EJMAP Update Notice

Effective 1/31/2024 to 7/30/2024

As part of the adoption of its Environmental Justice regulations, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) committed to update data within the Environmental Justice Mapping, Assessment, and Protection (EJMAP) tool twice annually on a set schedule to ensure accuracy and transparency: January and July 31st of each year. Accordingly, NJDEP updated the EJMAP tool with new stressor data effective 1/31/24. This revised stressor layer now acts as the default for permit applications received on or after 1/31/24. However, previous stressor layers (4/11/23 – 7/30/23; 7/31/23 – 1/30/24) are still hosted in the tool as "archived" layers for permit applications already in process. In addition to stressor data updates, the NJDEP has updated Overburdened Community (OBC) and Adjacent Block Group (ABG) designations to reflect the 2022 U.S. American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year dataset. This means that those designations as well as whether OBC or ABG is considered subject to adverse cumulative stressor could have both changed because of this update. Also, as a result of the 2022 ACS, the block groups and applicable tribal areas GIS file used as part of methodology for nearly all of the stressor calculations was updated to 2022. Finally, though they don't have any impact on regulatory decision-making but are a key informational part of EJMAP, all but the scrap metal facilities layer was updated.

OBC/ABG Designations:

N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157, otherwise known as New Jersey's EJ Act requires NJDEP to update the list of overburdened communities at least once every two years. Since the OBC list was first published in 2020, the NJDEP has consistently updated annually, consistent with the Federal government's update of the National ACS dataset. In addition to updating the OBC lists, the NJDEP provided an updated mapping layer for EJMAP that includes 2022 OBC and ABG designations. The previous layer, which includes 2021 OBC and ABG designations remains in EJMAP for comparison purposes only. The official OBC/ABG designations effective 1/31/2024 are the 2022 census updates.

Stressor Dataset Updates:

The NJDEP updated several stressor datasets grouped into two categories: data that undergoes regular updates (e.g., daily, monthly) in NJDEP databases but is captured as a "snapshot in time" in EJMAP, and data publicly released annually or on a less frequent basis. While the former data category is automated; the latter is manual (e.g., data generated for reports). Those datasets updated in this release are listed below under their respective category. Table 1 provides a more detailed explanation of each updated dataset. For more information about the stressors in EJMAP, please see the EJMAP Technical Guidance document.

Updated "snapshots" in time:

1. Known Contaminated Sites
2. Soil Contamination Deed Restrictions
3. Ground Water Classification Exception Area/Currently Known Extent Restrictions
4. Lack of Recreational Open Space
5. Permitted Air Sites
6. New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Sites

Annual or Less Frequent Updates:

1. Ground-Level Ozone
2. Fine Particulate Matter
3. Solid Waste Facilities
4. Potential Lead Exposure
5. Unemployment
6. Education

The NJDEP will utilize the revised stressor layer, "EJ Combined Stressor Summary OBCs and ABGs (effective 01/31/24 to 07/30/24)," to evaluate relevant permits that come into the NJDEP on or after 1/31/24. Permits already in process prior to this date will continue to be evaluated based on the archived stressor layer that aligns with their date of submittal. For example, a permit that came in on 5/1/23 would use the archived stressor layer lab "EJ Combined Stressor Summary OBCs and ABGs (effective 04/11/23 to 07/30/23)" in EJMAP.

For questions, please contact the following:

EJMAP Data or Tool Functionality – ejmapfeedback@dep.nj.gov

EJ-Related Permit Status or applicability – david.pepe@dep.nj.gov

General Environmental Justice – environmentaljustice@dep.nj.gov

Table 1: Updated Stressor Data

Category	Stressor	Date of Data	Source
Concentrated Areas of Air Pollution	Ground-Level Ozone	2020-2022	NJ State AirToxScreen summary file
Concentrated Areas of Air Pollution	Fine Particulate Matter (PM$_{2.5}$)[1]	2020-2022	NJ State AirToxScreen summary file
Transfer Stations or Other Solid Waste Facilities, Recycling Facilities, and Scrap Metal Facilities	Solid Waste Facilities	12/26/2023	Most recent NJDEP Solid & Hazardous Waste Facilities in New Jersey data
Contaminated Sites	Known Contaminated Sites (weighted sites/square mile)	12/20/2023	Known Contaminated Site List (KCSL) data
Contaminated Sites	Soil Contamination Deed Restrictions (percent area)	12/20/2023	NJDEP Deed Notice Extent in New Jersey data
Contaminated Sites	Ground Water Classification Exception Area (CEA) /Currently Known Extent Restrictions (CKE) (percent area)	12/20/2023	NJDEP CEA and CKE data
May Cause Potential Public Health Impacts	Potential Lead Exposure (percent houses older than 1950)	2022	2022 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS)
May Cause Potential Public Health Impacts	Lack of Recreational Open Space (population/acre of open space within 0.25 mile)	12/20/2023	NJDEP State, Local and Nonprofit Open Space of New Jersey data
Density/Proximity Stressors	Permitted Air Sites (sites/square mile)	12/26/2023	NJDEP Facility Data
Density/Proximity Stressors	NJPDES Sites (sites/square mile)	12/26/2023	NJDEP Facility Data
Social Determinants of Health	Unemployment (percent unemployed)	2022	2022 5-Year ACS
Social Determinants of Health	Education (percent without high school diploma)	2022	2022 5-Year ACS

[1] Particulate matter composed of particles smaller than 2.5 microns.