're planning to have one that will be conducted in Spanish and we're planning to have one that would be for anybody who does not associate themselves with a particular stake holder group.

At least a couple of these calls will be scheduled late in the day, Eastern Time, so that they will be after work, hopefully, for most people around the country. As we hand those dates down, we will be getting information out to people and this list for this call will certainly be an audience that we would get that information to.

Those sessions will be, where I said, they will be listening sessions. EPA will do some kind of short introduction, but then we'll put our own mute button on and take feedback and input from the people on the call. So, stay tuned for more information about that. I think I will stop there and then I know there will be time for questions later.

Lisa Garcia: Thank you, Janet. So we'll defiantly make sure that we post that when figure out the times and dates for those meetings, or calls. And, so next, we're going to have an update on radon and Bill Wong, the Director of Centers for Radon and Air Toxics from the office of Air and Radiation, will give us a briefing on the radon update.

Bill Wong: Great, thanks Lisa. Can everyone hear me OK?

Lisa Garcia: Yes.

Bill Wong: OK. Thanks Lisa for letting me be on the call, I am really excited to be able to speak to all of you today. As Lisa said, I am here to talk to you about radon, one of the highest risk pollutants that EPA deals with. In many ways,

it's kind of the forgotten environmental issue. Everyone thinks of radon as something that was kind of big back in the 80's and 90's and was solved. And it doesn't have a polluter; you can't smell it or see it. But it's a very big issue. I think it's a very big Environmental Justice issue, not from a disproportionate, exposure aspect.

Radon is everywhere, it's sort of, it can be high on any house, but from an ability to pay aspect. So there's an inability for low income populations to deal with radon effectively. Radon is the leading environmental cause of cancer mortality. It's the second leading cause of lung cancer in America, and the leading cause among non-smokers.

Lung cancer is a terrible disease to get. The survival rates, post diagnosis survival rates after five years, I think are 15 percent. It's a terrible burden to get a diagnosis of lung cancer. And as opposed to, you may have heard about this issue in the early years, there is virtually no controversy now about the science. Everyone in the scientific community of substance agrees, there is a very high risk, 20,000 lung cancer deaths a year at relative, relatively low levels of exposure that you get in the home.

And as I said, of particular concern, is the fact that low income Americans simply are unable to reduce their exposure to this lung cancer risk. We estimate that about eight million homes nationwide have radon levels at or above our recommended radon action level. About 13 percent of the economically disadvantaged live in high rate potential areas, accounting for about six million people. And, sadly the problem is getting worse. Despite a lot of work that we've engaged in over the years, and some great successes, we've had hundreds of thousands of homes tested and fixed around the country. Because of the growing housing stock, there are more high homes now than when the program started. So, the bottom line is that it's a serious environmental risk. And there is a program gap with regard to the Environmental Justice issue.

The good news is it's easy to fix. To test for radon is pretty cheap and to fix it uses readily available technology, simple technology that's tried and true and

tested. But, the problem is there is virtually no funding sources really used for fixing dwellings with high radon levels for low income population.

In response to this growing concern, our leadership here in the Office of Air and Radiation, Gina McCarthy, our Assistant Administrator, and Janet McCabe, held, you know, a start talking to us in convened a summit of other federal agencies, for the first ever Federal Radon Summit back in November, on November 30, 2010.

We brought together the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, DOE, GSA, HUD, HHS, Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior to talk about this threat, this lung cancer threat, and decided that we we're going to develop a Federal Action Plan to reduce radon risk. We are in the midst, I guess my sort of main update to this group, is, we are in the midst of finalizing the draft Action Plan, and we are hopefully going to announce that in June, at the Healthy Homes Conference, which is taking place in Denver Colorado.

We are hoping that this Federal Action Plan is going to jump start the economy and spur more action in the private sector. So while the federal government only controls apportion of the homes in the U.S., we have great influence with regard to how the private sector deals with Health Housing issues. So our hope is that after the Federal Action Plan is released, that the NGO community will step forward and fill in some of the gaps and spur more action nationwide.

I think an important part to say is that a big part of the solution for low income Americans is HUD. They have many, many, programs that deal with federally financed housing, and federally owned housing, both in the construction of it and the rehab of it and the financing of it. And I think that one message I would have for this group, is that many in the Healthy Housing Community are talking to HUD about the need to increase radon risk reduction in their programs and I encourage people to get involved in that. And when the Federal Action Plan comes out, become active in this issue. It's a vitally important environmental issue.

So Lisa I think with that I will end my little talk, and I will wait around for questions after.

Lisa. Garcia: Great. Thank you so much Bill, we appreciate that. And moving through the agenda, we will ask Sheila Brown the Program Analyst from the Indoor Environments Division, also in the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, in the Office of Air and Radiation, to give us a quick asthma update. Sheila, are you on?

