



Environmental Justice Quarterly

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Summer 2007

EPA Releases Environmental Justice Documentary

EPA Provides Motivation, Inspiration, and How-To Lessons to Communities Nationwide

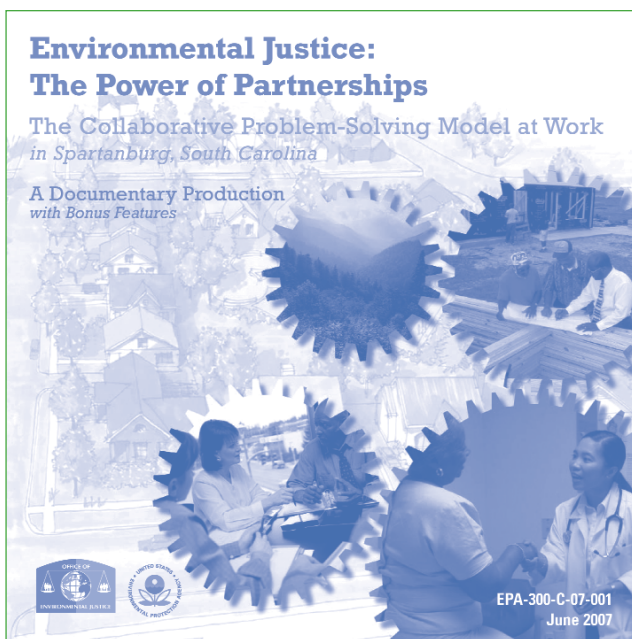
On June 14, EPA released a documentary video entitled “Environmental Justice: The Power of Partnerships—The Collaborative Problem-Solving Model at Work.” The video chronicles the environmental justice story of a low-income, African-American community in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

The purpose of the video, which is being distributed for free to thousands of communities nationwide, is to motivate, inspire, and teach others how to bring about change in contaminated and downtrodden areas where many people live.

The documentary tells the story of how one man, a local community organization called ReGenesis, and a handful of federal, state, and local government agencies, along with a university, reversed the downward spiral in their community. It shows the process of discovering the problem of environmental contamination and documents the related problems of poor health and lack of access to health care, drugs and crime, dilapidated housing, and a lack of jobs or economic development. It walks viewers through all the steps partners went through to envision a brighter path for the future and then develop real solutions. These steps provide the

foundation for EPA’s “Collaborative Problem-Solving Model.”

EPA chose Spartanburg as a model community because of the gravity of its problems, the scope of its partnerships, and the extent of its positive transformation. While residents were once



plagued with contamination from a former fertilizer plant and local dump, now the company and government are cleaning up the land and working with the community to redevelop the properties for the community’s use, such as a golf course, parks, and other recreational areas. While residents once had

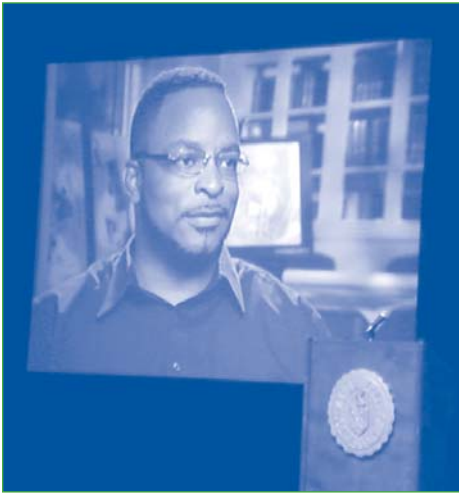
In This Issue:

- EPA Releases Environmental Justice Documentary 1
- Environmental Justice Reviews 2
- Headquarters Update 3
- 2007 EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving 5
- Regional Corner 7
- Safe Shellfish Harvesting 8

(Continued on page 2)

EPA Releases Environmental Justice Documentary

(Continued from page 1)



The documentary highlights the work of Harold Mitchell, Executive Director of ReGenesis, which, with its many partners, is revitalizing the Spartanburg community.

nowhere to turn for their health problems, the community now has its own state-of-the-art health center, donated by the local hospital center, which sees thousands of patients annually. While residents once lived in sub-standard housing projects riddled with drugs and crime, now the Spartanburg Housing Authority has torn down the dilapidated buildings and is

working with a community job training corps to build brand new suburban subdivisions for rental and home ownership. And while residents once felt little hope in their future, now they are proud to be actively engaged in projects to improve it.

