



"We need more spaces where the grassroots, faith and business communities, educational institutions and government are leveraging their unique skills, gifts and abilities while working toward a common goal of justice. NEJAC members bridge the gap between good intentions and good outcomes." -- Laprisha Daniels

NEJAC Team
Karen Martin
Paula Flores-Gregg
Bria Crawford
Amy Kenyon
Claudia Clifford
Jill Capotosto

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Public Meeting in 6 Slides

**Houston, Texas
April 23-25, 2024**

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) held a hybrid public meeting in Houston, Texas from April 23 – 25, 2024. Before the meeting, we welcomed our new additions to the council with a new members training. We then had a chance to visit communities with complex environmental justice challenges within the Houston area, as well as talk to community members about the impacts they were facing due to environmental issues. The public meeting officially opened on Tuesday, April 23rd, with a welcome from the Region 6 administrator Dr. Earthea Nance. Throughout the course of three days, we held a public comment session, received programmatic updates on the water technical assistance & NEPA recommendations, and engaged in two consultations. There were also multiple panels where we learned about colonias and disadvantaged unincorporated communities, lead (Pb), energy and climate justice, and the US-Mexico border EJ challenges. On the last day of the meeting, members of the council provided updates on the Cumulative Impacts Framework workgroup draft recommendations, presented and accepted the Farmworker and Pesticides recommendations, and received a Civil Rights Title VI charge. The next public meeting will be virtual and held this summer.

"The meeting was excellent and one of the best I have attended. It was well-organized, informative and for the most part, the speakers were engaging." -- Pam Talley



"I thought the meeting was very productive. (As expected from me), I think the community visit should be an essential part of our meetings in different communities in the US. I learned so much from the visit and it was so good to have NEJAC members mention the visit with EPA and community speakers at our meeting" – Jan Fritz







"The gathering in Houston was my first in person meeting with the NEJAC. The tours hosted by TEJAS brought us to their community to educate us on how they are being impacted by the industry, it helped to center us in place and showed us the strength and resilience of the people. The presentations throughout the week were informative and heart felt, maddening and constructive, emotional and inspiring. I left the week recharged with passion and ready to get to work on our new charges." – Ximena Cruz Cuevas

"When I saw a farmworker start to cry, when the NEJAC voted to accept the recommendations on Farmworkers and Pesticides Report to submit to the EPA Administrator on behalf of the injustices and harm that has been afflicted on her, her family, her community it humbled me to my core. The NEJAC is needed, the NEJAC is important and the NEJAC can make a difference to address EJ issues across our country." -- Jacqueline Shirley





"This year's NEJAC meeting in Houston, Texas was a phenomenal example of collaborative problem solving and knowledge co-production, wherein community members, EPA administrators and environmental justice leaders from throughout the nation came together to address environmental issues impacting the most vulnerable amongst us". – Jerome Shabazz