Sheila Brown: I am on, can you hear me?

Lisa Garcia: Yes, thank you, go ahead.

Sheila Brown: OK. Thank you. Thank you for allowing me to join the call and provide you an asthma update. I imagine that at least most of you on this call; either you know someone or you have come in contact with someone in your travels, in your family and friends, gatherings that you've come in contact with at least one person that has asthma.

Think for a second about who that person is, what are, or what is that persons trigger or triggers, and how does that person control their asthma, or is their asthma even in control? I will give you a snapshot of how EPA is taking action, and you can too, to assist children and families dealing with asthma.

Here is a general note, so if you don't remember anything else that I say during this next five minutes, that everything I am about to tell you, you can find at <http://www.epa.gov/asthma>. Again, that's <http://www.epa.gov/asthma>. This site has all the links to the information that I will be sharing in this update. So if any of you are near your computer, or if you have one of these really smart, Smart Phones, you can logon now and check out EPA's asthma program as I go though a few quick updates.

Even our EPA Administrator Jackson has a personal story that she shared about her challenges about having a child with asthma. You can hear a clip of her story on our home page on the website that I just gave you. So, even the highest official in EPA knows, firsthand, about the burden and control of asthma.

Asthma affects almost 25 million people of all ages and races. Asthma is a nationwide problem. Asthma has consistently increased over the past decade, with millions of additional cases being reported, including nearly one million additional cases reported regarding children.

One out of every 10 school aged child is effected, and approximately 13 million people have reported having an asthma attack in the past few years. National studies indicate children and family members suffer from asthma resulting in doctor and hospital visits, lost learning time in school, parents and caregivers losing time at work, more sick days and hired health care costs. Because of this asthma is considered a chronic disease.

Therefore, correct use of medicines and devices, increased awareness, reduction of environmental triggers, community resources at the Federal, State and Local levels, and mobilizing communities to deliver quality, comprehensive asthma management programs are key, key essentials to bringing asthma under control and reduce the burden of asthma.

EPA is taking action to ensure cleaner air, indoor and outdoor air, and a healthier environment for children and families dealing with asthma. EPA provides guidance and resources to reduce indoor air triggers, such as dust mites, mold, cockroaches, pet dander and second hand smoke in homes and schools.

One of the things that is going on right now in the month of May, we are still in the month of May, is this is, May is asthma awareness month. Asthma awareness day occurs annually on May 3rd, as well as annually we honor and recognize asthma awareness month.

Each May thousands of organizations join together for asthma awareness month and the goal of this is to increase public awareness of the asthma epidemic and to get communities to take action to get asthma under control across the nation.

We at the EPA have developed an event planning kit to equip State and Local asthma programs to hold community based asthma awareness and action

events during asthma awareness month. This event planning kit provides ideas and topic for planning and running powerful community asthma events. You can check out the Events Spotlights to learn about successful efforts communities have had in the past and what communities are doing this May 2011, to raise awareness and take action around asthma.

You can also find sample materials and a resource order form that community organizers can use at asthma awareness events. To find these tools, you go to the website that I gave you, in addition to asthma, you add awareness, so the actual website to find out more about our asthma awareness month materials and what people are doing is, of course <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awareness>.

Another quick update I would like to give is, that we have a great event that takes place in June, June 9th through the 10th at the Grand Hyatt Hotel here in Washington, D.C. It is our National Asthma Forum; excuse me. Again that is June 9th and 10th here in Washington, D.C. at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

So who attends this National Asthma Forum? We gave a wide range of community stake holders that are all concerned and mobilizing about asthma. Our stake holders include, asthma advocates, school professionals, health care providers, environmental and public health professionals, as well as representatives from non-profit organizations and State and Local partners and community advocates.

What happens at this forum? Participants hear from their peers, this is a peer to peer action learning event. People hear from their peers about effective approaches that they can use to bring asthma under control in their communities. This is a hands-on learning event with break out sessions that are focused on environmental interventions in the home, school and clinic setting, as well as a lot of opportunity for networking.

You can learn more about the asthma forum and still register to attend the asthma forum at <http://www.epaasthamforum.com>. There you will find the agenda, you'll find the registration information, and you will also find the hotel information. There is a modest registration fee of \$235.00. However, I

would encourage you to attend. This is a great way to accelerate progress on community asthma work and to learn more about environmental health programs.

Another update that we would like to share is that there is a way to engage with communities 24/7, around the clock, around, all the time, all day. This is our Asthma Community Network. This is an online network that has been designed for community based asthma programs and organizations that sponsor community based programs.

