



**Homeland  
Security**

June 11, 2024

**Consultation Meeting Notice: Department of Homeland Security Draft Environmental Justice Strategic Plan**

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer and Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties are committed to conducting deliberative tribal consultation regarding Department programs, actions, and activities that may impact Tribal Nations in accordance with [Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments](#), and President Biden’s “[Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#)”.

Consistent with these commitments, DHS invites you to consult on the draft DHS Environmental Justice Strategy. Two virtual Tribal consultations will be held in July. The purpose of this government-to-government consultation is to gather Tribal Nations’ feedback prior to finalizing the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan.

Published on April 21, 2023, [Executive Order 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All](#), defines environmental justice, or EJ, as the *just treatment and meaningful involvement* of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

1. are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and
2. have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.

The Executive Order calls on federal agencies to develop or revise their EJ Strategic Plans. Since December 2023, DHS has issued a Request for Information in the Federal Register; held three national, virtual listening sessions, with one focused on the perspective of Tribal and indigenous peoples; and presented at two national conferences to solicit feedback on the current Departmental EJ Strategy and discuss new goals and input for its revision.

The Department’s commitment to advancing environmental justice and meaningful engagement includes ensuring that under resourced and overburdened communities’ voices, perspectives, and lived experiences are heard and reflected in the Department’s decision making with respect to its programs and activities that impact human health and the environment. DHS will be holding two

virtual tribal consultations and invites you to attend at one of the following times via Microsoft Teams ([download](#) Teams or access from your web browser):

- **July 8, 2024, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm, Eastern Standard Time**  
[Join the meeting now](#)  
Meeting ID: 215 004 995 667  
Passcode: j4rhDh  
Phone (audio only): [+1 202-516-6093, 725254450#](#)
- **July 10, 2024, 10:30 am-12:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time**  
[Join the meeting now](#)  
Meeting ID: 283 976 750 330  
Passcode: gyVbvQ  
Phone (audio only): [+1 202-516-6093 ,292227657#](#)

Please consider the following questions during your review and our virtual consultations:

1. How can DHS ensure that the final DHS EJ Strategic Plan adequately addresses the specific environmental justice concerns and priorities of Tribal Nations?
2. Are there any key elements or strategies missing from the attached draft Plan that should be included to better support environmental justice initiatives with Tribal Nations?
3. What steps can we take to enhance the tribal consultation process with Tribal Nations to continue to garner input on the DHS EJ Program and address Tribal environmental justice concerns?

If you require a reasonable modification or a disability-related aid or service to participate in the virtual consultation meetings, please contact the DHS Environmental Justice Program at [DHSEnvironmentalJustice@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:DHSEnvironmentalJustice@hq.dhs.gov) no later than Monday, July 1, 2024. For free language services, including written translation or oral interpretation of this document or the draft EJ Strategic Plan, or to request this document or the draft EJ Strategic Plan in alternate formats such as Braille or large print, please contact us at [crcl@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:crcl@hq.dhs.gov).

For the agenda, draft EJ Strategic Plan, and more information on the DHS Environmental Justice Program, please visit [www.dhs.gov/dhs-and-environmental-justice](http://www.dhs.gov/dhs-and-environmental-justice).

We request that written comments on the draft DHS EJ Strategic Plan be provided via email by Monday, July 22, 2024, to [DHSEnvironmentalJustice@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:DHSEnvironmentalJustice@hq.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

Trae Watkins  
Chief Readiness Support Officer

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia  
Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Enclosure