**EJ Stakeholder's Call – August 25, 2020 – 10:00am**
**Dallas, TX**

**Event Memo**

EJ Contact: Gloria Vaughn
x-7535

Call is **LIVE.**

Background on EJ Stakeholder Call
The RA periodically holds conference calls with EJ Stakeholders/Advocates to inform them of projects status, update them on new initiatives. He also gets to hear their concerns directly from them. The RA has held 3 calls with EJ Stakeholders/Advocates. The calls were held on August 20, 2019, December 2, 2019, and June17, 2020. The August 25th call is the RA's fourth call will EJ Stakeholders/Advocates.

Participants

- **YOU**
- Stephen Tatum, Chief of Staff, EPA Region 6
- Gloria Vaughn
- Arturo Blanco
- Gerardo Acosta
- DD's and Deputies
- EJ Staff
- Russel Honore, The Green Army
- Scharmel Roussel, Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light
- Bakeyah Nelson, Air Alliance
- Adrian Shelley, Public Citizen
- Neil Carmen, Lone Start Chapter of the Sierra Club
- Dr. Melissa Massey, Cleanup Garland
- Richard Guldi
- Loretta Sandoval

Agenda

**CONFERENCE NUMBER: 202-991-0477**
**CONFERENCE ID: 782 171 035#**

EPA REGION 6
RA'S CONFERENCE CALL WITH EJ STAKEHOLDERS/ADVOCATES
AUGUST 25, 2020
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST

Please use *6 to mute and unmute your lines

AGENDA

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| **10:00 am to 10:05 am** | **Welcome**<br>**Introductions** **RA McQueen**<br>**Purpose** |

**Discussion Items**

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| **10:35 am to 10:45am** | What is the status of air monitoring in St John, St James, Grant (Colfax) Parishes? - General Russel Honore', Green Army<br><br>**Prospects for growth of electric vehicles** - Scharmel Roussel<br>• Does the EPA see an explosion in the EV industry?<br>• What does the EPA think need to happen with a network of EV charging stations throughout the USA?<br>• Will the EPA offer incentives for installation of EV charging stations?<br><br>Ethylene oxide concerns (Air Alliance letter dated April 8, 2020) Bakeyah Nelson - Air Alliance<br><br>**Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Project**- Adrian Shelley, Public Citizen<br>The Port of Houston is undergoing a major expansion project and their environmental impact statements and strategic plan are silent on environmental justice. What can the EPA do to ensure protection of the health and quality of life of neighbors of the Houston Ship Channel?<br><br>**Environmental Concerns in the City of Garland**<br>Neil Carmen- Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club<br>Dr. Melissa Massey- Cleanup Garland<br>Richard Guldi<br><br>Concerned that the City of Garland has records of toxic materials in the community but citizens as well as regulatory agencies have not been informed.<br><br>What is the EPA doing to clean up lead contaminated sites in Garland, TX? |



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| | **Superfund Sites in the Dallas Area**<br>Richard Guldi<br><br>What is the EPA doing to prevent future Shingle Mountains, Lane Plating Superfund sites, and Lead Smelters?<br><br>**Soil and water contamination in Dixon, New Mexico**<br>Loretta Sandoval<br><br>Concern that residue from organo silene coming from artificial snow making DRIFT used by a local ski resort maybe causing crop degradation, loss of bees, loss of insects (especially when they eat the plants) in about 300-500 acres in Rio Arriba County with different owners. |
| **10:45 am to 11:20 am** | **Open Dialogue - All** |
| **11:20 am to 11:30 am** | **Wrap-Up /Next steps** |
| **11:30 am** | **Adjourn** |

**Announcements:**

## NEJAC Meeting in Houston

Due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, the timeline for the NEJAC meeting in Houston is being push back to February 2021. EPA will keep you informed as things progress.