This network includes representatives of health plans, health providers, government health and environmental agencies. Non-profit community coalitions, community advocates, schools, individuals, it is a great network. The network provides community based asthma programs a platform for real time learning that can drive the ongoing improvement of asthma care.

By joining our network, at no cost, you will become a partner to help us build and sustain this online network of community people together who are improving lives. You can also find out about programs in your own area at this site by entering your zip code, your city and State, or even the name of an organization, the website for the Asthma Community Network is <http://www.asthamcommunitynetwork.org>.

Operator: Excuse me; I do see that our time is running short. Lisa, would you like to move on.

Sheila Brown: OK. I will close out with that. I would just request that you check out the websites that I have given you and that you pass this information forward to others who may be concerned about comprehensive asthma care. Thank you.

Lisa Garcia: Thank you Sheila. Obviously a lot going on, so we appreciate you giving us the update and of course we encourage folks to check out the website and get in touch with the office for more information. Thank you. And, so, now we will move on with the agenda for the TSCA update. Michael Burns is on the phone, the, he is going to join us from the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

Michael Burns: This is Mike Burns, can you hear me?

Lisa Garcia: Yes. Hello.

Michael Burns: And is Caroline Ahearn going to resent as well, or am I going to cover both topics?

Caroline Ahearn: Yes I was going to talk about the bill, but if you'd like to start that's fine.

Michael Burns: No, why don't you start, cause that's the bigger picture and then we'll go to, a thee, what we are doing with existing authorities.

Caroline Ahearn: OK, great. I want to give you some information about a bill that was recently introduced last month by Senator Frank Lautenberg. He is a subcommittee chairman on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. He's introduced a bill that would drastically reform and modernize TSCA, it would make it more enforceable for EPA. The bill is known as the "Save the Chemicals act of 2011" and TSCA, by way of background, The Toxic Substance Control Act, was first passed in 1976 and it's never been amended.

The bill would put the burden on industry to prove the chemicals in the market are safe. Currently that responsibility falls to EPA, which can only call for safety testing after evidence surfaces that a chemical would pose a risk. It would require chemical manufactures to provide a minimum data set to the EPA for every chemical they produce and prove that substances are safe.

EPA would be required, under the bill, to prioritize those chemical based on the health risk they pose. It would grant the Administrator the authority to act quickly on chemicals that could be dangerous, and it would also create a public data base of this chemical information and establish grant programs for developing green , or safer chemical alternatives.

Of interest to the Environmental Justice folks I think, is the section of the bill that deals with hot spots. It would require the agency to a identify hot spots where people are subject to disproportionately high exposures and EPA would have to develop action plans to address these situations.

So, I could go into more detail about that if we have more time. But that's in Section 34 of the bill and I think it's a really pretty innovative section that holds a lot of promise. Now in terms of passage of the bill, this bill was introduced last Congress, and there was also a House version, this Congress may only have Senate version, and it looks like passage is viewed as pretty mixed. Industry have said before that they are supportive of TSCA reform. But I think at this time it's not that promising that it would pass. But I will keep monitoring it and advise you.

Lisa Garcia: Thank you. And so Mike do you want to follow up?

Michael Burns: Sure. So, Caroline has described what sort of the hopes are for a reform for TSCA. But Administrator Jackson has made a high priority out of doing everything we can with existing authorities that TSCA does provide, to involve chemical safety in America.

The primary sort of approaches that have been taken along the last few years have been three-fold. First, to get better data and make the data available to the public. The second is to assess chemicals from both a hazard and exposure prospective, to identify chemicals where we think there is risks that need to be addressed. And the third is to actually use TSCA authorities to control the risks that we have identified.

In reverse order, from a sort of the risk management front, first, the agency has issued 10 action plans over the past two years on chemicals of concern, and you can find these action plans on the web just by Googling "EPA chemical action plans."

Each action plan identifies what we think the risks are posed by the chemical and what steps we are going to take using TSCA authorities to either ban the chemical, or ban certain uses of the chemical, to use other authorities just as at least alert people to the fact that we've got concerns about the chemical, conduct test rules and significant use rules to restrict these chemicals are examined their use.

On the same front, we're doing quite a bit of work to make the chemical information the EPA has more available to the public. And there is sort of

two thrusts there, one is to make the data that we have available electronically. There's been a major expansion of TSC data available to the public in the past several months on Data.gov and on EnviroFacts. So if you were to use those sort of basic government services, the TSCA data has not been on them before, now it is.

There's about 74 million pages of documents that are now available through those electronic services, it's there's a lot of assessment that the information can support, both by EPA and by States and other government and communities and individuals themselves. There's been thousands of new hits on those websites using these data and the TSCA data are sort of the most popular data feature on these services.

