



March 14, 2025

Dear Environmental Justice Advisory Council,

The Land Use Review Board (“LURB”) is pleased to provide the Environmental Justice Advisory Council with the following annual summary detailing all 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. § 6004(d).

The Land Use Review Board, as successor-in-interest to the Natural Resources Board as of January 1, 2025, is responsible for the administration of permitting subject to Title 10, Chapter 151, commonly known as Act 250. As a covered agency, the LURB is required to implement the Environmental Justice Law and policies set forth at Title 3, Chapter 72. Likewise, as a recipient of federal funds, the LURB is subject to the antidiscrimination requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. *See also* Act 154 at Sec.1(12).

In May 2024, the Environmental Justice Advisory Council recommended that all covered agencies work toward developing a unified Complaint Response System to intake, investigate, and resolve complaints related to environmental justice and Title VI issues. Until that system is developed, the LURB will continue to utilize its reporting page described in our 2024 report to satisfy its reporting requirements (timely updated to reflect the organizational change from the NRB to the LURB). Additionally, the LURB has developed an internal draft guidance document on intake and management of EJ/Title VI complaints via the Act250.EJ@vermont.gov email inbox, see attached.

In the reporting period from March 14, 2024 until this report, the LURB received one (1) complaint alleging environmental justice issues or Title VI violations. The complaint was received on April 29, 2024 and characterized as a non-EJ or Title VI complaint. It was referred to the then-NRB’s Enforcement division and thereafter considered closed from the perspective of EJ/Title VI reporting on April 30, 2024.

To more effectively use its internal processes, the LURB would appreciate additional guidance from the Environmental Justice Advisory Council to better define and characterize responsive correspondence: specifically, how to determine whether a complaint is, in fact, related to Environmental Justice or Title VI issues and when referral to other processes is appropriate. The LURB welcomes the Council’s recommendations and guidance, to continue the important work of identifying, reducing, and eliminating environmental health disparities to improve the health and well-being of all Vermont residents.



LAND USE REVIEW BOARD
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Sincerely,

Janet Hurley
Chair
Land Use Review Board

Jenny Ronis
Associate General Counsel
Land Use Review Board