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

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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 cleanup 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
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??