So there's been really a substantial improvement of public access to information and from an Environmental Justice perspective, you know, our feeling is that, that's just an empowering mechanism. It gives people the ability to have an understanding of what the chemicals are that are in their communities, other sources of information about chemicals like TRI have been out there for a while, but it's hard to know the problems the chemicals pose, and that where this is headed.

So a, and then you know, one of the actions under Plan EJ 2014, is to change our rule making process so that, the, it considers Environmental Justice aspects thought the rule making, through the entire stages of rule making process and under TSCA.

We've already been starting to implement that guidance by, for instance in the case of Formaldehyde, where the issue was emissions coming from pressed wood products used in things like trailers that were used by FEMA after Katrina and other emergency interventions. We actually conducted a series of public hearings in the areas where the people lived that the trailers were being used, to find out more about what the effects are and what's been happening on that chemical, with PCB's and caulks.

In schools, we conducted public session in New York City, late in the evening so that people with kids in school and working parents could actually have a chance to come and let us know what they are dealing with on these fronts.

So, things that are in Plan EJ 2014 are having real effects on the way the EPA is doing business and even though the TSCA authorities are old and need to be improved Administrator Jackson's priority to make sure we're doing what we can with them is being put into action with very, very significant results.

Lisa Garcia: Great, great to hear. Thank you so much for that update. So now Operator, we are going to open it up for Q&A on these topics. And just so folks know, these topics were brought to us by comments that came in on areas of interest that folks would want to hear about. So, hopefully these updates have given some information. But we are going to open it up just for general Q&A, not necessarily on this topic alone.

Operator: Thank you. To ask a question please press star and the pound one on your telephone key pad. We'll pause for just a moment to compile the Q&A roster. Our first question comes from (Naema Mohammed).

(Naema Mohammed): Good afternoon everybody. I'm Naema in North Carolina, with the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network. And I am, my question is for Mike with TSCA, and that is, when you talked about the various chemicals and stuff, in North Carolina, in the eastern part of the State, we're, we have a huge problem with industrial agriculture and so there's a great concern with people in those communities living these animals about their air and water quality, and there high rate of asthma and various issues. The health impacts are showing itself.

But my question is, on your chemical list, is there anything that will address the exposure of these types of communities, from you know, any chemicals that industries are using for their industrial, what they call industrial hog farming, but you know..?

Lisa Garcia: Thank you.

Michael Burns: Should I respond?

Lisa Garcia: Yes. So you have...

Michael Burns: Of the 10 chemicals that we have done Action Plans on to date, I don't believe any of them are associated with environmental problems that you're describing. We're about to embark on a process over this coming summer to figure out which are the next sets of priority chemicals that we should look at through this process, and that will be a public engagement phase in that a, in, in that process.

So I would ask you to stay tuned to EPA's web site for announcements about the opportunity to participate in those discussions. You can also just send us an email and identify this concern that you have that would get us to at least, you know, log it in as an area that somebody thinks TSCA should be directing its authorities to be looking at, and we can take it into consideration that way as well.

So and you can send just an email to me at Burns.Mike@EPA.gov and I'll make sure the concern you just raised gets into the hands of the people who are trying to figure out which chemicals we need to be focusing on first.

Lisa Garcia: We also have, we just have something else to add, generally, on the hog farms, or CAFO issue...

Female: Right there's an agreement that the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance entered into with some livestock producers and under that agreement, they have to submit a, certain information on air emissions, so that data is going to be studied and are looking for the science to guide us on what to do with this information. But, so there is something in place right now. We are studying this issue...

Lisa Garcia: So it's very high in the beginning stages and we appreciate you raising it, and it was actually raised last week at the...

Female: NEJAC.

Lisa Garcia: At the NEJAC meeting also and being concerns for many communities, especially in rural areas. And we also, actually the Administrator was down in El Paso, Texas and in New Mexico, there are some duck farms that I guess have some of the same issues. So thank you for raising that. Next question.

Naema Mohammed: And can I just share one piece of information, in terms of in North Carolina that we've spent a lot of research going on through North Carolina, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Public Health and in the EJ network that's been addressing these industrial animal operations, and the impact on people. And so, we have an awful lot of scientific documentation, if you all would be interested. And Dr. Steve Wing at the School of Public Health at the UNC Chapel Hill would be a good person for you all to be talking with.

Lisa Garcia: OK, that's great, thank you for the information. We'll take the next question.

Operator: Thank you. Our next question comes on the line from (Eugene Miller).

(Eugene Miller): Hello how are you doing? Hello?

Lisa Garcia: Hello.

