Sacrifice Zones
A Different Approach

September 17, 2019
Sacrifice Zones

- Redlining and white flight in the 1960s produced a pattern of intensive industry operations concentrated in urban areas of predominantly low-income and/or minority populations.
- Low property values in these areas have allowed the pattern of siting industry operations in these communities to continue.
- Sacrifice zone communities are disproportionately exposed to dangerous levels of pollutants.
Overall Goals

- Provide comprehensive protective public health policy directly based on public health risks (rather than industry or chemical standards).
- Allow communities to acquire the public health protection they deserve.
- Increase transparency in polluted communities about situation, associated risks, and provide concrete ways to access healthcare.
- Provide protection for people living in sacrifice zones regardless of race or socio-economic status.
Defining a Sacrifice Zone

- A 4-mile radius area where the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) Air Toxics Cancer Risk and/or Respiratory Hazard Index is at or above the 70th percentile for the state
Step 1: Community Sacrifice Zone Application

- Choose a facility to center 4-mile radius
- Use EPA’s EJ Screen to generate cancer and respiratory hazards risks
- If at or above 70th percentile in state, the area is officially recognized as a Sacrifice Zone and local and state agencies are notified.
Step 2: Neighborhood Enforcement Group

- Membership at least 50% from community to ensure diversity of actors and interests
- Oversee activities and information distribution
- Responsibilities include distribution of public and medical personnel notices and ensuring access to the wellness van

P.O. Box 6806 Falls Church, VA | o 703-237-2249 | f 703-237-8389 | www.chej.org
Step 3: HAP Restrictions

- Hazardous Air Pollutants - 187 pollutants designated by the EPA to “cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive, birth defects or adverse environmental effects.”
- Aggregate HAP emissions in the four-mile radius restricted to 25 mixed or 10 individual tons.
- Every company within radius will have 90 days (1 quarter) to come into compliance with the aggregate restriction or their operating permits will be docked by 10% each quarter of non-compliance.
Step 4: Wellness Van

- Wellness Van will be immediately dispatched to the area, offering free health care and assessments to any residents within the 4-mile radius.
- All residences and businesses within the zone will receive an informational notice on where and what hours they can access these health services.
**Step 5: Public Notice**

- The 4-mile zone has been officially recognized as a Sacrifice Zone.
- The NATA Air Toxics Cancer Risk and Respiratory Hazard Index is within the top ⅓ of the state.
- A note to disclose this information with their health professional.
- Address and name of all facilities in the zone, with a link the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) to look up emission records.
- Information on the top 5 chemicals emitted by the facility at center of zone and their associated health risks listed in EPA’s Integrated Risk Systems database.
Step 6: Medical Personnel Notice

- Including all the details listed in the public notice
- Alerting doctors that patients in zone are chronically exposed to air pollution that threatens their health.
- Link to EPA’s TOXNET where they can find toxicology and health information on chemicals.
- Public notice will indicate that notice has been sent to all county health professionals, and provide link to medical personnel information packet to bring to professionals outside county.
Step 7: Public Health Information

- Website for health professionals to ask questions to toxicological experts about health effects of chemicals present in 4-mile radius. Medical personnel notice will include link and description of website.
- Local health department will be required to review and identify any trends in disease registries for the area. All households will receive a report summary of review.
Step 8: Industry Requirements

- Facilities in zone must conduct monthly stack tests until compliance with the aggregate HAPs limit is reached.
- Once compliance is reached, facilities must conduct stack tests every 6 months to prove continual compliance.
- Development is frozen in 4-mile radius until area is no longer recognized as a sacrifice zone.
Reduced Emissions

- Once cancer and/or respiratory hazard risk is reduced by 30% compared to original levels, then area is no longer recognized as a sacrifice zone.
- Following de-designation, restrictions on aggregate emissions, stack test requirements and development restrictions are lifted.
- If communities still feel threatened, they can reapply to be a sacrifice zone.