Civil Rights and Environmental Justice Unit
Agency of Natural Resources

Executive Session: Community Engagement Request for Proposal for the VT EJ Mapping Tool (7.23.25)

Why an Executive Session May Be Needed

We believe that having open discussion about the draft CE RFP during a public meeting could:

- Place potential contractors at a substantial disadvantage,
- Jeopardize the fairness and legitimacy of the CE RFP process
- And prevent the Advisory Council from receiving legal advice related to the contracting process.

This could ultimately risk the success of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool and the many deliverables that depend on it. At the same time, your ability to consult meaningfully on the CE RFP is important.

Holding an executive session allows the Advisory Council to consult while protecting the process and complying with state procurement rules. Executive Sessions are closed to the public.

What Vermont Law Requires for Executive Session

Per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) of Vermont's Open Meeting Law, a public body may only enter executive session if sharing the information prematurely with the general public could place the body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage.

In this situation:

- The Advisory Council and CREJU would not have the opportunity to fully consult on the CE RFP.
- Potential contractors who want to submit bids to the CE RFP may be placed at a disadvantage

To Enter Executive Session:

- A Council member must make a motion
- A Council member must explain the rationale for the Executive Session
- The Council must vote in favor of the Executive Session by a two-thirds majority of members present.

Please Note: The Executive Session would be limited to reviewing and discussing the draft CE RFP. No other topics can be discussed.