The 45-minute video, available on DVD, made its debut at Converse College in Spartanburg. Granta Y. Nakayama, EPA's Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, and Jimmy Palmer, EPA's Region 4 Administrator, provided remarks at the ceremony, and Senator Jim Demint appeared via video. Nakayama pronounced that, "The success of this project exceeded our wildest expectations," and Palmer reminded viewers of a relevant adage: "Those who say it can't be done are often interrupted by those who are doing it." After viewing the movie, which includes historical footage and interviews with key players, long-time community members spoke, expressing their gratitude that their story will never be forgotten and that other communities will have the

benefit of learning from it. "Great things will happen for others," one 56-year resident proclaimed of the value of learning from the Spartanburg story.

To order free copies of the DVD, call 1-800-962-6215 or visit www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/ejcps-dvd.html.



Granta Y. Nakayama, EPA's Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, spoke to an audience of more than 200 at the documentary premier, calling the Spartanburg project "an inspiring story...a story of hope."

EPA Embarks on Environmental Justice Reviews

In response to an Inspector General report in September 2006, EPA is conducting environmental justice reviews to assess the extent to which its programs, policies, and activities address environmental justice concerns.

The Agency's Environmental Justice Reviews Workgroup held its first face-to-face meeting in Washington, DC, on April 10-11, 2007. The Agency-wide Workgroup is composed of approximately 61 members from all EPA regions and most of the program offices in Headquarters. The workgroup members represent a diversity of knowledge, expertise, and perspectives. The workgroup is developing protocols for conducting environmental justice reviews focused on four major EPA functions: (1) standard setting and rulemaking/regulatory development; (2) permitting;

(3) enforcement and compliance; and (4) cleanup and remediation.

EPA Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock has called for "a more systematic, broader-scale approach to identifying and addressing disproportionate impacts to human health and the environment." To this end, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) is working to integrate environmental justice throughout the Agency, and the reviews will be a key mechanism for achieving this goal.

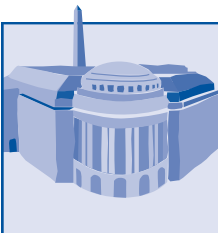
The primary objectives of an environmental justice review are to:

- Identify ways in which the Agency is effectively identifying and addressing environmental justice concerns that arise or may arise with respect to a program, policy or activity.

- Identify opportunities for the Agency to enhance its effectiveness in identifying addressing environmental justice concerns that arise or may arise with respect to a program, policy or activity.

Charles Lee, Acting Director for OEJ, stated that, "We are building lots of momentum now and constantly searching for effective and meaningful ways to integrate environmental justice into our day-to-day work."

For more information on Environmental Justice Reviews, visit OEJ's Web site at www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/ej/index.html or contact Amy Tuberson at (202) 564-5152 or tuberson.amy@epa.gov.



Headquarters Update Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education

Each quarter, the Headquarters Update features a specific office at EPA Headquarters, highlighting recent activities, programs, and policies aimed at addressing a variety of environmental justice issues.

OCHPEE Gives Kids a Helping Hand

Building Health Professional Capacity to Address Children's Environmental Health

In 1996, EPA issued a national agenda that included a mandate to educate healthcare providers on children's health and the environment as one of seven action items. Since it was established in 1997, EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection, now the Child and Aging Health Protection Division of the Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education (OCHPEE), has expanded educational efforts with health professionals to identify, prevent, and reduce environmental health threats to children. Examples activities include:

- Developing continuing education modules for nurses through a grant to the American Nurses Foundation and the University of Maryland School of Nursing;
- Developing a series of workshops for incoming chief pediatric residents on children's environmental health, sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics;
- Supporting and collaborating with the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units; and
- Managing seven grants to build health professional capacity to address children's environmental health issues around the world.

