

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05

A RESOLUTION of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (the “Commission”) adopting procedures and plans to address environmental justice, diversity and inclusion in public and internal operations.

WHEREAS, the Susquehanna River Basin Compact (“Compact”) empowers its Board of Commissioners to “[p]rovide for the internal organization and administration of the commission” (Compact § 15.1(b)(3)); and

WHEREAS, the Compact provides that meetings of the commission shall be open to the public (Compact § 15.4(a)) and the Commission strives to make its public participation process robust and effective; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s member jurisdictions are undertaking significant and substantial efforts to incorporate into their policies, procedures and practices specific provisions related to environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recently adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan with an emphasis on undertaking a review of its policies, procedures, and practices related to environmental justice to better serve disadvantaged communities and be more inclusive in seeking community input into the Commission’s activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Executive Director is charged and empowered to review all existing policies, procedures, and practices utilized by the Commission at all levels and in all programs and departments for opportunities to create, enhance and improve its commitment to inclusion, diversity and environmental justice. The Executive Director will report to the Commissioners of actions taken and tasks accomplished under this Resolution on a regular basis.

2. Effective immediately, all public hearings conducted by the Commission under the Compact or pursuant to 18 CFR § 808.1 shall be conducted in the evening when appropriate and practicable to increase accessibility. Where public hearings include a remote or virtual component, the Commission shall also provide accessibility through telephone connection so that a computer is not required for participation.

3. Effective immediately, where the Compact or 18 CFR § 806.15 requires public notice of a project or activity, the Commission will ensure those notices are published in accessible electronic or print media covering all applicable environmental justice areas. The Commission shall rely on the designation of environmental justice areas and communities by its member jurisdictions, and consult with the member jurisdictions periodically to update these designations.

4. Effective immediately and where feasible, environmental justice communities are given priority consideration in any grant programs designed by the Commission.

5. As the Commission's member jurisdictions undergo the process of updating their environmental justice initiatives, the Executive Director will review the outcomes of those efforts, and Commission staff will develop, as appropriate and in consultation with the member jurisdictions, a proposed rulemaking under 18 CFR Part 801 related to environmental justice to be presented to the Commissioners for action.

6. The Executive Director is charged and empowered to develop a diversity and inclusion statement to be posted on the Commission's website and included with all job postings for open positions with the Commission.

7. The Commission will take tangible actions to advertise its job openings in venues that maximize their exposure to a diverse pool of qualified candidates.

Dated: June 17, 2021



Suzanne E. Dorsey, Chair
Maryland