

Hypotheticals

- 1) You are a scientist and a member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance. NJ has been declared to be in non-attainment with respect to the annual PM_{2.5} standard and must develop a particulate matter (PM) reduction plan. You are not an expert on airborne PM but you are knowledgeable on the subject and you believe you might be able to have a positive influence, from an EJ perspective, on the state's plan. However, recently you heard about a local community group that is fighting the construction of an elementary school on a former Brownfields site that they believe has been inadequately remediated. Even though you're not very knowledgeable concerning remediation issues you believe you could help this group. You don't have time to take on both issues; which do you work on?
- 2) Camden has been declared by HUD to be the poorest city in the nation and its Waterfront South neighborhood has been found by the EPA to be the most toxic neighborhood in the nation. In this one neighborhood there is an incinerator, cement plant, licorice factory, plastics disposal plant, sewage plant, several junk yards and at least a half dozen other small businesses that produce pollution. The smell is so bad that residents have lost a significant portion of their ability to detect odors. The air pollution is so bad residents have been given air filters for their homes by the city. The city plans to build low-income housing in the neighborhood. Should the NJEJA be in favor or against the construction of this new housing in this neighborhood?
- 3) The NJEJA has recommended that NJ require all diesel powered vehicles to be retrofitted with pollution control devices that would reduce the emission of PM by at least 85%. But the trucking industry is against this suggestion because they claim the cost would drive hundreds of truckers out of business. A state senator suggests paying for the retrofits out of a fund intended to pay for remediating polluted sites around the state. However, for a variety of reasons the money is just sitting in the fund and not being used. Do you go along with this plan even though there isn't enough money in the fund to both retrofit vehicles and remediate polluted sites?
- 4) A redevelopment plan would invest 1.5 billion dollars in a Camden neighborhood. However, as part of the plan eminent domain would be used to take the homes of 500 families currently living in the neighborhood so condominiums could be built on the land by a private developer. Should the NJEJA support this plan? Is eminent domain an ej issue?