We Speak for Ourselves: EJ Community Voices Reforming Chemical Polices

Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network
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Losing Communities to Toxic Pollution

REASON ...HOT SPOTS
THE CHALLENGE

ETHYLENE CHAIN

Natural Gas

Ethane

Cracker

Intermediate Products
PVC
Vinyl Chloride
Ethylene Glycol
Styrene
Polystyrene

Pool Liners
Window Siding
Trash Bags
Sealants
Carpet Backing
Insulation
Detergent
Flooring Pipes

Food Packaging
Bottles
Cups
Housewares
Crates

Footwear
Clothes
Diapers
Stockings
Toys
Textiles

Tires
Sealants
Paint
Antifreeze

Adhesives
Coatings
Films
Paper Coatings
Models
Instrument Lenses
US Shale Gas Exploration

[Map showing major shale gas exploration areas in the United States, including the Marcellus and Utica basins.]
What Environmental Justice Communities Need for Healing!

1) Define and Protect Vulnerable Populations.
2) Include Hot Spots Language and Protect Civil Rights.
3) Preserve State Authority.
4) Establish Deadlines and Timetables.
5) Require Adequate Data to Prioritize Chemicals for Immediate Action.
6) Ensure All Health and Safety Information about Chemicals is Truly Public.
7) Enforce a systems change to proven safe alternatives.

Multiple, Cumulative and Synergistic Impacts: Vulnerability Zone
Military Toxics and our Native Communities
URANium LEGACY REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION DAY
What about the right to clean water and health in rural communities?
Texas Colonias Shrine to the Clean Water
Food security is environmental justice!
Chemical Disaster

• Push to implement the Clean Air Act’s prevention authority.

• Testified to The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council to appeal to EPA, Sec. Lisa Jackson, the need to implement Sec. 112R of the General Duty Clause.

• Pushed President Obama to ACT …issues Executive Order 13650, Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security.
Chemical Disaster Risks for EJ communities it IS the way of life.
Co-existence of coal and chemical plants = higher hazard
Where Will The Children Play?
Many Communities of Color = Disaster Zones …shelter in place Cancer Alley
Additional Threats
WHO’S IN DANGER?
Race, Poverty, and Chemical Disasters

A DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF CHEMICAL DISASTER VULNERABILITY ZONES
REPORT FINDINGS

• 3,443 facilities reviewed

• Race is "still" a factor

• Socio-economics also a factor
What do we need now?

- Make information on chemical hazards and alternatives widely available;
- Ensure that communities and workers are fully engaged in prevention planning;
- Require companies to assess whether they could use safer chemicals or processes, and require them to convert whenever safer alternatives are feasible.
Thank You
Michele L. Roberts
and
Richard Moore
Environmental Justice & Health
Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform
robertsmichele7@gmail.com
ljinemexico@gmail.com