**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

# EJMAP Update Notice

**Effective 1/31/2025 to 7/30/2025**

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 1/31/25. This revised stressor layer now acts as the default for permit applications received on or after 1/31/25. Previous stressor layers (4/11/23 – 7/30/23; 7/31/23 – 1/30/24, etc.) 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 the Overburdened Community (OBC) and Adjacent Block Group (ABG) designations to reflect the 2023 U.S. American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year dataset. This means that those designations as well as whether OBC or ABG are subject to adverse cumulative stressor could have changed because of this update. Also, because of the 2023 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 2023.

OBC/ABG Designations:

N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157, otherwise known as New Jersey's Environmental Justice Act, requires NJDEP to update the list of OBCs at least once every two years. Since the OBC list was first published in 2020, the NJDEP has 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 2023 OBC and ABG designations. The new layer for the OBC and ABG designation as well as the new layer representing municipalities that contain an OBC or ABG will always represent the newest version of data. The previous mapping layers remain in EJMAP for comparison purposes only. The official OBC/ABG designations effective 1/31/2025 are the 2023 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. Emergency Planning Sites
6. Permitted Air Sites
7. Solid Waste Facilities
8. New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Sites

Annual or less frequent updates:

1. Flooding (Land Use Cover)
2. Scrap Metal Facilities
3. Traffic – Cars, Light- and Medium-Duty Trucks
4. Traffic – Heavy-Duty Trucks
5. Air Toxics Cancer Risk from Diesel Particulate Matter
6. Air Toxics Cancer Risk Excluding Diesel Particulate Matter
7. Air Toxics Non-Cancer Risk
8. Ground-Level Ozone
9. Fine Particulate Matter
10. Potential Lead Exposure
11. Unemployment
12. Education

The NJDEP will utilize the newly published stressor data to evaluate relevant permits that come into the NJDEP on or after 1/31/25. 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 labeled "EJ Combined Stressor Summary OBCs and ABGs (effective 04/11/23 to 07/30/23)" in EJMAP.

Methodology Changes to the AirToxScreen Screening Assessment (AirToxScreen) Related Stressors Calculations:

In 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the 2020 AirToxScreen results at the census block level. This spatial scale is different from previous AirToxScreen results  that were generated at the census tract level. As a result, the methodologies for all stressors that utilize AirToxScreen results (Air Toxics Cancer Risk from Diesel Particulate Matter, Air Toxics Non-Cancer Risk, and Cancer Risk from Diesel Particulate Matter) have been updated to account for the spatial resolutionchange. These new methods for calculating AirToxScreen related stressors will be used for all future updates in EJMAP.

Methodology Changes to the Urban Flooding (Land Use Cover) Stressor Calculations:

To align with the NJDEP Inland Flood Protection Rule, the Flooding (Land Use Cover) stressor data used for calculations was updated. Previously, the layer analyzed NJDEP urban land use/land cover data against the Total Climate Adjusted Flood Elevation and the FEMA 1% (100-year) and 0.2% (500 Year) Flood Hazard Areas Source Data. The updated version now analyzes NJDEP urban land use/land cover against the Total Climate Adjusted Flood Elevation, NJ Inland Design Flood Elevation (FEMA 1% chance annual flood plus 3 feet), and the FEMA 1% (100-year) and 0.2% (500 Year) Flood Hazard Areas Source Data. The addition of a new layer to the analysis creates a more accurate picture of flood risk in New Jersey.

For questions, please contact the following:

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

EJ-Related Permit Status or applicability – ej.regulation@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 | 3-year average of the Air Quality Index (AQI) from EPA's Daily Summary Data |
| Concentrated Areas of Air Pollution | Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)[1] | 2020-2022 | 3-year average of the Air Quality Index (AQI) from EPA's Daily Summary Data |
| Concentrated Areas of Air Pollution | Air Toxics Cancer Risk Excluding Diesel Particulate Matter | 2020 | 2020 Block Level Cancer Risk by Region and Pollutant (EPA) |
| Concentrated Areas of Air Pollution | Air Toxics Non-Cancer Risk | 2020 | 2020 Block Level Exposure Concentrations (EPA) |
| Concentrated Areas of Air Pollution | Cancer Risk from Diesel Particulate Matter | 2020 | 2020 Block Level Cancer Risk by Region and Source Group Data (EPA) |
| Mobile Sources of Air Pollution | Traffic – Cars, Light- and Medium-Duty Trucks | 2023 | Most recent U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Highway Performance Monitoring System data |
| Mobile Sources of Air Pollution | Traffic – Heavy-Duty Trucks | 2023 | Most recent U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Highway Performance Monitoring System data |
| Transfer Stations or Other Solid Waste Facilities, Recycling Facilities, and Scrap Metal Facilities | Solid Waste Facilities | 01/03/2025 | Most recent NJDEP Solid & Hazardous Waste Facilities in New Jersey data |
| Transfer Stations or Other Solid Waste Facilities, Recycling Facilities, and Scrap Metal Facilities | Scrap Metal Facilities | 12/01/2024 | Most recent NJDEP Scrap Metal Facilities data |
| Contaminated Sites | Known Contaminated Sites (weighted sites/square mile) | 12/26/2024 | Known Contaminated Site List (KCSL) data |
| Contaminated Sites | Soil Contamination Deed Restrictions (percent area) | 12/26/2024 | NJDEP Deed Notice Extent in New Jersey data |
| Contaminated Sites | Ground Water Classification Exception Area (CEA) /Currently Known Extent Restrictions (CKE) (percent area) | 12/26/2024 | NJDEP CEA and CKE data |

| May Cause Potential Public Health Impacts | Potential Lead Exposure (percent houses older than 1950) | 2023 | 2023 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) | 12/26/2024 | NJDEP State, Local and Nonprofit Open Space of New Jersey data |
| May Cause Potential Public Health Impacts | Flooding (Land Use Cover) | December, 2024 | Most recent NJDEP Urban Flooding data |
| Density/Proximity Stressors | Permitted Air Sites (sites/square mile) | 01/03/2025 | NJDEP Facility Data |
| Density/Proximity Stressors | NJPDES Sites (sites/square mile) | 01/03/2025 | NJDEP Facility Data |
| Density/Proximity Stressors | Emergency Planning Sites (sites/square mile) | 01/03/2025 | NJDEP Facility Data |
| Social Determinants of Health | Unemployment (percent unemployed) | 2023 | 2023 5-Year ACS |
| Social Determinants of Health | Education (percent without high school diploma) | 2023 | 2023 5-Year ACS |

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