



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Virtual Public Input Session: Public Participation Policy and Language Access Plan

Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate
Environmental Support Division, Outreach Unit

Agenda

- **Introductions and Session Goals**
- **Information and Background**
 - Background
 - Timeline
 - Public Participation Policy: What is it and key changes.
 - Language Access Plan: What is it and key changes.
- **Open Discussion and Comment**
- **How to submit an official comment**
- **Where to find other information**
- **Who to contact with further questions**

Who We Are & Why We Are Here

- **Regina Strong**, Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate
- **Katie Lambeth**, Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate
- **Lisa Herron**, Community Outreach Specialist, Environmental Support Division

Input Session Goals

- Learn about EGLE's draft updated Public Participation Policy and draft updated Language Access Plan
- Provide answers to questions about the policy and plan
- Hear from Michiganders what they think should be included in the policy and plan.

Why is this important?

- Public participation is a vital part of many programs administered by EGLE.
- Equitable access and meaningful involvement are at the core of how EGLE communicates with those who have the potential to be affected by an EGLE action.
- All Michiganders should have an opportunity to understand and participate in decisions that affect their environment and/or health.

Background

- In 2020, The Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate updated EGLE's policy for public participation and developed EGLE's first Limited English Proficiency Plan.
- Both the policy and the plan were made available in English, Arabic and Spanish for the first time.
- The draft policy and plan currently available for public comment have gone through extensive internal review and feedback process.

Updated Timeline

Sept 1-Oct 30 –
Round 1 Internal
Review.

Nov 1-Jan 15 –
Round 2 Internal
Review

Feb 1, 2024- April 1,
2024– Drafts
published and open
for 60 day public
comment.

- **March 6 + 7–**
Statewide Virtual
Input Sessions.

Spring 2024:
Response to
comments and final
policies

Public Participation Policy

- Provides a framework and outlines steps and mechanisms for EGLE to consider once it has determined that an agency action will include an opportunity for the public to participate.
 - Regulations
 - Permitting
 - Project or plan approvals
 - Significant compliance actions
 - The development of key EGLE initiatives or programs

Draft Outline

- Issue
- Definitions
- Policy
- Framework for Public Participation in Agency Actions
- Environmental Justice and Accessibility Considerations
 - Environmental Justice for Proposed EGLE Actions
 - Accessibility and Functional Needs
- Preparing for the Public Participation Process
 - International Association for Public Participation
 - Potential Stakeholders and Roles

Draft Outline

- Steps in Public Participation Process
 - Leverage Support Staff
 - Preparing Information and Outreach Materials
 - Notification
 - Public Meeting Format and Types
 - Public Comment Period
 - Decision and Follow-up
- Implementation and Continuous Improvement

Public Participation Policy



Some actions are required by laws and rules to involve the public.



For these actions, there must be at least a certain amount of opportunity for the public to participate.

Key Changes

Reorganized document

Follows each step in the public participation process, from planning ahead to making decisions and following up afterward.

Expanded key terms and definitions

Includes more explanations for words that are used a lot in public participation, like "environmental justice" and "plain language", to make sure everyone understands them.

Key Changes

Highlights best practices for engagement

Centers environmental justice, meaningful involvement, and accessibility as lenses through which we approach our outreach.

Considerations and minimum requirements for meetings

Gives clearer rules for different types of meetings, like whether they're online, in person, or a mix of both, and what kind of meeting they are.

Strengthened continuous improvement and accountability sections

Formation of a group that includes different parts of the agency working together to make sure the policy is working well. They also get regular training and look at the policy often to see if it needs to change.

Language Access Plan

- The Plan establishes department-wide guidance to provide Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals with meaningful access to EGLE actions, programs, projects, services, or activities in a timely and effective manner.

Four Factor Analysis

Factor 1: Number or proportion of LEP individuals in Michigan eligible to be served or likely to encounter EGLE services.

Factor 2: The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter an EGLE program, activity, or service.

Factor 3: The nature and importance of an EGLE program, activity, or service to the LEP population.

Factor 4: The resources available to EGLE and the overall cost to provide language assistance.

Monitoring Language Access Services

- August – December 2020: 9 translations
- 2021: 15 translations
- 2022: 19 translations
- 2023: 26 translations, including simultaneous interpretation

Key Changes

Updated
Title

Previously Limited English Proficiency Plan

Updated
Data

US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates

How to ask a question or make a comment



Use the “Q/A”
box in at the
bottom of your
screen.



Click the
“hand” icon at
the bottom of
your screen.



Type #2 into
your phone.

#2

Guidelines



Be mindful of other participants- 3 min maximum for comments and questions



The comments and questions are part of official record and will be considered as part of update to PPP and LAP.



Attendees will be called upon in order the requests are received.

Discussion

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Slides and recording will be sent out to registrants and posted to our webpage
- Public comment open until April 1, 2024
- All comments we receive will all be considered
- Final policy and plan release: Summer 2024

How can you submit an official comment?



Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes,
and Energy Executive Office - Attn: Office of EJ Public
Advocate, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909-7973



EGLE-Engage@Michigan.Gov



Call 517-335-4100

Michigan.gov/EngageWithEGLE

Who to contact with further questions

Office of the Environmental
Justice Public Advocate

General Address

EGLE-
EnvironmentalJustice@Michigan.g
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Tribal and EJ Liaison/Title VI

Katie Lambeth

LambethK@Michigan.gov
517-249-0906

Community Outreach and
Engagement Specialist

Lisa Herron

HerronL@Michigan.gov
517-275-1366

Community Engagement

General Address

EGLE-Engage@Michigan.gov

Pollution Emergency Number: 800-292-4706

Where to find other information

- Updated Drafts of Policy and Plan
- Translated Copies of Policy and Plan (Arabic and Spanish)
- 2020 Versions of Policy and Plan
- Links to meeting recordings

<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/public/engage/public-participation-policy>