(Eugene Miller): We're from Cleveland, Ohio, the area, I just had a question about this, with the update on the radon and air toxins, I really couldn't understand that. Is there somewhere we can go get more information on that? We're just starting an EPA program in the east side of Cleveland in the Collinwood area.

(Bill Wong): We have a great website to learn more about radon, it's EPA.gov/radon. You have a great State program in the state of Ohio, and you can get their information on our website, it has a way to direct you there. You said you are from the Cleveland area?

(Eugene Miller): Yes. I'm a local counsel person for the Cleveland area.

Bill Wong: OK. We radon can be quite high in the Cleveland area. There also a great local air toxics campaign that actually was started by EPA, Region V, EPA office, called the Cleveland Clean Air Century Campaign. It is still active.

They have now kind of transitioned out of EPA grant money into private foundation money, and I can't remember off the top of my head there contact information, but maybe a, I could get that to you through the EJ office folks.

(Eugene Miller): And one last question, where's a place where we can start, you know, just trying to support to better understand EPA Environmental Justice? Is it somewhere in Cleveland or Ohio or somebody in the region?

Lisa Garcia: Yes, we have a regional office; this is what Bill was trying to refer to, a regional office. Their headquarters are in Chicago, but they have an office in, I am not sure if it's Ohio, anyway they have several offices. So why don't you, if you could either email us, or I mean we do have a website, but sometimes it's also good to just have a phone call.

You can email, the email address that was on here was Evans.Carlos@EPA.gov and we'd be glad to give you some more information on what we were discussing earlier on plan EJ 2014, which is kind of our road map on how to address Environmental Justice. And then maybe get you familiar with some of the regional folks who are out in Ohio, to help you navigate EPA and becoming more familiar with that. So, definitely try to get tin touch with us, so we can start that.

(Eugene Miller): OK. Thank you.

Lisa Garcia: Thank you.

Operator: OK. Our next question comes from (Vincent Martin).

(Vincent Martin): Hello, thank you for this opportunity to talk I come from Detroit which is a very highly industrial area and my concern is community impact of combined packages and air born products coming from all this industry. We've sat back and hired a company from out of California that came and did some private testing with the help of the Sierra Club, and there is definitely a problem. But then in the area they only tested for maybe four of five products. I think that might be a, problem.

We need to look at everything that's going on, and get some accurate data regarding. I believe (Deny) is on the line, he can give you more of an update on that. He is the professional. But we really need to look at this because asthma is real bad in my neighborhood. I mean I know some people who have five children and all of them have asthma. So it's, there's definitely a problem out here. We've defiantly got a hot spot.

Lisa Garcia: OK. I guess I will just ask Sheila if she wants to respond, quickly on some of that asthma information or asthma assistance?

(Vincent Martin): OK.

Lisa Garcia: I don't know if she is still on? And then if not, what I was going to suggest is a...

Sheila Brown: I'm sorry, I'm still on the call; I was on mute.

Lisa Garcia: Oh, OK.

Sheila Brown: I guess the thing I want to make sure is clear, is that from my offices perspective, we're looking at indoor air triggers of asthma, and then the outdoor air offices are looking at outdoor triggers of asthma. So I would suggest as a start, to go to that website that I gave you, which is our main website, the EPA.gov/asthma and learn more about triggers, both indoors and outdoors. I don't know if I have too much more to say about that. And then...

Lisa Garcia: That's good, cause I mean part of that is obviously the information about prevention, which is one aspect that is really important, and then the cumulative impacts. I'll just have Janet quickly say something.

Janet McCabe: This is Janet McCabe from the Office of Radiation, and I wonder if you have been in contact with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and their air office?

(Vincent Miller): Yes I have.

Janet McCabe: OK. Are they looking at the information that you've collected?

(Vincent Miller): Well right now we are still gathering more data and things of that nature. I really, they are having a problem with manpower here in Michigan you know as far as, you know getting, cause they, and we run into a lot of resistance about the cumulative effect, you know. I mean we've gotten some information data and every time we send it in, our data has been scrutinized and saying that is not accurate because when we sent it off to get it tested, they we're saying something about the factor that tainted the sample, things of that nature.

So I am just saying if we could get a solution, actually look at what the problem is out here, I think it would be better, you know, we are more solution oriented than you know, trying to find a reason, we need to try and find what's going on.

Janet McCabe: OK. It is very challenging to try to think about cumulative impacts from a lot of different sources to the air pollution. And unfortunately the tools that we have to look at the health impacts from the cumulative impact are really not as good as we would like them to be.

But what we really should do is speak with somebody in our Air Program in Region V, which is the EPA Regional Office that is responsible for the State of Michigan and, Lisa I don't know what is the best way to get the gentleman's contact information so that we can get him a contact in Region V? Cause I don't know right now who it would be?

