

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
 COLLABORATIVE ACTION PLAN
 (ARKANSAS COMMUNITY)

Focus Area 1

FOCUS AREA 1: HEALTHY AIR, WATER, AND LAND

Goals:

1. Support healthy air, water, and land for Arkansas by connecting environmental justice needs with existing resources within EPA and beyond.
2. Work with State agencies to implement rules and programs to protect natural resources and build healthier communities.

	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED KEY ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	COMMENTS / STATUS
<i>Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years</i>	<p>We will work in partnership to ensure implementation and compliance of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon pollution from power plants and fight climate change 	6MM, ADEQ	<p>12/2015: EPA conducted a Clean Power Plan Community Training on November 4-5 in Port Arthur, Texas. The training focused on what communities need to know about State and Federal Plans, the Clean Energy Incentive Program, the Importance of State Engagement, the Stakeholder Perspective on the Clean Power Plan, Organizing and Developing Effective Public Comments, including an overview of EJ Screen, and other community resources. EJ stakeholders from Arkansas and other Region 6 states helped plan and conduct the training. (R6)</p> <p>01/2016: 6MM will support ADEQ in its outreach through their CPP stakeholder workgroup and directly to environmental justice representatives. (R6)</p>

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	<p>2. The Regional Haze Rule to improve visibility, particularly in national parks and recreation areas</p>	<p>6MM, ADEQ</p>	<p>03/2016: The Supreme Court’s stay of the Clean Power Plan has relieved Arkansas from all obligations of the Clean Power Plan while it is in force. ADEQ will reassess the need for any activities at the conclusion of litigation. (ADEQ)</p> <p>01/2016: On April 8, 2015, EPA proposed a Federal Implementation Plan to reduce emissions at six facilities subject to the Regional Haze Rule’s Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) requirements and one facility under the rule’s reasonable progress requirements. The action reduces sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions by more than 40,000 tons per year. The Region expects to finalize the plan by August 2016. (R6)</p> <p>03/2016: Arkansas has made significant progress on improving visibility in Class I areas such as the Buffalo River National Park and Caney Creek Wilderness areas. In fact, the state is on track to meet the improvements outlined in the uniform rate of progress for the first planning period, which ends in 2018. This progress is a benefit to all communities in the state of Arkansas. (ADEQ)</p>
	<p>3. The Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) to reduce power plant emissions that contribute to ground-level ozone and fine-particle pollution in Arkansas and other states</p>	<p>6MM, ADEQ</p>	<p>03/2016: On November 16, 2015, the EPA proposed an update to the CSAPR for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) by issuing the proposed CSAPR Update Rule. Starting in 2017, this proposal would reduce summertime nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions from power plants in 28 states in the eastern U.S. On December 18, 2015,</p>

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	<p>4. The new ozone standard of 70 parts of ozone per billion parts of air to improve public health protection in general and for at-risk groups such as children, older adults, and people with lung diseases</p> <p>5. The Clean Water Rule to better protect streams and wetlands from pollution and degradation</p>	<p>6MM, ADEQ</p> <p>6WQ, ADEQ</p>	<p>EPA extended the public comment period for the CSAPR Update Rule to 60 days. The public comment period closed on February 1, 2016. (R6)</p> <p>03/2016: With regard to the CSAPR, current trends indicate improvement in air quality across the state including for ground-level ozone and fine-particle pollution. This is a benefit not only to this state, but also to surrounding states affected by emissions in Arkansas. (ADEQ)</p> <p>03/2016: With regard to the new ozone standard, current trends indicate that Arkansas is projected to meet the requirement of the new ozone standard of 70 parts per billion. This projected success will help protect the state’s natural resources and contribute to the well-being of all Arkansas communities. (ADEQ)</p> <p>01/2016: On October 9, 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit stayed the Clean Water Rule nationwide pending further action of the court. EPA and the Department of the Army are fully complying with the stay. The court acknowledges that clarification of the Clean Water Act is needed and that “agencies conscientiously endeavored, within their technical expertise and experience, and based on reliable peer-reviewed science, to promulgate new standards to protect water quality that conform to the Supreme Court’s guidance.” (R6)</p>
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	<p>6. Superfund Programs (including Brownfields) to assess, clean up, and reuse contaminated land and to respond to environmental emergencies, oil spills, and natural disasters</p>	<p>6SF, ADEQ</p>	<p>03/2016: With regard to the Clean Water Rule, ongoing litigation has resulted in a stay of the implementation of this rule. However, Arkansas’s definition of “waters of the state” is sufficiently broad to provide strong protections for our environment and to all designated uses. (ADEQ)</p> <p>01/2016: Where appropriate, 6SF will continue to assess, clean up, and promote the reuse of contaminated land and will respond to environmental emergencies, oil spills, and natural disasters. 6SF will continue to support the safety and well-being of Arkansas communities through its various programs that respond to land contamination. Examples of recent activities include the cleanup of the North Little Rock Auto Salvage Site, the five-year review of the Arkwood, Inc. Superfund site in Omaha, AR, and the five-year review for the Old Midland Products Superfund site in Ola, AR. (R6)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ will continue to protect, enhance and restore the environment for all Arkansans. ADEQ accomplishes this through the Superfund program by providing support to EPA for all CERCLA Activities. This includes the assessment of abandoned sites. Writing or reviewing five-year reviews (such as the Mountain Pine Pressure Treater and Arkwood five-year reviews). ADEQ assists EPA in ensuring all Superfund sites meet Federal and State remedial criteria. ADEQ has utilized the Remedial Action Trust Fund to perform remediation at the Utility Services, Inc. site and cap repair at the Fulton Class 3C Landfill. Both of these sites are on the State Priority List and</p>
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	<p>7. Federal environmental regulations through multimedia inspections, investigations, and where appropriate, enforcement actions to achieve clean air, water, and land</p>	<p>6EN, ADEQ</p>	<p>were potentially releasing contamination into the environment. (ADEQ)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ has performed corrective action inspections at facilities such as Central Maloney, Inc. This facility has been monitoring and remediating contaminated surface water and groundwater. These types of activities and monitoring will continue. (ADEQ)</p>
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Focus Area 2