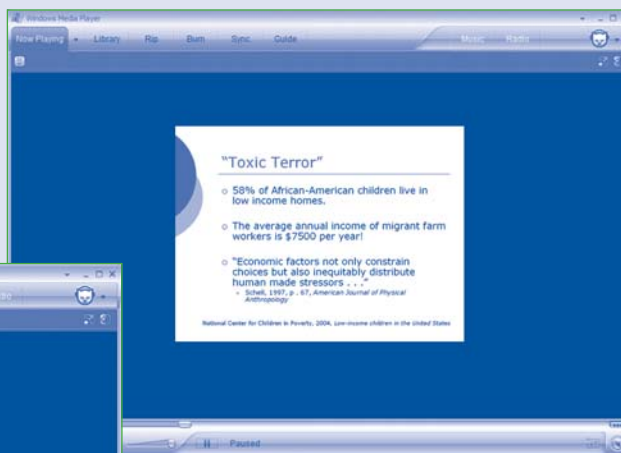
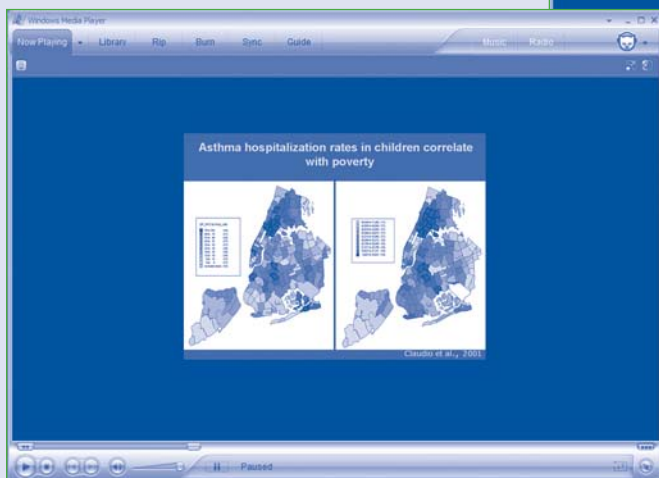
For more information, visit http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/Whatwe_educat.htm#3.

Prenatal Partnership

OCHPEE is participating in the Prenatal Partnership on Environmental Health. Together with outside partners, such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Nurse Midwives, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Nurses Association, OCHPEE has developed a vision and a scoping document to frame the various activities of the partnership. The goal of the Prenatal Partnership is to promote behaviors and

(Continued on page 4)

As part of the OCHPEE's Distinguished Speaker Webcast Series, viewers can hear from leading researchers about current topics related to children's environmental health, such as this presentation from the June webcast about the connection between poverty and environmental hazards and exposures.



OCHPEE Gives Kids a Helping Hand

(Continued from page 3)

social changes that reduce exposure of pregnant women and children to environmental health risks before, during, and after pregnancies.

This initiative will help to ensure that children in the United States are born with maximum good health by eliminating or minimizing environmental health risks to pregnant women and their children. The partnership is especially important for low-income, low-literacy, communities of color, where environmental health risks are more prevalent.

OCHPEE is currently considering applications for the solicitation, "Building Capacity to Address Environmental Health Issues During Pregnancy." These grants will help increase the number of women of childbearing age and healthcare professionals who are able to identify, understand, and take action to address environmental health risks to pregnant women and children, specifically during early periods of child development.

Support for Environmental Justice Initiatives

OCHPEE is working on two new environmental justice initiatives. First, OCHPEE is representing EPA on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Federal Collaborative on Health Disparities Research. This CDC working group is addressing four factors related to health disparities: (1) obesity; (2) mental health; (3) quality indicators for individuals affected by multiple conditions; and (4) the built environment. OCHPEE is currently focusing on the effects of the built environment on health disparities and finding potential partnerships to address them.

Environmental Health Disparities

OCHPEE is developing fact sheets on environmental health disparities. The fact sheets focus on African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Native American, and Hispanic children. The fact sheets will address the social, economic, and physical environmental factors that can lead to environmental health disparities. OCHPEE's regulatory team leader, Devon Payne-Sturges, states that the facts sheets will build and improve upon existing measures that researchers use to assess children's environmental wellbeing (e.g., air pollution, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, and drinking water). The fact sheets will provide information on actions individuals and communities can take to reduce and eliminate these disparities.