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Responses to EJ Stakeholder Questions:

Stakeholder: Russel Honore
Organization: The Green Army
State: LA
EPA Program Office: Air and ECAD

**Q:** What is the status of air monitoring in St John, St James, Grant (Colfax) Parishes?

**A:** DENKA AMBIENT AIR MONITORING
Community Ambient Air Monitoring Program

- In December 2015, the 2011 National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) was released.
- NATA is based on modeling and indicated that chloroprene levels were high in St. John the Baptist Parish.
- In 2016, EPA placed an air monitoring network in the community to gather information and confirm the assessment.
- In 2017, LDEQ ordered Denka to install pollution controls to reduce chloroprene emissions by 85%; Denka completed installation in March 2018
- EPA continued air monitoring to confirm the pollution controls reduced chloroprene in the community.
- EPA collects a sample every six days.
- In May 2020, LDEQ confirmed Denka reduced emissions by 85%.
- From 2016 to 2020, EPA collected over 2,500 samples to monitor the concentrations of chloroprene in the ambient air.
- EPA air monitoring network showed significant reductions of chloroprene in the community. The annual average ambient air concentrations of chloroprene near the Denka facility in 2019 (after Denka's implementation of chloroprene emission control measures) was 0.5-2.3 $\mu g/m^3$, depending upon the location of the monitor.
- EPA projects that the annual average would be lower but for occasional elevated concentrations known as 'spikes.'
- EPA developed a new continuous air monitoring network to measure 'spikes'.
- Chloroprene data through July 16, 2020 is posted publicly at: [ HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summary" \h ].

SPod Air Monitoring Program

- In February 2020, Region 6 attended a community meeting in LaPlace and discussed plans to launch a new continuous air monitoring network, using an SPod system, to better understand the magnitude and frequency of occasional elevated chloroprene concentrations, or spikes, in the community.
- The new continuous monitoring system operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will replace the every-six-day community monitoring network.
- In March 2020, Region 6 held a community workshop to demonstrate instruments used in the new continuous air monitoring network in LaPlace, Louisiana.
- In March 2020, EPA began installing the continuous air monitoring network at the same locations as the previous every-six-day community air monitoring stations.
- Today, the new continuous air monitoring system has been tested for five months and is operational.
- The existing community every-six-day air monitoring network will continue to collect samples until September 26, 2020, and then be removed.
- The continuous monitoring network will hopefully provide important additional information to help identify ways to further reduce chloroprene emissions.
- The continuous air monitoring network is expected to continue until December 2020.
- Chloroprene data will continue to be posted publicly at: [ HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summary" ].



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EJ Stakeholder: Scharmel Roussel
Organization: Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light
State: Arkansas
EPA Program Office: Air
Diesel Emission Reduction Act (A1) and Taimur Shaikh's (A2) Input

**Q:** Does the EPA see an explosion in the EV industry?

**A1**: EPA doesn't have a policy statement on these questions. Here are some applicable resources.

Last fall, EPA organized a webinar on electric vehicle trends and projections. You can find the recording, slides, and a transcript here: [ HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/statelocalenergy/webinar-electric-vehicle-trends-and-projections" ]
Another resource is DOE's Argonne National Laboratory. ANL publishes an overview of monthly and cumulative electric & plug-in hybrid electric sales in the U.S., see: [ HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.anl.gov%2Fes%2Flight-duty-electric-drive-vehicles-monthly-sales-updates&data=02%7C01%7Cverhalen.frances%40epa.gov%7C23f71abe87bf4fe1354b08d83ef78bd7%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637328580215976763&sdata=sDJXmC0jqxs0OtLO%2FTfBkdkt1vCPb8cU5oGWxNPwwYY%3D&reserved=0" ]

**A2**: EPA has not taken a policy position on this question.

According to BloombergNEF, the global electric vehicle (EV) market share of new car sales this year stands at 2.7%. In 2025, EV sales are estimated to hit 10% and 28% by 2030. A ten-fold increase in market share in 10 years might constitute an explosion. The US estimates are expected to follow a similar trajectory as global market. US EV market share is at approximately 2.0% for the year and is expected to hit 5% by 2025 and 20% by 2030. It should be mentioned that there are a considerable number of variables that affect projected sales and adjustments are to be expected.

For example, one such variable is hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs). FCEVs are a complimentary technology. Current cumulative FCEV sales in the United States stand at 8,734 since 2014 and sales in the month of July 2020 stand at 64 which seems paltry in comparison to July battery electric vehicle sales of 22,488. However, from a refueling and infrastructure standpoint FCEV have some possible advantages and could impact battery electric vehicle's increasing market share.

