



DERP FORUM

Achieving Greater Success Through Strong Partnerships

November 14-17, 2023 • Kansas City, MO

Dover AFB, DNREC, & the Region 3 EJ Pilot Study



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16 Nov 23

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**The classification of the brief is UNCLASSIFIED and
the discussion can go up to UNCLASSIFIED**

Background: Region 3 Pilot Study

- Feb 2022 – EPA Region III requested volunteers for an EJ Pilot Project focusing on DoD installation and state partners
 - Navy – Navy Station Norfolk
 - Army – Tobyhanna Army Depot
 - Air Force – Dover Air Force Base
- Jun 2022- EJ Pilot Project Began
 - +/-1 year of meetings, investigations, and outreach in and around installation



Background: Region 3 Pilot Study

- **Pilot Objectives:**

- Develop recommendations for the use of tools to identify communities with EJ concerns that may be disproportionately impacted
- Determine how to analyze needs and/or gaps pertaining to both engagement and protection
- Identify options to improve engagement and refine our understanding of potential risks and disproportionate impacts, so that they can be addressed through cleanup actions
- Develop suggestions to document work efficiently and effectively within the framework of the existing CERCLA process







Guiding Policies



- Federal Installation:
 - Executive Order 13985 - Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government
 - Executive Order 14008 - Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
- State Partners:
 - DNREC's Environmental Justice Compliance Policy
 - DNREC EJ Screening Tool
 - Equity Focus Areas
 - Language Isolation (Limited English) Neighborhoods

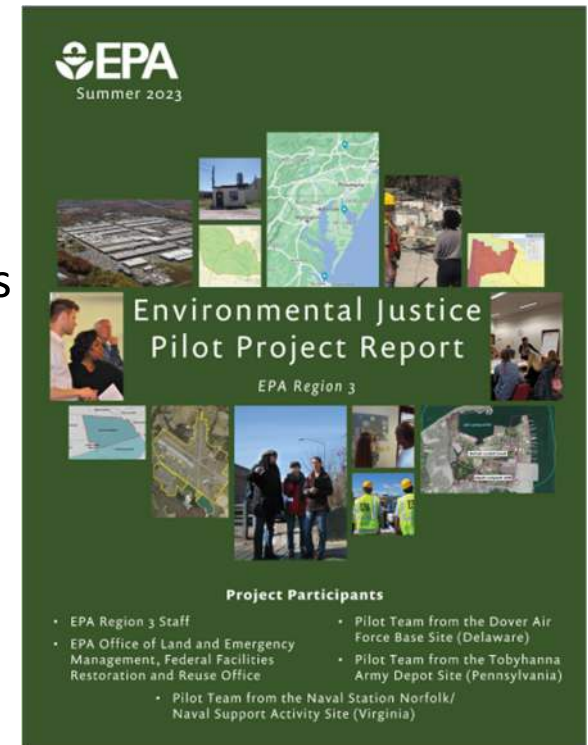
Outcomes

- Federal Perspective:
 - Greater engagement with our community in the clean up process
 - New stakeholders and communities identified and connected with
 - Development of the first RAB at Dover
 - Updates with CIP across the AF
- State Perspective:
 - Better understanding of how to incorporate EJ principles into CERCLA (and state's HSCA) process
 - New connections with community
 - Gained additional outreach strategies for community engagement
 - Support Base development of RAB at Dover

	<p><i>Step 1: Identify Potentially Vulnerable Communities</i></p> <p>Screen nearby communities for information related to demographics, health and other environmental justice-related factors.</p>
	<p><i>Step 2: Identify Sources and Releases</i></p> <p>Integrate information about the communities with knowledge related to site-specific chemicals, sources and releases.</p>
	<p><i>Step 3: Develop Questions to Guide Engagement</i></p> <p>Develop questions to address site-specific gaps and guide community outreach and engagement.</p>
	<p><i>Step 4: Engage Communities</i></p> <p>Select outreach strategies to apply to reach and engage with different communities to deepen and support analyses.</p>
	<p><i>Step 5: Assess and Protect</i></p> <p>Apply information and learning outcomes to refine the pilot teams' conceptual understanding of communities that may have been exposed to site contamination, or that may be exposed in the future.</p>
	<p><i>Step 6: Document Work</i></p> <p>Document the results referencing the CERCLA process as well as different community settings and variable levels of past engagement.</p>

Application to others

- Helpful deliverables:
 - White paper outlining the Pilot study and results
 - 6-Step process to repeat the study for other installations
 - User friendly guides to distill down the study and effectively equip others
- Strengthened Partnership:
 - Stronger ties with State, DoD, and EPA partners
 - Recognizing the benefits of working collaboratively across organizations to tackle multi-faceted problems



Questions??