



Sacrifice Zones A Different Approach

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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**

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 $\frac{1}{3}$ 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.**