



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Environmental Justice

April 24, 2018

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

History of Environmental Justice

- The concept of Environmental Justice (EJ) has existed in the United States for over 35 years.
- It started as an offshoot of the Civil Rights and Environmental Movements of the 1960s and 1970s.

EJ Case Study

- 1982 in Warren County, North Carolina.
- Siting of a PCB landfill in a predominantly African American community.
- Widespread protests.
- Genesis of the term “Environmental Racism” because minority communities felt targeted.



Executive Order 12898

In 1994, President Bill Clinton mandated that “each federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States.”

Executive Order 12898

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local and tribal policies^[1].

^[1] Executive Order 12,898 – “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” signed in 1994 by President Clinton requiring that the U.S. EPA and other federal agencies implement environmental justice policies.

▶ History of Environmental Justice in PA

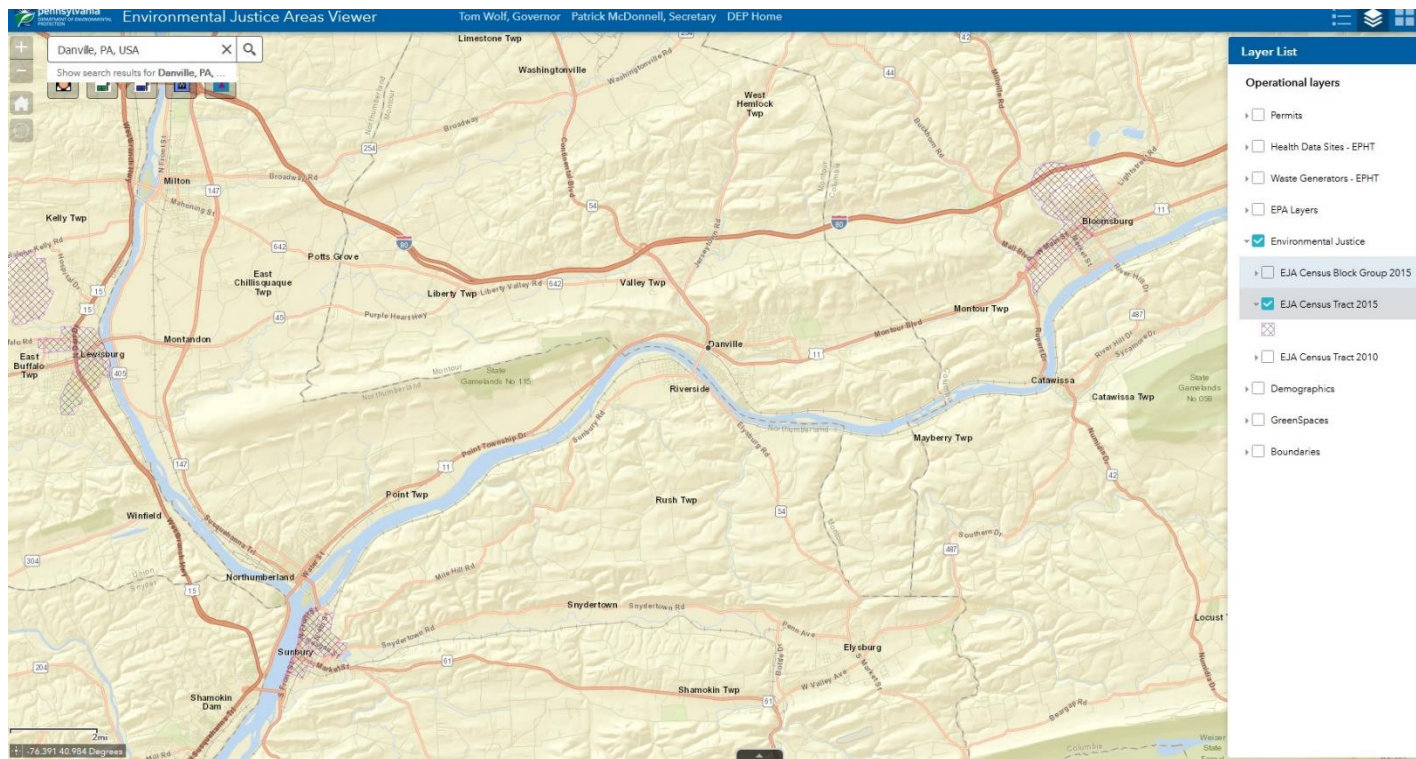
- In 1996, Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL) filed a lawsuit against DEP.
 - Alleged that DEP's waste facility permitting process violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and EPA's regulations, because it disproportionately impacted the predominately African-American residents of Chester.
- DEP Secretary Jim Seif convened a statewide workgroup in 1999 to figure out how to serve all Pennsylvanians.

History of Environmental Justice in PA

- In 2001, the workgroup produced the Environmental Justice Work Group Report (EJWG) which provided recommendations on how to ingrain environmental justice into the agency.
 - Improving Condition of Environmentally Burdened Communities
 - Permitting
 - Compliance and Enforcement
 - Organizational Change
 - Implementation and Reassessment
- In 2002, DEP established the Office of Environmental Advocate and Environmental Justice Advisory Board.
- Creation of the Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy in 2004.

Environmental Justice Area

An EJ area is any census tract where 20 percent or more individuals live in poverty, and/or 30 percent or more of the population is minority.



Goals for OEJ

The OEJ has three main goals:

1. Minimizing Adverse Environmental Impacts;
2. Empowering Communities; and
3. Fostering Economic Opportunities

Fostering Economic Opportunities

- EJ communities are often economically depressed.
- The OEJ hopes to foster environmentally responsible economic development to and within EJ communities.
- For example, when there are projects proposed and already existing in EJ communities the OEJ will foster relationships with the community and industry.



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DEP Office of Environmental Justice

General Comments & Questions

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