Lisa Garcia: You can...

Bill Wong: You know there's, I am sorry go ahead—I was going to say there is a great Environmental Justice Program Coordinator in Region V, Lisa you've probably worked with her, if you were already going to say that, Lara Lasky?

Lisa Garcia: So Lara Lasky is in our Regional Office in Chicago. So I suggest that you also share the information you are collecting with them in Region V. And then on the cumulative impact, just to reiterate, you know, that we do not have the best tools. But it is something that communities continually ask us for, and if you go online and look at the EJ and Science, of Plan EJ 2014, it

discusses some of the work that we are looking to do to improve some of that, the research and development tools for cumulative impacts.

And so maybe the work that you're already doing can help inform our work. So, you can either contact Lara Lasky or email Evans.Carlos, Carlos Evans, it's Evans.Carlos@EPA.gov to help us get your information and so that we can stay in touch.

(Vincent Miller): OK. Thank you very much.

Lisa Garcia: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. Our next question comes from the line of Calvin Murphy.

(Calvin Murphy): Yes, I am in Southern Illinois and I received the email from the EPA Environmental Justice Office about the 100 million dollars in affordable care grants. I am very much interested in radon risk reduction and I am curious whether, perhaps, there has been any correspondence between EPA and Health and Human Services about this money being available for either Environmental Justice Radon Litigation, or perhaps for testing and mitigating daycares?

Lisa Garcia: Bill do you have an answer to that, whether there has been some interagency work on that?

(Bill Wong): Well, hey Calvin, how are you?

(Calvin Murphy): I'm fine Bill, and you?

(Bill Wong): What was the grant you were talking about?

(Calvin Murphy): It's 100 million dollars affordable care grants from HHS, announced on May the 13th.

(Bill Wong): Oh yes.

Lisa Garcia: Let me offer this, I do not know if there had been any discussion on targeting in, or whether they are looking for, you know, that these grants would look to,

I think you said day cares, or radon reduction, under the Interagency Working Group. We work with HHS pretty closely, and what I will do is, I'll check with them and see, I will see what some of the criteria is and maybe what they are looking for and maybe we can share that.

(Bill Wong): I found a website, or an email just went out about this, Calvin, and I think your right. This looks like something that radon could be part of. We are very, very actively working with HHS right now in the Radon Action Plan. This had not been on our radar screen, but it will be now. So we are going to have a call between our office director level, between us and HHS. So we'll put this on the list to ask them about, if they can consider including radon as an eligible expense in this great program. Thanks for bringing this up, great idea.

(Calvin Murphy): Great, thank you. OK, thank you.

Lisa Garcia: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. Our next question comes from the line of (Adidi Vieda).

(Adidi Vieda): Hi, thank you so much for holding this call. I believe the question I submitted didn't come through in terms of the agenda. So is it OK for me to ask a question that I don't think is related the agenda updates?

Lisa Garcia: Yes, please.

(Adidi Vieda): OK. So the EPA has provided funds to various State and regional agencies. I am based her in Oakland, California, and the EPA funds were funneled through to the area Air Quality Management District here, to be used to purchase new trucks and retro fit devices for (court trucks) to meet the diesel emission standards.

The funds have been used to unfortunately, prop up an illegal misclassification system of drivers. These are low aged drivers who are actually employees, but are illegally misclassified as independent contractors and they cannot afford to buy these new trucks or retrofit the devices.

There is actually an Obama administration effort to crack down on illegal misclassification and it's unfortunate because in some cases the trucking industry has been pocketing this public money and diverted the responsibility for paying for the equipment on these low aged drivers.

So my question is, what efforts are you all engaged in at the EPA in assessing the short and long term, effectiveness of the EPA funds that have been used to meet these diesel emission regulations?

Janet McCabe: This is Janet McCabe again, and I don't have an answer to your question right now, but we would certainly like to look into it. And, so, if we can get your contact information, I will pass this request onto our Office of Transportation and Air Quality that oversees those grants. And we will get back with you.

(Adidi Vieda): OK.

Lisa Garcia: Usually when we have a regional specific question, sometimes we try to, that comes in, we try to funnel it to the region and hopefully get in touch with that person. So I am not sure if your question was one of the ones that was based in Oakland, but you're saying it may be more of a problem outside of Oakland. So we'll definitely look into that and get back to you.

(Adidi Vieda): OK, great. And should I email you, email one of you, Janet maybe to give you my contact information?

Lisa Garcia: Yes, all the comments are going to Carlos Evans. It's Evans.Carlos@EPA.gov.

Janet McCabe: And if you wouldn't mind just putting a sentence or two that summarizes your question in the email, that will get us to the right person quicker.

(Adidi Vieda): OK, great thank you.

