

Environmental Justice and Community Engagement Instruction Sheet

Demographic Screening Reports:

To submit the “EJ Report” for the 1-mile area around the project, please follow the instructions outlined below.

1. Go to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) Virginia EJScreen+ website at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/news-info/get-involved/environmental-justice/ejscreen> and launch the tool.
2. The first step is identifying the project area. This can be done by selecting the “Add Data” tab and using the “Click to add data” tool to upload a zipped shapefile (SHP) or by selecting the “EJ Report” tab and using the polygon tool to manually delineate the project area boundary onto the map.
3. Once the area of interest is visible on the map, make sure the buffer distance on the top right is set to 1 mile.
4. Next, click the export icon button at the top and select “export to PDF “. Type the name of the project into the title box and hit export.

(Please also submit the shapefile used to prepare the reports.)

Identifying EJ Communities:

See the Virginia Environmental Justice Act (VEJA) (Va. Code §§ 2.2-234-235) for relevant definitions. An “EJ community” under the VEJA is either a population of color (which includes linguistically isolated populations) and/or a low income community. Specific thresholds for population of color and low income are set out by the statute.

Pay particular attention to the requirements for defining a community of color under the VEJA. Compare not just the “total population of color” to the state average percentage, but also each individual population of color (e.g., African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, linguistically isolated, etc.) to the state average percentage.

Dominion Energy will conduct an internal screening to identify EJ communities upon receipt of each bid, and developer’s community engagement plans are still expected to reflect an understanding of local demographics and sensitive populations.

Community Engagement:

Environmental justice is as much about achieving meaningful involvement as it is about avoiding environmental impacts to disadvantaged or overburdened communities. A community outreach and communications strategy that includes targeted measures designed to proactively involve diverse stakeholders is an appropriate response to a finding of EJ community presence.

Please provide a comprehensive detailed description of all completed and planned interactions with project landowners and neighbors, the surrounding community, Native American Tribes, and other project stakeholders. Include dates, times, locations of meetings and examples of print materials used or distributed for the project. Additionally, provide a summary of community input received directly through outreach or at public meetings, and explain how this input was addressed. Provide documentation of engagement with Native American Tribes. If community feedback led to alteration of project plans or identification of community benefit opportunities, please note that too.

The State Corporation Commission requires documentation of community outreach for VEJA compliance. Strong bids will provide detailed documentation of community engagement.