FOCUS AREA 2: LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

Goals:

1. Support local emergency planning and preparedness by connecting environmental justice needs with existing resources within EPA and beyond.
2. Minimize harm to people and the environment by working to prevent, prepare for, and respond to accidents and emergencies within Arkansas communities.

	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED KEY ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	COMMENTS / STATUS
<i>Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years</i>	<p>We will work in partnership to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support activities that foster dialogue among members of the public, industry, and government that relate to local planning and preparedness 	ALL	<p>03/2016: ADEQ has created a debris management plan for local jurisdictions to use during major incidents. This plan is currently under review; final publication targeted in 2016. (ADEQ)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ is working with local, state and federal partners to update the state homeland security strategy to strengthen preparedness, response and recovery plans in AR. (ADEQ)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ encourages Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) in enforcement cases which allow environmental improvement activities to be performed in areas most impacted by environmental contamination. For example, ExxonMobil is providing SEP funds to allow several</p>

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	<p>2. Build the capacity of Arkansas communities to understand and participate in local emergency planning and response activities</p> <p>3. Provide information on tools and resources such as EJ Screen and CodeRED to help identify and prepare vulnerable communities</p>	<p>6SF, ADEM</p> <p>OEJTIA, ADEM</p>	<p>community watershed and education projects to progress in the impacted area of Lake Conway and Mayflower, AR. (ADEQ)</p> <p>01/2016: 6SF will work closely with Arkansas LEPCs to provide technical assistance and training opportunities. (R6)</p> <p>12/2015: OEJTIA will facilitate information and training on EJ Screen and other resources for community members and stakeholders. (R6)</p> <p>12/2015: ADEM will provide information on the CodeRED system and the types of notices sent to residents. (ADEM)</p>
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Focus Area 3

FOCUS AREA 3: ASSISTANCE WITH GRASSROOTS CAPACITY BUILDING

Goals:

1. Support grassroots capacity building by connecting environmental justice needs with existing resources within EPA and beyond.
2. Increase the ability of community members to have meaningful involvement in protecting their environment.
3. Enhance communication between residents and government agencies to improve the environment, health, and safety of communities in Arkansas.

	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED KEY ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	COMMENTS / STATUS
<i>Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years</i>	<p>We will work in partnership to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support community capacity building through information and trainings 	ALL	<p>01/2016: The EPA Region 6 Brownfields program provides a weekly newsletter, webinars, and coffee chats to communities that provide information on capacity building as well as sustainability, brownfields, and revitalization. (R6)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ continues to participate in scheduled emergency preparedness exercises to develop plans and relationships with governmental, private and public entities. (ADEQ)</p>