References:
- [ HYPERLINK "https://about.bnef.com/electric-vehicle-outlook/" ]
- [ HYPERLINK "https://www.anl.gov/es/light-duty-electric-drive-vehicles-monthly-sales-updates" ]
- [ HYPERLINK "https://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/hydrogen-infrastructure-analysis.html" ]

**Q:** What does the EPA think needs to happen with a network of EV charging stations throughout the USA?

**A1:** Some studies and analytical tools that could be helpful--DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory analyzed how much charging infrastructure may be needed in the U.S. to support electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (see the national analysis here: [ HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrel.gov%2Fdocs%2Ffy17osti%2F69031.pdf&data=02%7C01%7Cverhalen.frances%40epa.gov%7C23f71abe87bf4fe1354b08d83ef78bd7%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637328580215976763&sdata=%2

F3c8DkqH4IpeTjM8SUFK6h%2FJPXgqnbfOBFgh0intyqw%3D&reserved=0" ] ). NREL also provides a tool to estimate infrastructure needs at the city- and state-level: [ HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fafdc.energy.gov%2Fevi-pro-lite&data=02%7C01%7Cverhalen.frances%40epa.gov%7C23f71abe87bf4fe1354b08d83ef78bd7%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637328580215986753&sdata=WzFCu4XudKVKhgjckrQA1rpBJodg9tPPl6jpF1B%2B%2BDE%3D&reserved=0" ]

**A2:** EPA has not taken a policy position on this question.

If EVs are to continue to increase in market share and utilization nationally, an expanded network of rapid charging stations is a high priority. However, just as important is reducing the charging time involved which is essential to long range travel. As published late last year, new developments in charging optimization through, for example temperature profiling and storage enhancements, provide possible roadmaps to safe, accelerated charging. Additionally, new research suggests possible fast charging through a novel kinetic pathway in lithium titanate polyhedra. Another priority is advancing home and public charging availability and capacity. Waste recovery and efficiency increases may also be leveraged to enhance EV charging.

References:
- [ HYPERLINK "https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2542435119304817" ]
- [ HYPERLINK "https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6481/1030" ]

**Q:** Will the EPA offer incentives for installation of EV charging stations?

**A1:** We are not aware of current EPA funding available for EV infrastructure. There are EV infrastructure funds available to states through the VW settlement. Here is a list of federal laws and incentives related to electricity (compiled by DOE): [ HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fafdc.energy.gov%2Ffuels%2Flaws%2FELEC%3Fstate%3DUS&data=02%7C01%7Cverhalen.frances%40epa.gov%7C23f71abe87bf4fe1354b08d83ef78bd7%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637328580215986753&sdata=wNY6XH9XH7b9iW3gV9mt1BzASOS9o6OuMTieStcTfNo%3D&reserved=0" ]

In general, the national competitive DERA grants may allow for retrofitting or replacement of vehicle engines with electric engines. The grant allowances change from year to year, so careful reading of the eligible diesel emissions reduction solutions requirements in the request for applications is necessary.

**A2**: At the current time, we are not aware of the Agency considering any incentives regarding EV charging stations. Such incentives would normally originate from congressional budget action. Additionally, the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy may be better equipped to address such incentives. Any incentives from EPA to be administered jointly with DOE.

EJ Stakeholder: Bakeyah Nelson
Organization: Air Alliance
State: Texas
EPA Program Office: Air

**Q:** Bakeyah would like to discuss issues related to ethylene oxide outline in her April 8, 2020 letter to Administrator Wheeler. Bakeyah's letter (EO-OIG-Final-04-08-2020) is attached.

We need to know from David Gray what updates can the region provide to Air Alliance that are from the Administrator on ethylene oxide?

**A:** EPA continues its pursuit of a two-pronged strategy to address ethylene oxide emissions.

- We are reviewing regulations for facilities that emit ethylene oxide.
  - In May 2020, we issued the final risk and technology review for the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing, which will significantly reduce ethylene oxide and other hazardous air pollutants from covered processes and equipment at chemical plants. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on August 12, 2020.
  - Later this year, we anticipate issuing proposed amendments to the NESHAP for ethylene oxide commercial sterilizers.
- We are providing support to our state and local partners as they get more information about emissions from facilities in areas where our National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA)1 identified potentially elevated risk from ethylene oxide.
- EPA Region 6 is continuing to work with our State partners and is providing them support on their efforts in developing information on ethylene oxide.
- While EPA is not conducting facility-focused monitoring at this time. Our monitoring experts have made and will continue to make themselves available to provide technical assistance for agencies and organizations wishing to monitor ethylene oxide in their communities.

