

From the March 18, 2021 meeting of the Environmental & Climate Justice (ECJ) Committee of the NAACP Berkshire County Branch. Our intent is to have meetings at 6:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Contact Jane by email jane@thebeatnews.org or phone 413-230-7321.

May we submit comments? The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office is soliciting public comments on how their review can be more aligned with the state Decarbonization study and roadmap (Greenhouse Gas mitigation), Climate resilience planning, and Environmental justice considerations. Our committee would like to submit comments on behalf of NAACP BCB.

May we as the ECJ committee file comments saying:

The Environmental & Climate Justice Committee of the NAACP Berkshire County Branch submits the following comments on how MEPA review can better include people living in and around Environmental Justice areas and include marginalized people in general.

All new Environmental Notification Form (ENF) projects located in or within 1,000' of EJ neighborhoods must consult with MEPA Office prior to filing to determine EJ outreach strategy. Other EIR projects to consider EJ strategy during MEPA review period. [MEPA Interim Protocol for Environmental Justice Outreach](#) -

- - local NAACP chapters or other EJ representative groups must be notified.
 - translation services & materials in multiple languages shall be provided.
 - door-to-door outreach must be undertaken with flyers in multiple languages.
 - Mailings must be sent to the people who live in the neighborhoods. (Must send to the tenants, not just landlords!)
 - social media must also be used for outreach, including making Facebook events that are easily shared and links to the Facebook event must be sent to local advocacy/outreach organizations.

Because this is statewide, not local, this needs to go to Dennis to send to Juan Cofield at the New England Area Conference (NEAC) of the NAACP.

May we ask the Mayor of Pittsfield and the City Councilors to develop a community involvement plan for the proposed redevelopment work at the former General Electric "19s"

parcel that is adjacent to Environmental Justice Neighborhoods. We are concerned that there could be toxic exposure due to disturbing these soils.

- **Dennis will forward letterhead - our committee will send directly after Dennis reviews.**
- **Kamaar - letter first - but let's start a petition drive. Have Rose come up with a map for a petition?**

May we invite the leaders of the Grey to Green project to give a brief presentation to our next full BCB NAACP meeting? Our committee is impressed with the work so far of the [Grey to Green project](#) being run through Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. This is a 5 year project to engage the neighborhoods in the West Side and Morningside areas of Pittsfield in the planning and implementation of making these areas cleaner, more healthy places to live and work while ensuring that the community members who help make these changes also benefit for the long term from these changes.

Keep it on the radar screen!

Submitted by Jane Winn, Co-Chair of the ECJ Committee
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