Operator: Thank you. Our next question comes from the line of (Jesse Marquez). (Mr. Marquez) your line is open.

(Jesse Marquez): Yes, sorry I had to be off on mute. Mine is regarding the environmental permitting updates. We've been recommending for the last several years that

a task force be established where by organizations such as ours, The Coalition for a Safe Environment who have been involved, like in the Title V permit process, where we have a lot of background experience as to the problems associated with the Title V permit process, and so is that being considered?

I heard you say that there was going to be conversation? But I think the best route to go is to create a task force with groups which have specific experience and specific issues that way we can accomplish a lot more.

Janet McCabe: This is Janet McCabe. Thanks very much for your comment and I would be interested in making sure we have your contact information on this. We haven't set up a separate task force on this issue. The NEJAC has formed a subcommittee to think about this along with us, and as I said, we are doing a lot of different outreach.

There are so many groups that are interested in this that we're trying to have our outreach be as expansive as possible. We do intend to engage groups all along the way, as we are working through this information. But if we would get your name and contact information, we'll be back in touch to talk to you further. And I hope that you have taken a look at our draft work plan and send us any thoughts that you have and will participate in one of the upcoming listening session.

(Jesse Marquez): Good, because we did submit public comments on 17 oil refinery industry related permits. And just to give you an idea of what would be an example of our problem, in California the Title V permit public comment period is at the same time as U.S. EPA. So what happens is that EPA never sees our public comment. So as far as EPA is concerned, no one has complained about it and they have no clue that we have identified many problems associate with it. So they cannot have them concurrent, you know.

Janet McCabe: That's a very specific concrete suggestion. California is not the only state where that's the case and that a very sharp point. So can we be sure...

Lisa Garcia: We need to get, what we need to get your comments in because we are, you know we're working on right now and this is (Jesse Marquez), I assume again?

(Jesse Marquez): Yes.

Lisa Garcia: And you are with what group?

(Jesse Marquez): The Coalition for a Safe Environment.

Lisa Garcia: We will make sure that we get your information and hopefully make sure you get in touch and have all the information on the EJ and permitting work.
Thank you.

(Jesse Marquez): OK. Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. Our next question comes from the line of (Jean Mendoza).

(Jean Mendoza): Hello can you hear me? Hello?

Lisa Garcia: Yes.

(Jean Mendoza): OK. I am calling from Washington State and I would like to comment, give you an update, related to the first caller, the lady from North Carolina?

Lisa Garcia: Yes.

(Jean Mendoza): As you may or may not know, these industrial agriculture operations, there are huge lagoons full of shit. There are lots of bacteria in the lagoons, E.Coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter, Yesenia, Cryptosporidium, et cetera. And in order for these operations to deal with all these bacteria, they have to use some very strong antiseptics and disinfectants. And it's my understanding that these disinfectants are on the EPA's list of toxic chemicals that are hazardous to human health, some of them are Formaldehydes, Chlorine, (Chloramines), Iodophors, Quaternary Ammonium and Phenols.

So with respect to your response that you haven't been addressing toxic chemicals in agriculture, I think that those chemicals are in agriculture and they are on your list of chemicals that are hazardous to people.

Lisa Garcia: Mike are you there?

Michael Burns: Yes I am still here. I just didn't quite catch all the aspects of the question.

(Jean Mendoza): Well it's not a question, it's a statement. You said the hazardous the toxic chemicals that you are investigating are not involved in agriculture, and my comment is that they are. EPA has a list of 300 that are toxic chemicals and many of those are used as disinfects in industrial agriculture.

Michael Burns: Right I didn't mean to convey that toxic chemicals are not involved in agriculture. Just that, of the chemical that we initially have worked on under this sort of enhanced toxic program, so far none of the chemicals we've worked on have actually are associated with the agricultural operations.

(Jean Mendoza): I see a list of 300 chemicals, are any of those involved in your program?

Michael Burns: I am sure, under the TSCA program there are 84 thousand chemicals that are on an inventory of chemicals that are in commerce. Our challenge is to figure out which of those 84 thousand chemicals are the ones we need to focus on first in identifying risks and then acting on those risks. The first way that we went about it was to sort of work from available information that others already identified as chemicals of concern, and to follow up on those specific chemicals and you can see those 10 chemicals on our website.

(Jean Mendoza): What about the 300 other chemicals that are acknowledged as hazardous to human health?

Michael Burns: And there's a lot more than 300 chemicals that are acknowledged to be hazardous to human health. Thee, what we are about to do this summer is seek public comment on a process to figure out which of the 84 thousand chemicals are the ones that we should focus on first. And the kinds of things that we're trying to take in consideration there are, where others have already identified a chemical of concern. Some states have put lists, other countries have put out lists, and we're going to look at all that stuff together and then say from what people and we seem to know about these thousands of chemicals, which ones rise to the top for first attention, and the public will have an opportunity to tell us where their perspectives on that are.