The fact sheets resulted from a 2005 technical workshop, cosponsored by OCHPEE and EPA's Office of Environmental Justice. The "Connecting Social and Environmental Factors to Measure and Track Environmental Health Disparities" workshop was attended by nearly

40 people, representing a cross section of individuals that work on the issue of children's health but who do not generally meet to discuss current issues or potential solutions. Attendees included traditional environmental scientists, social scientists, risk assessors, community activists, social epidemiologists, health geographers, nurses, and state and federal government representatives. The workshop explored how environmental health disparities are produced, the common connections between social and physical factors that might produce these disparities, and what can be done to prevent and remedy them. The event produced five published technical papers, which can be found on OCHPEE's Web site at <<http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/homepage.htm>>. The workshop also resulted in OCHPEE extending its support to many small research projects exploring how the lessons learned at the workshop can be built upon and identifying the social factors leading to health disparities.

Distinguished Speaker Webcast Series

For the past decade, OCHPEE has influenced the way that children of disadvantaged communities within the United States and internationally are studied and protected. 2007 marks the 10-year anniversary of the office's establishment and of the signing of *Executive Order 13045: Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*. As part of the celebration of these two events, the office is holding a Distinguished Speaker Webcast Series. During these presentations, individuals interested in children's environmental health can hear from the leading researchers and practitioners on a wide range of current topics. June's webcast discussed why minority and low-income children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards and exposures, while the July presentation discussed the relationship between children's health and environmental factors in the home. Future webcast topics will focus on children's environmental health concerns in the wake of disasters. For more information on the speaker series, visit OCHPEE's Web site at <<http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/2007activities.htm>>.

EPA Launches 2007 EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Program

On June 5-7, 2007, the Office of Environmental Justice kicked-off a new round of cooperative agreements under the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program by hosting a training workshop for the new grantees. Each of the 10 community-based organizations received \$100,000 to undertake local projects on environmental and health issues.

The workshop provided grantees with an orientation of EPA's grants management process and the use of EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model in implementing their projects over the next three years.

Also during this workshop, EPA formally awarded the grant by presenting a "big check" to each of the grantees. Granta Y. Nakayama, Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, presented the checks to each organization. "These grants provide necessary resources for local communities to take an active role in our nation's environmental solutions," he said.

Page 6 provides a description of each of the grantees' projects for 2007.

Since 1994, EPA has provided more than \$31 million in funding to more than 1,100 community-based organizations. Past grantees have used the funds to:

- Clean up and prepare an abandoned lot for redevelopment in Anahola, Hawaii;
- Educate the residents of Tacoma, Washington, about safe and sustainable methods of harvesting shellfish;
- Reduce exposure to asthma and increase community access for asthma treatment for residents of a Brooklyn, New York, community;
- Help residents of Mebane, North Carolina, address issues associated with failing septic systems, potentially impacting 500 homes; and



EPA formally awarded the \$100,000 grant to each of 10 community-based organizations to take on local issues related to environmental and health issues.

- Reduce lead exposure among residents of Pacoima, California, a Los Angeles area city.

Financial assistance under the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program is available to all nonprofit organizations designated by the IRS or recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which it is located. The purpose of the funding is to assist affected communities so that they can develop proactive, strategic, and visionary approaches to address their environmental justice issues and to achieve community health and sustainability.



The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program launched the 2007 grant awards with a training workshop for new grantees.

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program 2007 Awards

Region 1

- **Organization:** Vietnamese American Initiative for Development (Boston, MA)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is worker exposure to flammable and toxic floor finishing products.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in exposure to these toxic chemicals by floor finish workers. Viet-AID will accomplish this goal by: (1) working with and educating business owners and workers to practice safer handling techniques and to use less toxic alternative floor finishing products; (2) working with business owners to promote product replacement by switching to less toxic products; (3) working with state and local governments to adopt legislation that requires floor finishers to be certified and to ban toxic lacquer sealers; and (4) educating customers on less toxic floor finishing products.

Region 2

- **Organization:** Southwest Area Neighborhood Association, Inc. (Rochester, NY)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is resident exposure to household hazards, namely lead, asthma triggers, and carbon monoxide.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in exposure of residents to these household hazards. SWAN will accomplish this goal by: (1) educating the residents on how to avoid household hazards and how to make personal changes to reduce exposure; (2) assisting residents on how to gain access to resources and services that address exposure to household hazards more effectively and efficiently; and (3) conducting follow-ups with the participants in the program and the resource providers to determine if changes in behavior occurred or if services were rendered.

