



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT - 8 2014

Ms. Margaret J. May
Chairwoman
National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
c/o Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council
3700 Woodland Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri 64109

Dear Ms. May:

Thank you for the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's June 30, 2014, letter and the accompanying report, *Recommendations for Integrating Environmental Justice into the EPA's Research Enterprise*, which the advisory council prepared in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's March 2012 charge document, *Opportunities to Investigate Environmental Health Disparities through the EPA Office of Research and Development's Newly Organized, Sustainability-Driven Research Programs*.

As I noted in the introduction to our most recent *Plan EJ 2014* progress report, the EPA is actively working to make a visible difference in communities across the nation and has made considerable progress in areas critical to environmental justice. The council's advice on ORD's research programs will assist the agency in further integrating environmental justice into the EPA's programs, policies and activities.

ORD is currently reviewing the findings and recommendations in the NEJAC's report. The report's release is particularly timely, as it coincides with the development of ORD's *Environmental Justice Cross-cutting Research Roadmap*. Known as the EJ Roadmap, it is one of four roadmaps that examine high-priority research issues cutting across ORD's research programs. The three others address nitrogen and co-pollutants, children's environmental health and global climate change.

The EJ Roadmap will provide an overarching framework for environmental-justice research in ORD, promote integration across relevant ORD research programs and communicate ORD's current research and strategic directions internally and externally with partners and public stakeholders.

The EPA welcomes a meeting with NEJAC to discuss this effort and the report's findings and recommendations. Within the next two weeks, Sherri White, the agency's designated federal official for NEJAC, will contact you to coordinate a meeting. She is also available to assist with any questions you might have and can be reached at white.sherri@epa.gov or (202) 564-2462.

Please know that I greatly appreciate your thoughtful report, your recommendations and your hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy".

Gina McCarthy