

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Justice Advisory Board's Draft Mission Statement

To oversee the implementation of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (PADEP) Environmental Justice policy. The Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) provides a forum for protecting the health of communities especially communities with the greatest concentration of environmental risks. The EJAB shall review and advise PADEP management on existing and proposed regulations and policies that impact the environmental health of communities.

Vision:

To be recognized nationally as a leader in the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in the process of environmental decision-making.

Objectives:

To realize this vision, The EJAB has undertaken the following objectives:

1. To ensure that DEP maintains a proactive approach to Environmental Justice issues within the Commonwealth
2. To eliminate any existing environmental disparities in minority and low-income communities.
3. To engage, educate, and empower minority and low-income communities to become active participants in the permit review process and compliance assistance program.
4. To ensure equitable enforcement of regulations and statutes, and the equitable application of internal guidance and policies within minority and low-income communities.
5. Increase the level of environmental monitoring in minority and low-income communities
6. To fill the gaps and oversee the implementation of the EJWG consensus recommendations that were published June 2001.
7. To identify and promote action against environmental inequities in Pennsylvania.
8. To determine whether DEP's current decision-making process can adequately address environmental justice issues.