Region 3

- **Organization:** Coalition for Environmentally Safe Communities (Washington, DC)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is resident exposure to household hazards, namely asthma triggers and lead.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in exposure to such hazards. CESC plan to achieve their desired goal by: (1) creating sustainable, ongoing resources and technical assistance to DC organizations and agencies to improve their ability to respond to environmental health threats; and (2) providing training to staff and volunteers to identify procedures for informing residents of environmental hazards affecting them.

Region 4

- **Organization:** Rural Empowerment Association for Community Help (Duplin, NC)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is residents' exposure to air and water contaminants, particularly hydrogen sulfide, from local hog operations within Duplin County.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in the exposure of residents to air and water contaminants from local hog operations. REACH hopes to

achieve this goal by: (1) working with local hog operations to utilize new technologies that will eliminate the need for lagoons and spray fields; or (2) working with local hog operations to get them to comply with state guidelines for operating spray fields.

Region 5

- **Organization:** Cleveland Tenants Association (Cleveland, OH)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is resident exposure to indoor environmental hazards.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in exposure to such hazards. The Cleveland Tenants Association and Environmental Health Watch hopes to achieve this goal by: (1) conducting educational outreach at tenant sites and community events regarding hazards and self-protective actions to reduce risk related exposure; (2) performing building inspections with tenants to evaluate hazards; (3) helping tenants organize to secure landlord repairs and/or remediation of hazards and to affect local policy decisions regarding hazards and regulation and enforcement procedures; and (4) providing referrals for additional resources, such as home visits and additional educational opportunities, as needed.

Region 6

- **Organization:** Louisiana Environmental Justice Community Organization Coalition (Morgan City, LA)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is exposure of residents to toxic air emissions from industrial facilities.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in exposure to toxic air emissions. LEJCOC will concentrate on two communities in Shreveport and St. James Parish along Highways 44 and 18 and train residents on the use of alternative dispute resolution so they will be empowered to negotiate with the industries in these two communities to reduce the residents' exposures. They will work with the industries to make changes to their equipment and/or operating controls, which may involve: (1) coming into compliance with permits; (2) meeting emission levels lower than the permit levels; and/or (3) instituting non-permit initiatives to reduce resident exposure.

Region 7

- **Organization:** Area Resources for Community and Human Services (St. Louis, MO)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is toxic exposure of residents in their homes and from small businesses located in the affected community.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in exposure to toxics. ARCHS will achieve this goal by: (1) creating a public/private partnership led by the city of St. Louis to create a regular pickup service for household hazardous waste; (2) educating residents on the use of less toxic alternatives and the proper handling and disposal techniques for household hazardous

waste; and (3) working with businesses to adopt pollution prevention mechanisms.

Region 8

- **Organization:** San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (Alamosa, CO)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is resident exposure to contaminants (e.g., metals, fertilizers) via household wells.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in the number of residents within the valley who are exposed to contaminants through their drinking water source. SLVEC and its partners plan to achieve their desired goal through: (1) educating residents to take personal steps, such as using well water only for bathing or washing, and installing or cleaning water filters, to avoid exposure to well water contaminants; (2) educating health care providers so that they will provide services and information to affected residents to reduce exposure and to reduce associated health problems; and (3) promoting and implementing new technologies that are cost effective, which will allow low-income residents to afford filtration systems or to drill for new wells.

Region 9

- **Organization:** Pacific Institutes for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security (West Oakland, CA)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is exposure to diesel emissions and other environmental hazards associated with inappropriate land use within West Oakland.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in exposure to such hazards. Pacific Institutes and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project plan to achieve their desired goal through: (1) incorporating the community's vision into existing land use plans for the reuse of the Oakland Army Base and the city of Oakland; (2) convening all relevant stakeholders including business, Port of Oakland, and the city to participate on the Land Use Workgroup to develop and implement solutions; and (3) working with the city and other government entities to change existing policies to favor land uses with less environmental impacts.

Region 10

- **Organization:** Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (Seattle, WA)
- **Project Description:** The identified issue for this project is exposure to toxic nail care products by nail salon workers and clients.
- **Desired Result:** Reduction in exposure to toxics from nail care products. ECOSS and its partners will achieve their desired goal by: (1) working with industry manufacturers and distributors to make less toxic nail care products more readily accessible to salon owners; and (2) educating nail salon owners, workers, and clients about the benefits of less toxic products, the health hazards of using toxic products, and changes that individuals can make to minimize exposure so that these groups can make informed decisions to lessen their exposure to toxic products.

