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Environmental Health**
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Agency of Human Services

March 6, 2024

Dear Environmental Justice Advisory Council,

On behalf of The Vermont Department of Health, I am humbly writing to provide the Environmental Justice Advisory Council with the following annual summary detailing complaints alleging Environmental Justice issues or Title VI violations and any agency action taken to resolve the complaints, as required pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 4001(d).

The Department of Health currently has several mechanisms to gather concerns and complaints (see Appendix A for a summary table). In addition to the complaint system listed below, the Department of Health also receives health concerns via the main email and phone line, which are sent to our Communications Office and then triaged from there.

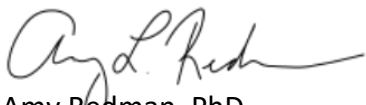
While the department has established mechanisms for gathering and responding to concerns and complaints (e.g., regarding food, lodging, and cancer), it does not have a specific Environmental Justice Complaint system in place. Subsequently, no Environmental Justice concerns or complaints have been received, and no action has been taken.

Preliminary steps have been taken to prepare for receiving and responding to environmental justice concerns, including temporary additional funding for an Environmental Justice and Health Equity Advisor position, a new Environmental Justice & Health website section, and gathering information to establish an Environmental Justice Concern Response protocol. For example, the Cancer Registry at the Department of Health has a response protocol for cancer inquiries. We are examining this response protocol as a model.

In closing, we'd like to ask the Agency of Natural Resources and/or the Environmental Justice Advisory Council a few questions regarding the next steps.

- Does each agency/department need to have an Environmental Justice complaint system, or will we have one centralized complaint system that each agency shares?
- Does it make sense for each of the covered agencies to establish mechanisms to gather and respond to Environmental Justice Concerns but have a centralized location for Environmental Justice Complaints (as complaints have different legal implications)?

With Care,



Amy Redman, PhD
Environmental Justice & Health Equity Advisor



Appendix A: Concern & Complaint Systems at the Department of Health

Division	Program	Complaint/Feedback Type
Environmental Health	Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program	Tenant Inspection, Repair and Cleaning Practices Outreach Survey
Environmental Health	Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program	Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program Tip Form
Environmental Health	Food & Lodging Program	Illness Complaint Form
Environmental Health	Food & Lodging Program	Sanitation Complaint Form
Health Statistics & Informatics	Cancer Registry*	Cancer Registry

*The Cancer Registry has a response protocol with criteria for all cancer inquires, and the frequency of inquires is 5-10/year.