So, those 300 chemicals I'm sure will be one of the sets of parameters that we'll be looking at to try and figure out where to put our focus next.

(Jean Mendoza): I think...

Lisa Garcia: I'm sorry, I just want to make sure that we're able to get in one more question. I think that the, I mean it sounds like you have a lot of knowledge, and certainly rattle off a bunch of chemicals very quickly, so I would hope that you could be a part of that public process and help inform...

(Jean Mendoza): I am a part of the process, my problem is nothing seems to be being done. We know that there are 300 dangerous chemicals out there and nobody is regulating them within agriculture.

Michael Burns: So if you would just get in touch with me at Burns.Mike@EPA.gov, then I would be happy to continue this dialogue with you.

(Jean Mendoza): Thank you.

Lisa Garcia: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. Our next question comes from the line of (Rishay Outlaw).

(Rishay Outlaw): Hi, my name is (Rishay Outlaw) and I am the Environmental Justice Coordinator with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and I was actually wanting to know if EPA is considered, when you're looking at your indoor air triggers for asthma, if you are actually looking at the vapor intrusion pathway contamination from ground water, coming in contact with indoor air quality? That was not touched on. So have you looked at that in terms of your indoor air triggers? Hello?

Lisa Garcia: Yes, I am just wondering if Sheila is still on...

Sheila Brown: I'm sorry can you restate that?

(Rishay Outlaw): I was just mentioning about protrusion pathways for your indoor air asthma triggers, triggers for asthma? And whether EPA is looking at that, contamination from ground water with vapor intrusion pathway?

Sheila Brown: I am not sure if we are, I will take this question back to our scientific team and other technical experts and I can get you an answer through the EJ network.

(Richey Outlaw): OK. And my other question, I wasn't going to ask because it wasn't on the agenda, but we did, I heard some conversation regarding cumulative impacts. And I was just wondering, when evaluating cumulative impacts, can NEPA take into account racial disparity under the Title VI, The Civil Rights Act of 64 as a part of the decision making process, or whether it can be incorporated in any type of planning and/or permitting?

Lisa Garcia: So this is Lisa. But as far as the cumulative impacts work that we're are looking at right now is really focusing more on how the science informs some of our decisions. And once again in the permitting process, I will say that a, for purposes of NEPA, we have not looked at the Title VI angle on that.

We have, there is a NEPA working group that is working with some of the other agencies to figure out how we would look at some of the EJ concerns of impacts that are raised through an EJ analysis. And we've heard folks ask us to do health impact analyses that would hopefully bring out some of the health disparities.

But we have not specifically looked at racial disparities, and certainly not in the NEPA context. I would be interested if you had any thoughts on that on sharing it with us. If New Jersey is doing anything like that or just getting in touch with us on that. If you could ...

Sheila Brown: Hi, this is Sheila again, can you hear me?

Lisa Garcia: Yes.

Sheila Brown: The person that just asked me about vapor issues and pathways, I'm going to give you my email address, and could you, if you don't mind, send me your specific question so I can make sure that I got that right?

(Rishay Outlaw): Sure.

Sheila Brown: My email is Brown.Sheila@EPA.gov. If you would send me your question, I want to make sure I get it right for you OK. Thank you.

(Rishay Outlaw): OK. All right.

Lisa Garcia: Thank you. OK. So we're going to close out the call now. It's about 5:15pm. But I just wanted to thank everybody for joining us.

And like I said at the beginning of the call, we are doing Interagency meetings and I'll just quickly rattle off where we're going to be next. We're going to be in on June 21st, we're going to be in Boston, Massachusetts and on June 26th we're going to be in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I'm sorry, June 29th in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

And then, so folks who were from Detroit on the phone, they also know that in August, we're going to be in Detroit, there is a 2011 EJ Conference, and we're going to have the Interagency Working Group Stakeholder Meeting. So, well get this information out on the listserv that you are on.

And, then one other quick update is the update on the Gulf Coast Task Force. They are still doing the public sessions. The Gulf Task Force will be in Pensacola on June 1st, between 9:00am and 12:00pm. And we're having an EJ session from 1:00pm to about 12:30am if you check the, I think it's the Gulfcoastrestoration@EPA.gov. I think is their website. You can get a list of the next hearing. But there's also one June 27th in Galveston, Texas and August 29th in Biloxi, Mississippi.

And that concludes our call for today. So thank you very much.

Operator: Thank you for joining today's conference call. You may now disconnect.

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