Regional Corner

Region 3

This column explores exciting environmental initiatives under way in EPA regional offices. Each quarter, we focus on a different regional program. EPA Region 3 covers Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.



Region 3 Ensures New Community Is Lead-Free

When the dust settles—or, rather, now that the dust problem has been settled—around the \$1-billion redevelopment of East Baltimore, near Johns Hopkins Hospital, the area will include a state-of-the-art biotechnology park, retail stores, a community school, and mixed-income housing. In this three-phase, 88-acre project, controlling lead-bearing dust is exactly what concerned this East Baltimore community, the project partners, and EPA Region 3.

Many of the more than 500 buildings torn down in 2005 and 2006 to make way for the new construction contained lead-based paint. Lead, if released into the air, water, or soil during demolition can cause adverse health effects when the lead particles are inhaled or ingested. Lead exposure is a particular concern for young children. EPA's Region 3 office has been collaborating with its many partners over the years to develop the first formalized, controlled demolition practices designed to reduce exposure to lead dust, protecting residents living around the project's perimeter from lead emissions.

A variety of partners collaborated on safely razing more than 500 buildings and preparing 165 vacant lots. East Baltimore Development, Inc. (EBDI), the nonprofit organization created to lead and manage the

revitalization project, oversaw the demolition. A researcher formerly with the Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health provided the initial research for the demolition guidelines. A variety of stakeholders from both inside and outside of the community provided valuable input and technical expertise in the formal protocol development. EPA's environmental justice coordinator served as a member of the independent review panel of lead experts that conducted a review of the monitoring data and made recommendations on the deconstruction/demolition protocol.

Reginald Harris, regional environmental justice coordinator and senior toxicologist for Region 3, explained that the team's comprehensive effort to control the release of lead dust and to monitor lead dust levels during deconstruction/demolition was the first of its kind on this scale. He hopes that communities around the country will work to establish formal demolition protocols based on their methods.

Employing careful deconstruction methods, rather than wholesale demolition, played a critical role in the safe removal of the houses. Construction workers removed windows and window sills, fireplace mantles, door frames, and other detachable parts of the houses suspected to

contain lead paint and disposed of them prior to demolition. They also used Jersey barriers and protective fencing to enclose work areas, and EBDI employed full-time supervisory personnel on site who oversaw all aspects of the project and ensured that workers followed the protocol. In addition, the recipient of the EPA Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement served as a monitor for the project as well. Workers used plastic tarps to prevent contamination of soils and other areas prone to dust fall. Workers taped doors and windows to seal those areas where dust might infiltrate the buildings during deconstruction. They sprayed water from two angles on work sites—an effective method to reduce and control lead dust levels. As of December 2006, workers removed nearly 64,000 tons of debris and completed the housing demolition activity for the project's first phase. The entire redevelopment project is expected to take 10 or more years to complete.

The project partners used various methods to monitor lead levels in areas around the demolition site. When breezes exceeded 15 miles per hour, project leaders postponed demolition until wind speeds dropped to acceptable levels to

(Continued on page 8)



Safe & Sustainable Shellfish Harvesting Project

When pollution closes beaches in the Pacific Northwest, shellfish harvesting and consumption becomes dangerous due to biotoxins, bacteria, viruses, or chemicals in the water. Typically, beach closures are communicated to local residents without a hitch, but for some populations with limited English skills, beach closure signs go unnoticed and unsafe shellfish ends up on dinner tables. The Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community in Pierce County, Washington, is one such population.

Fortunately, proactive outreach and education from the Indochinese Cultural and Service Center (ICSC) in partnership with the Korean Women's Association (KWA), recipients of EPA's Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant, are improving the odds for the approximately 58,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders in this region.

The high prevalence of subsistence shellfish harvesting in the API community (which includes people of Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian, Korean, Filipino, and Samoan descent) in combination with cultural traditions, language barriers, and illiteracy, all lead to the failure to understand and comply with local



Alan Rammer of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife trains Asian American youth about safe and sustainable shellfish harvesting during a field trip in June 2006.

beach closure warnings. As a result, this population is especially vulnerable to paralytic shellfish poisoning. For example, in August 2000, nine Cambodian workers were hospitalized after eating mussels from a closed area on the Puget Sound.