EJ Stakeholder: Adrian Shelley
Organization: Public Citizen
State: Texas
EPA Program Office: ORAC

**Q:** The Port of Houston is undergoing a major expansion project right now. Their environmental impact statements and their strategic plan are silent on environmental justice. What can the EPA do to ensure protection of the health and quality of life of neighbors of the Houston Ship Channel?

**A**: The EPA NEPA Program is charged with reviewing environmental impact statements of other federal agencies and to comment on the adequacy and the acceptability of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. In December 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers drafted the FIFR/EIS. The FIFR/EIS provided an analysis of Environmental Justice. The proposed action of either the National Economic Development Plan or Recommended Plan is not expected to have any disproportionately high or adverse effect on low-income or minority population groups.

**Project Description:** The FIFR/EIS examined the feasibility of improving navigation on the Houston Ship Channel. The FIFR/EIS focused on the Bay Reach for possible anchorage, passing lanes, side channels, Bayport Ship Channel and Barbours Cut Channel. Additionally, the study focused on the upper reach of the Houston Ship Channel between Boggy Bayou and the Main Turning Basin.

**FIFR/EIS Status:** R6 provided a Final FIFR/EIS response letter on March 6, 2020.

1 NATA is a screening tool, designed to tell EPA and state and local air agencies where they may wish to look closer at potential risks. Because NATA is a screen, additional work often is necessary to more fully understand the risks that NATA identifies as being potentially elevated.

EJ Stakeholder: Neil Carmen
Organization: Lone Start Chapter of the Sierra Club
State: Texas
EPA Program Office: Superfund

**Q:** My concern is that the DFW region's municipalities and various regulatory agencies have for decades allowed too many toxic hotspots in EJ neighborhoods all around the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

It's clear that Dallas County itself has EJ neighborhoods suffering today in and adjacent to toxic hotspots.

The City of Garland, for example, appears to be home to existing and closed toxic manufacturing sites and neighborhood impacts with toxic hotspots, including the Globe-Union Lead Battery plant, Valspar, Sherwin-Williams, and others.

Having visited the Garland area throughout the 1970s-80s, it was obvious that it was home to multiple toxic manufacturing facilities as bad as others in the DFW area. The area in South Garland reminded me of driving through the Housing Projects in the West Dallas neighborhoods when the old lead smelter was still present right next door to the projects.

My concern is that the City of Garland has been working to conceal its toxic hotspots and toxic industries from the citizens in Garland and from regulatory agencies.

As a former state TCEQ field investigator from 1980-1992, it's hard for me to find credible statements and evidence of compliance from Garland City officials who are currently not doing enough to help local residents deal with the proposed Pegasus Concrete Batch Mix Plant at South Garland Road and the proposed LBJ 635 Freeway expansion.

**A**: EPA Region 6 Superfund has been in communication with members of the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association since February 2018. The Meadowlark-Williams neighborhood is in southwest Garland, TX and was developed in the late 1950's through the mid-1960's. Three main concerns were presented to EPA Region 6 Superfund by members of the neighborhood association. These concerns were, 1) historical wastewater discharges from the former Globe-Union plant; 2) air emissions from the Sherwin-Williams facility; and 3) alleged over-application of herbicides on U.S. Foods property. State and local agencies with regulatory jurisdiction over the Sherwin-Williams and the U.S. Foods facilities were notified of the citizen concerns. An investigation conducted by the State into air emissions by Sherwin-Williams, including air sampling was completed. No violations of facility air permits were identified, and no constituents of concern were found to be above any of the State's health-based screening levels. An investigation conducted by the City of Garland noted the U.S. Foods facility does not use herbicides at their plant. However, the investigation did identify an illicit connection to the City's stormwater system which included the discharge of degreaser compounds and oils. Subsequently, the illicit connection was terminated, and the facility was fined. EPA Region 6 has initiated and continues to investigate the concerns associated with the former Globe-Union plant.

Since being contacted by members of the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association, EPA Region 6 Superfund has provided information and assistance by researching its records, conducting investigations, and connecting the community members to agencies like the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), and the City of Garland. EPA Region 6 Superfund continues to communicate and work with the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association during its further assessment and potential remediation of areas impacted by operations conducted by the former Globe-Union plant.

TIMELINE

Below is a summary of our interactions with the community since first contacted in early 2018.

