

## Lecture 21 overview

### Environmental Justice:

1. History
2. Legislation
3. EJ & NEPA

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## Environmental Justice

In 1978, *Ward Transformer Company* illegally dumped oil laced with PCBs along the roadsides of 14 counties in North Carolina

Landfill proposed in Warren County for the 32,000 yd<sup>3</sup> of contaminated soil

- unemployment of 13% and a minority population of 63%

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## Environmental Justice

### Early 1980's:

Community staged numerous demonstrations, 500 people were arrested

Civil rights activists and environmental interests combined to protest *Environmental Racism*



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## Environmental Justice

### General Accounting Office (GAO) Study:

- Initiated by Congressman Walter Fauntroy
- Study of Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee)
- Goal to determine correlation between hazardous waste landfills and the racial and economic status of the communities

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## Environmental Justice



### Results of GAO Study:

Three out of four landfills located near predominately minority communities

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## Environmental Justice

### *1987 Commission on Racial Justice study:*

- Three out of five African-Americans or Hispanics lived in a community with an unregulated toxic waste facility
- Property values and incomes were substantially lower in communities with commercial hazardous waste facilities than in surrounding communities without facilities

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## Environmental Justice

Environmental Injustice = Environmental Racism

The placement of environmental burdens in lower-income communities as well as racial or ethnic minority communities

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## Environmental Justice

Environmental Equity

The even distribution of environmental costs and benefits among communities regardless of their racial or ethnic composition

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## Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice

The pursuit of equal justice and protection under the law for all environmental statutes and regulations without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and /or socioeconomic status

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## Environmental Justice

### Examples?

- Columbia River Deepening
- Snake River Drawdown
- Makah Whale Harvest
- Your EISs?

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## EO 12898 – Clinton , 1994

### *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations*

- 1) Ensure public involvement of low-income and minority groups in decision making;
- 2) Prevent "disproportionately high and adverse" impacts of decisions on low-income and minority groups; and
- 3) Assure low-income and minority groups receive proportionate share of benefits.

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## EO 12898 – Clinton , 1994

1. Creation of an Interagency Working Group
2. Development of Agency Strategies
3. Human Health & Environmental Research and Analysis
4. Subsistence Consumption of Fish & Wildlife
5. Public Participation and Access to Information

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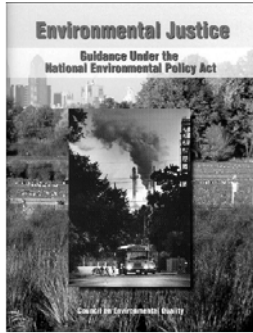
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## EJ & NEPA

1997 CEQ  
Publication

Provides  
guidelines for  
integrating EJ  
into NEPA



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## EJ & NEPA

1. Each Federal agency should analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic, and social effects of actions, including effects on minority populations, low-income populations, and Indian tribes

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## EJ & NEPA

2. Mitigation measures should address significant and adverse environmental effects of proposed actions on minority populations, low-income populations, and Indian tribes

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## EJ & NEPA

3. Provide opportunities for effective community participation in the NEPA process, including identifying potential effects and mitigation measures in consultation with affected communities and improving the accessibility of public meetings, crucial documents, and notices

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## EJ & NEPA

4. Review of NEPA compliance must ensure that the lead agency has appropriately analyzed environmental effects on minority populations, low-income populations, or Indian tribes, including human health, social, and economic effects.

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## Center for Social & Environmental Justice

- WSU Certificate Program
- 15 credits
- Year long practicum

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Next Time. . .

- Mitigation

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