



Environmental Justice in Tennessee

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Office of Environmental Assistance



What is Executive Order 12898?



“Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations”

Signed by President Bill Clinton on February 11, 1994

No disproportionately high and adverse impacts

No denial of benefits or exclusion

Directs federal agencies to create strategies to achieve environmental justice goals





The Basics of Executive Order 12898

Each federal agency is called upon to achieve environmental justice

Intent: To improve internal management of the federal government

Establishes a policy on environmental justice

EPA Office of Environmental Justice and regional environmental justice offices are responsible



What is Environmental Justice?



The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies

Low-income analysis - United States Census poverty thresholds and the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines



What is Environmental Justice?



Department of Environment and Conservation:

Equal access to information (i.e., public hearings and permitting)

Public participation opportunities (i.e., working with Rulemaking Coordinator to provide adequate notice)

Effective protection

Fair treatment

Minority communities and low income communities require more comprehensive analysis





Tennessee Demographic Information

- Percentage of population that is white 80.3%
- Percentage of population that is non-white 19.7%
- Percentage w/ HS diploma (or GED) or better 76.3%
(ages 25 and up)
- Percentage w/ bachelors degree or better 20.1%
(ages 25 and up)
- Median household income (2.99 people) \$35,760
- Percentage of persons below poverty 13.5%
Poverty Threshold (3 people) \$13,738

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000)





TDEC's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan

1998: Tennessee receives State & Tribal
Environmental Justice Planning Grant

Statewide Steering Committee

Objectives:

Meaningful input and involvement

Community environmental justice survey





Environmental Justice in Tennessee

The TDEC Environmental Justice Team:

- Environmental Justice Coordinator and a designated contact from each division
- Environmental Justice Coordinator and Environmental Field Office Directors and Environmental Coordinators





Questions?

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