- Mr. Phillips from the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association first contacted the Superfund Site Assessment Program in February 2018. Mr. Phillips expressed concerns about past and current environmental impacts to the community due to the industrial corridor located next to the neighborhood and the potential health effects. Mr. Phillips requested information on sites located in Garland where EPA Superfund had conducted activities.

- Research determined that EPA had conducted activities at 25 sites located within Garland. A list of the 25 sites was developed, including the site name, site address, and type of action completed as well as the date the action was completed. This list was provided to Mr. Phillips.

- Mr. Phillips reviewed the list of sites and requested additional information on 10 of the sites. EPA retrieved and reviewed the Superfund files for each of the 10 sites identified by Mr. Phillips. Electronic copies of key documents for each site were transmitted to Mr. Phillips.

- Mr. Phillips also requested information on two additional sites not on Superfund's list of 25 sites. Research discovered that these two sites were being addressed under the State's Voluntary Cleanup Program. Information regarding these two sites and the State Project Managers' contact information was provided to Mr. Phillips.

- The Texas Department of State Health Services completed an "Assessment of the Occurrence of Cancer" report on June 19, 2018. The study area for this report included the Meadowlark-Williams neighborhood. The report concluded that the cancer rates within the study area was within the range of what is expected based on cancer rates in Texas.

- Mr. Phillips contacted the Superfund Site Assessment Program again in October 2018. Mr. Phillips again expressed concerns about past and current environmental impacts due to the industrial corridor located next to the neighborhood. EPA contacted the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and shared the information received from Mr. Phillips. The TCEQ began reviewing information on facilities regulated under their authorities.

- In November 2018, EPA requested that Mr. Phillips and other members of the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association identify the three (3) areas that represent their greatest environmental concerns.

- In early December 2018, members of the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association met with City of Garland. As a result of this meeting, the City of Garland committed to providing the citizens group with $5,000 to be used for the collection and analysis of environmental samples.

- Mr. Phillips contacted the Superfund Site Assessment Program again in late January 2019. Mr. Phillips provided the following list as the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association's three (3) areas that represent their greatest environmental concerns:
    1. Former Globe-Union plant and historical wastewater discharges;
    2. Sherwin-Williams facility and its aerial emissions; and
    3. U.S. Foods and the alleged over-application of herbicides in the area that boarders the neighborhood.



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- EPA met with the TCEQ in early February 2019 to discuss the three areas of greatest concern provided by Mr. Phillips. The following decisions were made:
    1. EPA Superfund would conduct a new Preliminary Assessment on the former Globe-Union site;
    2. TCEQ would review permits and records associated with the Sherwin-Williams facility. It would also conduct an investigation into the most recent complaint received regarding the air emissions from the facility (TCEQ contact: Alyssa Taylor, Regional Director); and
    3. Concerns about the over-application of herbicides would be referred to the City of Garland for investigation. The City of Garland has a Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, and this concern falls under their jurisdiction (City of Garland contact: Jason Chessher, Director of Health).

- These decisions were relayed to Mr. Phillips in mid-February 2019. A conference call with members of the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association and TCEQ was held in March 2019.

- A site visit associated with the new Preliminary Assessment at the Globe-Union site was conducted in early April 2019.

- In August 2019, EPA received a request from members of the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association for assistance with developing a sampling plan and for sampling procedures. EPA responded by providing links to appropriate guidance documents associated with the development of sampling plans and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for soil sampling.

- The new Preliminary Assessment report was completed on September 11, 2019.

- On September 17, 2019, the EPA decided that more information was needed to before a final decision could be made regarding the Globe-Union site. Therefore, a Site Inspection would be performed at the site to gather the additional information needed.

- In early October 2019, the analytical results for soil samples collected by members of the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association was shared with EPA. Analytical results indicated that soil samples were collected from 10 locations and were analyzed for metals. One location exhibited elevated levels of lead.

- EPA met with members of the Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association in early November 2019 to discuss the Preliminary Assessment and the future Site Inspection.

- Field work associated with the Site Inspection was conducted in mid-February 2020. This field work included the collection of soil and sediment samples in the surface water pathway down gradient from the Globe-Union site.

- The Site Inspection report was completed on May 26, 2020.

- It was determined that based on the analytical results from the Site Inspection, the Globe-Union site is not eligible for placement on the federal National Priorities List (NPL), because it did not score the minimum 28.5 using the Hazard Ranking System due to insufficient receptors along the Surface Water Pathway. However, because lead detected in soil samples above the EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSLs), the Globe-Union site was referred to Superfund's Emergency Management Branch for evaluation.