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	<p>2. Explore programs and partnerships that can provide technical support to communities</p> <p>3. Provide grant programs and technical assistance that support efforts to build healthy and sustainable communities</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>	<p>03/2016: ADEQ provides information, guidance and response support to local entities to assist with environmental situations to limit the impact. (ADEQ)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ offers much training throughout each year. The training focuses on compliance assistance, reporting, and monitoring. ADEQ has in the past and will continue to respond to citizen requests to provide presentations and discussions to communities throughout the state on specific issues. (ADEQ)</p> <p>12/2015: EPA will work with academic, business, and community entities to support efforts to address issues wherever possible. Some potential programs include Technical Assistance Services for Communities, College/Underserved Community Partnership Program, etc. (R6)</p> <p>01/2016: EPA provides grant writing training to all potential applicants. The training can assist communities with applying for various programs to include, but not limited to, brownfields, environmental justice, urban waters, etc. (R6)</p> <p>01/2016: Program staff will share training opportunities with OEJTIA to help ensure information reaches Arkansas EJ stakeholders. (R6)</p>
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	<p>4. Create an ongoing network to continue the positive progression that was started at the EJ Training Workshop</p> <p>5. Actively explore ways to expand the conversation and engagement between state agencies and communities</p> <p>6. Provide more opportunities for grassroots organizations to come together to discuss issues, exchange strategies, and leverage resources</p>	<p>OEJTIA</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>OEJTIA</p>	<p>03/2016: ADEQ continues to provide technical assistance and outreach to businesses, community groups and others on a range of topics including permit assistance, brownfield redevelopment, recycling needs and watershed protection. (ADEQ)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ offers a GO RED program that provides grant monies to enhance sustainable practices. (ADEQ)</p> <p>12/2015: OEJTIA will host the EPA Region 6 Quarterly EJ Update Call to share information, engage in meaningful conversation with EJ stakeholders in all five Region 6 states, and to work collaboratively to address environmental challenges. In addition, regular monthly/quarterly calls will be held with Arkansas EJ stakeholders to discuss issues specific to their state. (R6)</p> <p>12/2015: Staff will continue to provide information and tools to reach community members. For example, the new ADEQ Android App allows Arkansans to report environmental hazards in real time directly from their smart phone. (R6, ADEQ)</p> <p>12/2015: EPA Region 6 plans to conduct an EJ Summit in late Summer/Fall 2016 to build on the efforts from the EJ Training Workshops held previously in each of its five states. (R6)</p>
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			03/2016: ADEQ and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission will hold a watershed conference in October 2016 for watershed organizations and others interested in learning about improving watersheds in their communities and across the state. (ADEQ)
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Focus Area 4

FOCUS AREA 4: MAKING A VISIBLE DIFFERENCE – CROSSETT, ARKANSAS

Goals:

1. Support Making A Visible Difference in Communities efforts in Crossett, AR, by connecting environmental justice needs with existing resources within EPA and beyond.
2. Coordinate across EPA programs and with federal, State, and local partners to better support community needs and to help them access a wide range of resources and assistance.

	COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED KEY ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	COMMENTS / STATUS
<i>Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years</i>	<p>We will work in partnership to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build on previous work in Crossett, AR, by researching additional support to address community concerns under the Making a Visible Difference effort 2. Address the findings of the National Enforcement Investigation Center 	<p>ALL</p> <p>6EN</p>	<p>12/2015: Region 6 began working with the EPA Office of Research and Development to collect data and information to determine if a cumulative risk assessment can be conducted for Crossett. The assessment will require collecting a significant amount of data from numerous Region 6 programs as well as State environmental and health agencies. (R6)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ has conducted several multi-media inspections in Crossett, AR to address community concerns. These findings were summarized and shared with the community in a public meeting (2014-2015). (ADEQ)</p> <p>12/2015: 6EN has met with ADEQ, GP, and Crossett Concerned Citizens for Environmental Justice (CCCEJ). On December 2,</p>

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	<p>reports for inspections conducted at GP facilities in February 2015</p> <p>3. Complete a one-year review of the Crossett Action Plan with federal, state, and local partners to evaluate actions and progress to date</p> <p>4. Finalize the draft health consultation for Crossett, AR, started in August 2014, and meet with community representatives to review the document and answer questions</p> <p>5. Assess lessons learned, integrate best practices, and build better tools that may help other communities in the future.</p>	<p>OEJTIA</p> <p>ADH, ATSDR</p> <p>ALL</p>	<p>2015, 6EN and OEJTIA attended a community meeting held by CCCEJ to review the inspection findings and provide residents an opportunity to ask questions. (R6)</p> <p>12/2015: EPA Region 6 conducted a review of the action plan and is now using the feedback received to continue working with its partners to address community concerns. (R6)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ conducted a review of the Crossett Action Plan in 2015 and coordinated responses with EPA Region VI in order to address community concerns. (ADEQ)</p> <p>01/2016: The draft health consultation is still in the final review process with ATSDR. (ADH)</p> <p>03/2016: ADEQ continually evaluates their processes such as rulemaking, as well as public meetings/hearings ensuring a wide range of participation from the communities is occurring. ADEQ has an agency enforcement policy which ensures equitable treatment with respect to enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. (ADEQ)</p>
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ABBREVIATIONS AND NAMES:
 ADEM = Arkansas Department of Emergency Management
 ADEQ = Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

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ADH = Arkansas Department of Health

ATSDR = Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry

6EN = Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division

6MM = Multimedia Division (Formerly 6PD - Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division)

6SF = Superfund Division

6WQ = Water Division (Formerly - Water Quality Protection Division)

OEJTIA = Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal, and International Affairs (Formerly - OEJTA)