In partnership with the KWA and other stakeholders (see sidebar on page 9), ICSC and its partners have developed a comprehensive plan that will be implemented statewide to communicate beach closure

(Continued on page 9)

R3 Ensures Community Is Lead-Free

(Continued from page 7)

prevent the spread of the construction site dust. Although the independent review panel is still analyzing the data and writing a final report, Harris said the initial findings regarding the lead abatement efforts are "very encouraging." Lead dust levels seemed to remain acceptable throughout the demolition.

That is good news for future residents and displaced residents who want to return to the neighborhood. Of the more than 1,200 new and renovated homes planned, one-third will be low-income, one-third

will be moderately priced, and one-third will be market priced. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, a key player in the Eastside revitalization effort, along with Johns Hopkins Hospital provided \$10 million to give displaced homeowners money to buy a comparable replacement home. Displaced renters are receiving extended rental assistance. Residents whose homes were torn down to make way for the revitalization project will have the opportunity to relocate back to their old neighborhood in

late 2007, when the first 152 housing units are expected to be completed.

"The biotech center and mixed housing are a great shot in the arm for the community, making it a sustainable community," Harris said.

The life sciences and technology park is expected to link biotech firms with Hopkins researchers, and the entire project is expected to generate about 6,000 new jobs.

warnings and raise awareness about the serious health issues of eating contaminated shellfish to this community. Awareness activities include:

- **Outreach Brochure:** The partnership developed an educational brochure about safe and sustainable shellfish harvesting, as well as new, easier to understand beach signs. The brochure will be translated into Vietnamese, Khmer (Cambodian), Korean, Tagalog, and Samoan.
- **Beach Walks:** Project coordinators and partners work with youth to sample and monitor the water quality conditions of various beaches.
- **Marine Resources Laboratory Tours:** Project coordinators take youth on tours to learn about biotoxin monitoring and sampling.
- **Commercial Shellfish Site Tour:** Tours are given to API community residents so they are aware of sources of shellfish other than harvesting.
- **Presentation to Elders:** Youth participating in the beach monitoring/sampling provide education and present their findings to elders during monthly cultural gatherings.

Collaborative Partnership at Work: “Marine Resources for Future Generations”:

Indochinese Cultural and Service Center (co-leader)
 Korean Women’s Association (co-leader)
 Washington State Fish and Wildlife
 Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
 Washington State Department of Health
 Fish Consumption Advisories
 Washington State Department of Health
 Food Safety and Shellfish Program

Pierce County Water Program
 University of Washington
 Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team
 Washington State Parks Department
 Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
 Seattle Aquarium
 Citizens for a Healthy Bay
 Puget Sound Restoration Society

Understanding API cultures has been crucial for ICSC and KWA’s success in changing unsafe shellfish harvesting behavior. At the advice of community elders, ICSC and KWA’s outreach targets the API youth for the most culturally sensitive and effective way to disseminate information throughout the entire community. In many API cultures, it is inappropriate for children to teach their parents, even if the children are adults. However, ICSC and KWA were able to capitalize on a cultural loophole: community elders tend to be more receptive to listening to the youth (often their grandchildren), because they want to encourage their education. So ICSC teaches the youth about healthy shellfish harvesting, the youth teach their grandparents, and

the grandparents teach their children (the youth’s parents), completing the cycle of information.

Since receiving the Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant in 2004, ICSC and its partners have involved more than 1,000 API community members in outreach and education activities. According to beach park rangers, these efforts have significantly decreased the number of people harvesting contaminated shellfish from closed beaches.

ICSC is one of 30 organizations to receive \$100,000 through an Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) grant program that focuses on using the Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Model to address local environmental and public health issues. Like other grant projects, this project benefits communities disproportionately exposed to environmental and public health risks.

The CPS Model specifically seeks solutions that involve multiple stakeholders. The hope is that varied community members and organizations working together will have greater existing resources and will better identify new resources and partners to sustain their solution to the environmental or public health concern.



The Marine Resources for Future Generations’ partnership (joined by Asian American youth participants in this photo) collaborated on the Safe and Sustainable Shellfish Harvesting Project.



United States

Environmental Protection Agency

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Washington, DC 20460

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