- On June 1, 2020, EPA Superfund conducted conference calls with the following organizations to discuss the results of the Site Inspection and future follow-up activities planned by EPA:
    1. Meadowlark-Williams Neighborhood Association
    2. City of Garland
    3. Garland Independent School District

- Superfund's Emergency Management Branch has established a dedicated Web site for the Globe-Union site. On the site is information about the site; links to the Preliminary Assessment report, Site Inspection Work Plan, and Site Inspection report; and Q&A developed based on questions received regarding the site and EPA's future planned activities.

EJ Stakeholder: Dr. Melissa Massey
Organization: Cleanup Garland
State: Texas
EPA Program Office: Superfund

**Q:** Concerned that the City of Garland has records of toxic materials in our community but citizens as well as regulatory agencies have not been informed.

**A**: See previous response to City of Garland question.

EJ Stakeholder: Richard Guldi
Organization: Dallas Area
State: Texas
EPA Program Office: Superfund

**Q:** What is the EPA doing to prevent future Shingle Mountains, Lane Plating Superfund sites, and Lead Smelters?

**A**: EPA programs cannot adequately respond to the concept of "preventing" issues such as the Shingle Mountains, Superfund sites, or the citing of industry. Local zoning allows certain industries to build/operate. If necessary, media permits are issued, in coordination with the state, to protect air, land and water by implementing regulations/laws, with the hope that any activity/industry would be good environmental stewards and neighbors. EPA tends to step in when something goes wrong, if within our jurisdiction. The EPA and the states take action when industries fail to comply with environmental permits to provide technical assistance or orders for compliance with permits and laws. In addition, the Superfund program is specifically designed to address abandoned hazardous waste sites. Over the years, EPA has also identified illegal dumping and improper disposal of wastes with the help of citizens contacting its hotline.

EJ Stakeholder: Loretta Sandoval
Organization:
State: New Mexico
EPA Program Office: ECAD

**Q:** Ms. Sandoval notes that there are about 300-500 acres in Rio Arriba County with different land owners that are experiencing crop degradation, loss of bees, loss of insects especially when they eat the plants. She indicated roots are amber color rather than white as they should be. She indicated some

farmers in Taos County is experiencing the same issues of vegetation which appears that is looks frozen when there has not been any cold temps. She has had initial conservation with USDA and NMED. She indicated there is a grey lines in the waters as well as suds in the water in several acequias, La Puebla River, Embudo River, and Rio Grande. Loretta along with Mary Campbell, analytical chemist, retired Phd from LANL, believe the material is residue from organo silene coming from artificial snow making Drift used by the local ski resort Sipapu ski resort. The Forestry Service confirmed the use of Drift at the ski resort.

Among other things, she would like to know what the regulations are for that material if that a permit that NMED of Forest Service would have issued.

**A**: In short, NMED conducted a site visit the week of July 20, took some water quality samples (in the ditch and at various points along the river), talked with the complainant, and provided the complainant with contact information for the Forest Service – the FS is responsible for permitting the snowmaking activities. NMED also contacted the Forest Service to discuss the snowmaking activities. NMED's understanding is that "Silwet-77" and "DRIFT" are product names for a snow-making additive. The Sipapu Ski Area used Silwet-77 in the past but is currently using DRIFT. Application rate, according to the FS, is consistent with product requirements.

NMED water quality results are pending, but staff indicated they observed insects and other aquatic life in the river and in the complainant's fields. NMED provided the complainant contact information for the NMSU Plant Diagnostics Center (plant pathologist) and NRCS to help her identify what might be weakening/killing her crops.

EJ Stakeholder:
Organization:
State: Oklahoma
EPA Program Contact: Air

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awarded the state of Oklahoma a grant of $162,000 for air toxics programs. The grant will fund the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's (ODEQ) efforts in supporting EPA's National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) to study and characterize toxic air pollutants.
- ODEQ will use the grant for its National Air Toxics Trends Stations (NATTS), which monitor ambient levels of toxic air pollutants. These pollutants, also called air toxics, are known or suspected to cause serious health effects such as cancer or birth defects. Oklahoma's NATTS project supports the NATA program's efforts to use monitoring data to identify areas of concern, characterize risk and track progress in improving air quality. The new monitor will be located Tulsa, OK.